

The Autism Support Center

The Spectrum

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Open House at
ASC!
April 12th
4-6pm

The Many Roles of the BCBA

CONTRIBUTED BY JILL MCENTEE, BCBA, LABA
AUTISM ABA SERVICES, NORTHEAST ARC

ABA home services help individuals with autism and developmental disorders access the things in their environments in different ways. Home services are supervised by a BCBA and treatment plans are implemented by a direct care provider. BCBAs hold many different roles during the treatment process, and below you will find an outline of the major clinical responsibilities a BCBA carries to ensure appropriate and effective services.

Common Roles of a BCBA

BCBAs conduct assessments: BCBAs have various methods of conducting assessments and conduct evaluations on challenging behaviors, skills that need to be acquired, and preferences of the individual. A BCBA's initial job during the intake process is to conduct assessments, observe the client and take data on behaviors to determine any behavioral excesses (behaviors happening too much) or deficits (behaviors happening too little) the individual has. Functional assessments are often done to determine the function or the reason a behavior(s) is occurring. Testing such as the ABLLS or the Vineland may be used to assess which functional skills need to be taught to that client. Preference assessments help determine what the client finds motivating and can be used to reinforce desired behaviors during treatment. The data collected by the BCBA at the initial assessment is crucial in determining what goals will be set for the client and which skills will be targeted first. BCBAs continue to perform assessment at various times throughout the treatment period to determine growth and skills acquisition as well as future goals that will need to be addressed.

BCBAs create protocols and programming: After data is gathered from the initial assessment, a treatment plan is drafted by the BCBA that includes background and relevant social information about the client, what behaviors will be targeted for reduction, and what functional and appropriate skills will be targeted for increase. Challenging yet attainable goals are determined by the BCBA and a mastery criteria is set for each of those goals so that progress may be measured across the treatment period. The BCBA then creates a behavior intervention plan or BIP. The BIP outlines the exact protocols, based on the functions or causes of that behavior that should be implemented for each particular behavior that is being targeted. The BCBA will determine based on their assessment of the client's behavior what intervention techniques they think will be most effective at creating lasting behavioral change for that particular client. Skills acquisition programming is also developed by the BCBA to target and teach more functional and appropriate alternative behaviors and replacement skills.

IT'S A FACT:

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February Vacation Week!!



Plaster Fun Time, Jump on In, Lego Batman Movie





The Autism Support Center presents.....

Adult Family Care or Personal Care Management?

Adult Family (Foster) Care and Personal Care Management are two regulated Mass-Health programs. In some cases, individuals who need assistance with daily personal care may qualify for either program (you can only be enrolled in one). In order to make the best educated decision about which would best meet your needs, come to this informative workshop to hear about the differences, the similarities, and the benefits of these two programs.

Presenters:

Sally Grimaldi, AFC director, Northeast Arc

Cindy Mazzaglia, PCM director, Northeast Arc



Target Audience: Parents, caregivers, professionals

Location: Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, State Street, Newburyport

Date & Time: March 9, 7 to 9 pm

FREE!

Sign-up: asc@ne-arc.org or 978-777-9135 by March 7th!



Autism Support Center
A program of Northeast Arc



Are you interested in Arcade Games?

Are you a Pinball Wizard?

Join us for an event that lets you not only socialize with your peers, but lets you show off your arcade game skills.

Who: Ages 18 and up (Aspergers/High Cognitive, Autism-No ID)

When: March 20, 2017, 5pm-7pm

Where: Bit Bar

50 St. Peter St. Salem

RSVP: Phyllis- 978-624-3747

The first ten people that sign up will receive a gift card for \$15 worth of food for that evening. Please bring quarters to play the games, and money for food and drinks, if desired.



4/12/2017

4 to 6 pm

Save the date!

Open House at ASC

Celebrate Autism Awareness Month with Us!

The Autism Support Center will be hosting a reception for parents, professionals and collaborators at our site in Danvers. Light refreshments will be served.



Northeast Arc
Living up to the promise with individuals

Details to come!

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Friday, April 14, 2017- Viernes 14 de Abril, 2017

Lawrence Heritage Museum, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA 01840

English presentation: From 9:30am to 11:00am

Presentación en Español: De las 11:30am to 1:00pm

Call or e-mail

Gloria Ricardi Castillo

ASC, Co-Director

978-624-2301

gcastillo@ne-arc.org

Coffee and munchkins

Will be served!

¿Cuidado Familiar Para Adultos o Cuidado de Manejo Personal?

