

# PRESS RELEASE

Get to Know The Arc of Amador and Calaveras Counties

Bank of America Grant aims to provide employment support and employment opportunities to those with developmental disabilities in Amador and Calaveras counties.

– The Arc of Amador and Calaveras, a non-profit organization that serves adults with developmental disabilities, announced today it is the recipient of a \$5,000.00 grant from Bank of America. The grant aims to enhance the current Supported Employment Programs within Amador and Calaveras counties while increasing opportunities for persons served and broadening The Arc’s reach to employers while deepening The Arc’s impact to service. The program will continue to provide a range of services to help stakeholders develop skills essential for workforce success. Additionally, the program allows stakeholders the opportunity to discuss various careers based on their interests and talents, and determine the corresponding workforce goals that best fit their need for ultimate success.

Director of Supported Employment Services, Ileshia Knigge; and Executive Director, Shawanna Molina worked together in landing the grant awarded to The Arc. “The funds given to the Arc will help individuals gain employment, enrich their lives and help them become members of the community,” Knigge said.

“We have to challenge ourselves to rethink how we are going to continue to sustain and expand programs in a world where Federal and State budget cuts to programs, as important as Supported Employment, are a regular occurrence.” Molina said. “This funding will allow our participants the enhancements they need to continue their successes. We are very grateful to Bank of America for recognizing the importance of our request and providing these much needed funds that will help us serve those in need in Amador and Calaveras counties.”

Bank of America’s V.P. Consumer Market Manager, Joseph Laroste; Senior V.P. Sales Performance Manger, Lee Jenkins; came to personally deliver the \$5,000.00 check with our local Bank of America V.P. Banking Center Manager, Debbi Bellotti. “I’m very impressed with how friendly and enlightening it is here at The Arc,” said Laroste. “Everyone is so happy and excited to be here, staff and people served. The Variety of classes and services offered is amazing.” Bellotti expressed her gratitude “thank you for being a part of the community and allowing us to participate in supporting such a good cause. We are glad to partner with and support The Arc”

The Arc of Amador and Calaveras Supported Employment program provides skills training and on-the-job supports in obtaining and maintaining community-based employment opportunities. Currently The Arc supports 39 persons served throughout Amador and Calaveras counties in various employment settings. Employers who hire someone supported through The Arc’s program are eligible for thoroughly screened applicants; employees skills and abilities are pre-matched to the job requirements; on-site job training with the employee by one of The Arc’s professionals; additional training, as necessary for duration or the employees tenure’ follow-up support services; and job coaching.

To learn more about The Arc of Amador and Calaveras’ Supported Employment Program, please visit [www.arcofamador.org](http://www.arcofamador.org) or contact Director of Supported Employment Services Ileshia Knigge [iknigge@arcofamador.org](mailto:iknigge@arcofamador.org)



Pictures L to R: Joseph Laroste, Debbi Belloti, Ileshia Knigge, Lee Jenkins