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**Faces of the The Arc**

**Arc Jacksonville Job Coaches**



Left to right: Tom Smith, Cass Parker, Mackenzie Donnelly, Christine Thomas

The Arc Jacksonville Job Coaches play an important role in working with

**Disability Employment Awareness Month**



October is National Disability Employment Awareness month, which began 70 years ago when Congress passed legislation establishing a week long focus on the employment of the physically

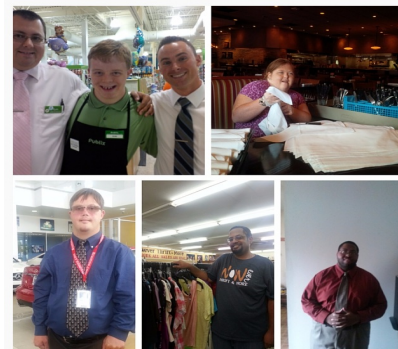
handicapped. Since then, the emphasis has moved to the employment needs of individuals with all types of disabilities and has expanded to include the entire month of October.

The 2015 theme, *My disability is one part of who I am*, celebrates the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities. Throughout the month, disability employment issues are presented in workshops and forums throughout the nation.

[Click here to watch the "Who I Am" PSA presented by the Department of Labor](#) or [here to learn more about National Disability Employment Awareness month.](#)

**Mission Moment: Employment**

In honor of National Disability Employment Awareness month, October's mission moment features individuals with I/DD who have recently received community employment through The Arc Jacksonville's



Top left clockwise:

individuals with all disabilities seeking community employment. Securing jobs for individuals with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities may be a time-consuming process, but it is definitely rewarding for job seekers and employers alike.

Job Coaches prepare people with disabilities by thoroughly training them for the workplace. They help job seekers further develop skills they have and coach them in acquiring new competencies.

Coaches also help employers change existing staff responsibilities to create a new job or to bring together a combination of new job tasks that didn't exist before; this is often called "job carving." The goal is for an employer and job coach to work together to create a job that will fit both the job seeker's skills and the employer's needs. When employers participate in job carving, the job description is more flexible and the opportunity for hiring increases.

The biggest reward for the job coaches is knowing they've placed someone one step closer to achieving economic independence.

Arc Jacksonville job coaches, Cass Parker, Tom Smith, Christine Thomas and Mackenzie Donnelly, are working hard to get individuals with disabilities placed in community employment.

In a Q&A discussion, job coaches discuss their journey in seeking community employment for individuals with disabilities.

**[Click here to read the Q&A discussion with each job coach.](#)**

To find out more about The Arc Jacksonville's Employment Services Department, contact Susan Hamilton, Vice President, Employment at

Employment Services  
team.

*Andy, Lauren, Wade, Ryan, Jerry*

**[Click here to read more about Andy, Lauren, Wade, Ryan and Jerry's community employment.](#)**

## New Faces on Employment Services Team



Janet Cunningham



Evelyn Colon

Janet Cunningham and Evelyn Colon recently joined The Arc Jacksonville's Employment Services team.

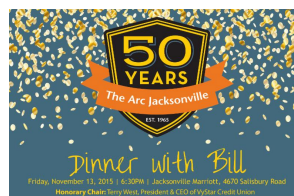
Janet will coordinate the High School High Tech program, which assists, encourages and guides students with disabilities to successfully complete their secondary education in nontraditional career fields, such as technology.

Evelyn will serve as the Business Relations Specialist. She will concentrate on securing commitments from business leaders to hire persons with disabilities and work with company personnel to identify specific positions where Arc personnel Arc constituents would add add value to the workforce.

**Welcome aboard Janet and Evelyn!**

## Upcoming Fall Events

**The Arc Jacksonville's 50th Anniversary Celebration  
November 13, 2015**



The Arc Jacksonville honors its 50th anniversary with the return of a special celebratory *Dinner with Bill* on Friday, November 13, 2015. With a nod to the past and a look to the future, *Dinner with Bill*

will commemorate The Arc Jacksonville's rich tradition of designing innovative programs to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their full potential.

**[Click here for more information on Dinner with Bill](#)**

## Amazon Wish List

The Arc Jacksonville's programs are always in need of items to enhance daily activities. [We have created a wish list of these items on Amazon.](#)

If you would like to purchase any of these items, they can be mailed to:

**The Arc Jacksonville**  
**Attn: Development**  
**1050 North Davis Street**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32209**

### AmazonSmile

Shop AmazonSmile for all of your Amazon purchases and 0.05% is donated to The Arc Jacksonville.

Thank you to anyone who has purchased items from our wish list. Your gift(s) are greatly appreciated by our participants and staff.

**Shop AmazonSmile today!**

**DONATE** >

**Cocktail Reception Hosted by:**  
DuBow Family Foundation  
Linda and David Stein  
J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver

## Running of The Bulls 5K December 12, 2015

Lace up your sneakers and get ready to run! The bulls will be back in Hemming Park on Saturday, December 12th for our second annual Running of The Bulls 5K.



[Click here for more information and to register!](#)

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