Cuidado Familiar para Adultos y Manejo de Cuidado Personal son dos programas regulados por Mass-Health. En algunos casos, las personas que necesitan asistencia con el cuidado personal diario pueden calificar para cualquiera de los dos programas (solo puede inscribirse en uno). Con el fin de tomar la decisión más acertada sobre cuál sería el más adecuado para satisfacer sus necesidades, venga a este taller informativo para escuchar sobre las diferencias, las similitudes y los beneficios de estos dos programas.

Presentadores:

Iluminada de la Cruz, AFC coordinadora, Northeast Arc

Lester McNab, Asistente Director, PCM, Northeast Arc



Advocacy Workshop - for Parents

Advocating 101 - Basic Rights

*Learn about Special Education Laws,
Principles and the Process...*



*And tips on how to Successfully
Negotiate & Collaborate in the IEP Development.*

Thursday, March 16th 6:00 -7:30pm

Northeast Arc Center for Excellence, 6 Southside Road, Danvers, MA

To sign up for the workshop please contact:

Jackie P. Murphy at JPMurphy@ne-arc.org or 978-624-3721
(registration required)

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Northeast Arc Offers Unique Residential Opportunity

Three New Housing Units

Opening in the winter of 2017

Northeast Arc Residential Services is renovating a beautiful 150 year old, single family home, into three separate apartment units. Each unit has two bedrooms with spacious new kitchens; separate dining area and large living rooms. The first floor 2 bedroom unit is designed to assist persons with mobility issues, with a ramp to the back entrance, wheel chair accessible bathroom and showers and washer and dryer in this unit. We have a washer and dryer for units 2 and 3 on the premises and off street parking and large backyard perfect for barbecues and outdoor entertaining.

This innovative housing development is geared to support young adults on the autism spectrum or adults with mild intellectual disabilities who are interested in self-determination and living in a supported independent living arrangement. The building is situated in the town of Salem, Massachusetts, within walking distance to Salem State University, bus and train lines, stores and restaurants and the beach.

We maintain close relationships with our neighbors and especially Salem State Alumni who have adopted this home. In the past, they have established relationships with the residents, sharing dinners, volunteering their time and talent to design flower beds, and completing fall and spring yard work projects. The Salem Alumni group has also donated tickets to the university's sporting events and theatre productions and has generously agreed to continue their work with the residents. The Mayor of Salem, Kim Driscoll, has also lent her support

and endorsement of the new project.

We will be working closely with the Salem Housing Authority and individual participants to secure section 8 subsidies or rental vouchers for those adults who are income eligible. The house already has two facility based rental subsidies which would be applied to the first 2 eligible participants.



We will provide a framework of support that encourages family participation, develops community connections, focuses on health and teaches life skills to young adults who are able to live successfully in their own apartments with some onsite education and skills building. We incorporate the latest technology or make recommendations for software that facilitates personal growth and development.

We conduct an extensive intake and referral process for interested applicants by reviewing clinical/ educational documents provided by a family member or a referring agency.

The support team will include life skills coaches, case managers, a resident aide, and on site consultation from clinicians as needed.

For more detailed information please contact Jo-Anne Wahl at 978-624-2469 or jwahl@ne-arc.org.

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Support Groups

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT INFO
Central Middlesex Area			
Mandarin Group	ASC-sponsored For Mandarin-speaking parents of children diagnosed with ASD; connect and network with other families; enjoy periodic family days	Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main St, Acton. Bi-monthly meetings, TBA. Facilitator: Wen Li	ASC at 978-777-9135 or asc@ne-arc.org
Burlington Group	ASC-sponsored General discussion and networking for parents of children and teens with ASD. Occasional guest speakers.	@ Burlington Public Library, 22 Sears St, Burlington. Meets the 1 st Monday of the month @ 6:30pm Facilitator: Chris Curtin	ASC at 978-777-9135 or asc@ne-arc.org
Merrimack Valley Area			
Spanish Group	ASC-sponsored for Spanish-speaking parents of children with disabilities. Occasional workshops & events offered	@ Family and Youth Initiative, 130 Parker Street, Lawrence; Meets 3rd Friday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am. Facilitator: Gloria Ricardi Castillo	Gloria Ricardi Castillo at 978-624-23201 or gcas-tillo@ne-arc.org
Newburyport Group	ASC-sponsored for parents of children diagnosed with ASD. General discussion and networking.	@ Newburyport 5 Cents Bank, State St, Newburyport; Meets the 2 nd Thursdays at 7 pm. Facilitator: Nancy Lucier	Contact Susan Gilroy at 978-624-2302 or asc@ne-arc.org
North Shore Area			
Parents of Adults (18+) with AS New Day & Time!	ASC-sponsored for parents of adults with Asperger's, high cognitive autism; general discussion, info sharing.	@ Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd, Danvers; 1st Thursdays, 6-8 pm ; Facilitator: Phyllis Kizner	Phyllis Kizner at 978-624-3747 or pkizner@ne-arc.org
Grandparents' Group Just for February: Last Monday!	ASC-sponsored for grandparents coping with ASD. Networking, info sharing, support.	@ Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Road, Danvers; 3 rd Mondays at 10-11:30 am Facilitator: Susan Gilroy	Susan Gilroy at 978-624-2302 or sgilroy@ne-arc.org
Danvers Group	ASC-sponsored for parents of young children (under 10), info sharing and occasional workshops/guest speakers	@ Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd, Danvers, 6 to 7:30 pm; 3 rd Thursdays; Facilitator: Jackie Murphy	Jackie Murphy at 978-624-3721 or jpmurphy@ne-arc.org
Transition Group	NeArc-sponsored for parents of transition-aged youth ((14-22). Discussion and workshops on turning 22 related topics	@ NeArc, 6 Southside Rd, Danvers; 3 rd Tuesdays at 6:30-8:30 pm; Facilitated by Nancy Lucier	Nancy Lucier at 978-624-2350 or nalucier@ne-arc.org
Adult Group (18+)	ASC-sponsored for adults with Asperger profile, high cognitive autism.	@ Breaking Grounds Café, 67 Main St., Peabody. 1 st Thursday, 11am-noon. Facilitated by Phyllis Kizner	Phyllis Kizner at 978-624-3747 or pkizner@ne-arc.org
Danvers Panera Group	NeArc Family Resource Center sponsored; for parents of children with disabilities; general discussion	@Panera Bread, Liberty Tree Mall, 100 Independence Way, Danvers; 2 nd Tuesdays at 10 am. Facilitated by Aymee Lucifora/Fariba O'Donald	Fariba O'Donald at 978-624-2381 or Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2380
Lynn Group	NeArc Family Resource Center sponsored; for parents of children with disabilities; general discussion	@ Brothers Deli, 41 Market Street, Lynn; Last Thursday at 10 am. Facilitated by Fariba O'Donald	Fariba O'Donald at 978-624-2381 or Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2380
Lynn Spanish Group	NeArc Family Resource Center sponsored; for Spanish-speaking parents of children with DD; general discussion	@ CenterBoard, City Hall Sq.Lynn; 2/28 Facilitated by Aymee Lucifora	Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2380

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Spotlight Social Skills For All Ages!
Contact Chris Curtin @ 978-624-2335

Spotlight Program		Spring Session Saturday Programs	
		April 1st - May 20th 1 & 6 Southside Road	
Take One	Age 2.5-5yrs Saturdays 9am-10am \$20.00/week RSVP Friday prior by noon		
On Cue	Age 5-9yrs Saturdays 10:30am-12:30pm \$520.00/session		
Social Scenes	Age 9-16yrs 10:30am-12:30pm \$520.00 /session		
Next Stage	Age 16-22yrs 1:00am-4:00pm \$750.00/session		
Contact Ms. Chris Curtin 978.624.2335			



SAVE THE DATE

for Northeast Arc's EVENING OF Changing Lives

Saturday, April 29th
Danversport Yacht Club

HONORING

Jeffrey Musman, Partner,

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

with the

Changing Lives Award

NortheastArc

Lifelong support for people with disabilities

www.ne-arc.org
www.facebook.com/NortheastArc

The 3rd Annual Central Massachusetts Autism Summit
presented by HMEA, Inc.

TUESDAY APRIL 11th
8:30am to 3:15pm

HIRE AND HIGHER:

Leveraging the "Autism Advantage" to
Meet the Region's Workforce Demands



College of the Holy Cross • Worcester, MA

The 3rd Annual Central Massachusetts Autism Summit will focus on:

- Workforce shortage in Central Massachusetts
- National Trends in Employment for People with Autism
- Innovative approaches to Employment Services and Training
- Helping employers recognize the unique and valuable skills of people with autism
- Central Massachusetts Workforce Needs Assessment results

Summit Presenters:

- Autism Speaks
- The Arc of Philadelphia
- AANE Speakers Bureau
- Flutie Spectrum Enterprises
- Autism Higher Education Foundation
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
- TILL, Inc.
- HMEA, Inc.
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

Keynote Speaker

John Elder Robison,
Neurodiversity Scholar in
Residence at The College of
William & Mary and author of
some of the most widely read
stories of growing up on the
autism spectrum and living with Asperger's
syndrome, including *Switched On*, *Raising
Cubby*, *Look Me in the Eye*, and *Be Different*.
John's writing has been translated into 18
languages and is sold in over 60 countries.



For more information
or to register, visit:

www.hmea.org/autismsummit2017



Family Resource Center

Does your child's
**Individualized Education Program
(IEP) meet their unique needs?**

Educational Advocacy IEP Consult \$25
(1 hour Consultation- regularly \$80)

Wednesday

March 15th & 22nd

9:00 am - 10:15 am - 11:30 am

@

Northeast Arc

Center for Excellence

6 Southside Road, Danvers, MA

Monday

March 6th & 20th

9:00 am - 10:15 am - 11:30 am

@

Centerboard

16 City Hall Square

Lynn, MA

For more information or an appointment, contact:

alucifora@ne-arc.org / 1-978-624-2381 or

jedonald@ne-arc.org / 1-978-624-2380

Thanks to support from the Department of Developmental Services and the
United Way of the North Shore these Consultations may be FREE to eligible
families through the North Shore area office.



Come join our friends from
Gordon College!
for an evening of

BINGO

Sunday, March 5th, 6:00 - 7:30pm

Northeast Arc

6 Southside Road, Danvers

Lots of Fun, Prizes and Snacks

It's always fun to be with friends!

For further information contact Suzanne sryan@ne-arc.org

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Transition Talk

Adult Family Care--AFC
Are you eligible?

Providing live-in care for a friend or loved one isn't always easy, but Adult Family Care (AFC) is a MassHealth funded program that can help. AFC supports and financially assists live-in caregivers for those who are unable to live alone and are eligible for MassHealth. Also known as Adult Foster Care, AFC supports caregivers with compensation, guidance and paid time off. Along with a tax-free stipend for the caregiver, ongoing training and support from a nurse and a social worker are part of the service.

To be eligible, you have to have MassHealth Standard or Commonwealth and be at least 16 years old. Most importantly, you must have a physical, medical, or developmental disability and need supervision or assistance with at least one basic task of everyday life. For more info on AFC, call 978-624-2313.

If you have questions about Turning 22 and adult services, contact Phyllis Kizner, Adult Specialist, at 978-624-3747.

ROLLING VIDEO EVENT



February 16, 2017



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Open Dance @ NeArc



Put on your dancing
shoes and come dance
with us!!!

4th Tuesday every month!

March 28 and April 25

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Center for Developmental Excellence

6 Southside Road, Danvers

Ages 13+

\$5

Drinks and snacks provided.

More info? Contact Katie Sweet at 978-624-2308

BCBA ROLES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

BCBAs observe and take data on behaviors: Over the course of the treatment period a BCBA's role will include monitoring the client's progress, including regular observations of the client's behavior, data collection and analysis of the data to determine the strengthening or reduction of the particular behaviors being targeted. The BCBA may conduct observations and collect data in a variety of settings, with different people, or at different times of the day to ensure that interventions and programming are generalizing outside of the regularly scheduled session times. Data collection and analysis is essential in determining the efficacy of the treatment plan that has been put into place, and the BCBA may make adjustments to protocols as needed to better treat the client.

BCBAs supervise direct staff and provide training: While the BCBA conducts assessment, observes, takes and analyzes data and develops protocols and programming for behaviors, a direct care provider implements all of those strategies and protocols. It is a role of the BCBA to supervise this implementation by the direct care provider to ensure that all data being taken and all interventions being run are both valid and reliable. BCBAs provide the direct care provider with the tools to help the client, and give training and support to the providers on a regular basis to ensure quality services.

BCBAs provide clinical support to families: It is not just the role of the BCBA to provide his or her initial clinical interpretations and intervention suggestions for the client, but to also provide clinical support to the entire family. BCBAs hold regular clinical meetings and trainings for family members to discuss progress and train family members on specific interventions. BCBA's may attend IEP meetings to ensure carry over of strategies and assess whether skills being taught in the home are generalizing to the school setting. BCBAs also regularly coordinate with outside service agencies such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and/or physical therapy to ensure reasonable and appropriate interventions are being used across sessions. Consistency across settings and people increases the likelihood that the behavioral strategies being implemented will have a greater impact on the behaviors they are targeting, and it is part of the BCBA's role to be involved in the generalization of skills across all environments.

For more information on NeArc's Autism ABA Services, please contact program director, Stacey Villani at 978-624-2340.

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Family Fun!



AUTISM EATS

April 24, 2017
6:00pm to 8:00pm

Maggiano's Little Italy
Park Square (near the Theatre District)
4 Columbus Ave
Boston

Adult: \$25.00

Child: \$21.00

Parking: \$10.00 parking in Motor Mart Garage above Maggiano's.

www.autismeats.org

Free time?? Want to make a difference?

Do you have free time on your hands? Are you saving for summer vacation? Here's an opportunity for YOU!

Northeast Arc Family Resources program has ten individuals with developmental disabilities waiting for an "adult companion" or "respite provider." Requirements for this rewarding work are compassion, a sense of fun, and a few free hours per week (oh, and a valid driver's license and reliable car). Activities are flexible and driven by the person served, but could include going to a gym, the movies, shopping at the mall, walking the beach, etc. This is a paid position, not volunteer work. You will be compensated for mileage. Interested? Contact Aymee Lucifora at alucifora@ne-arc.org



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Flexible funding for low-income families



We are pleased to announce that ASC's proposal for family support flexible funding to the **Doug Flutie, Jr., Foundation for Autism** has been approved. We will begin accepting flex funding requests for Flutie funds in February. **Low income families** with a child on the autism spectrum **not** receiving funding from another source of support (for example, DDS family support, intensive supports, DESE/DDS, autism waiver, etc.) are eligible to apply. Funds can be requested for recreational activities, respite care, tuition to a social skills group, Y membership or other goods and services of direct benefit to the child with ASD.

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation awards grants on an annual basis to non-profit organizations and schools that provide services, education and advocacy for children with autism spectrum disorder and to organizations that conduct research on the causes and effects of autism. Over \$402,000 was distributed to organizations all over the US and Canada.

We are very grateful to the Flutie Foundation for their continued support of the families we serve!

Please call the Center at 978-777-9135 if you would like an application. Funds will not be allocated until March 2017.

UMASS LOWELL EVENT

Fred Volkmar, M.D., "Changing Perspectives on Outcome in Autism Spectrum Disorders"
Thursday March 30, 2017, 3:30-5 p.m.
O'Leary library, room 222, UMass Lowell south campus,
61 Wilder St., Lowell, MA 01854

Fred R. Volkmar, M.D., is one of the most prominent researchers in the field of autism. He is Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology at the Yale University Child Study Center, School of Medicine. Beginning in the 1970's research began to show that structured educational interventions were most effective in producing developmental change in children with autism. Since that time a large body of work has accumulated with a number of evidence based approaches now available. This presentation will summarize this work and the changes in outcome that appear to be associated with it. Needs of adolescents and young adults with autism will be summarized.

Events are free and open to the public. For more information please visit: <https://www.uml.edu/Research/Autism/news-events.aspx>



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Summer Camp Fairs

Wellesley LINX Camps Tour

February 5th, March 26th, April 9th, July 5th & 12, 2017, Wellesley, Dana Hall Campus, register for camp tours at 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Not Disability Specific. Find camps for kids age 3 – 16, with programs focused on Adventure, Fine Arts, General, Junior, Leadership, Performing Arts, Sports, STEMM, Red Cross Certified swim lessons and a full array of camp activities. Meet with camp leadership and tour the facilities. Registration required to <http://www.linxcamps.com/tours> or call 781-235-3210.

Chelmsford Summer Camp Fair

March 11, 2017 all-day

Chelmsford Summer Camp & Activities Fair: March 11th, 2017, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., McCarthy Middle School, Chelmsford. Not disability specific. Programs may include soccer, basketball, baseball, computers, weight loss, recreation, gymnastics, performing arts, football, nature, travel, softball, tutoring, and more. Contact info@summercampfairmass.com

Methuen Recreational & Resource Fair for Special Needs

Methuen Comprehensive Grammar School, Methuen, April 30th, 3 – 6 p.m., 2017. The Methuen Special Education Parent Advisory Council's special-needs resource fair will feature information from vendors who support advocacy, financial planning, special needs trusts, vocational training, sports and summer programming, activities, and more. 2017 Vendors TBA.

2016 Special needs organizations and vendors included:

- Surfing w/ Smiles
- Boy Scouts of America
- Methuen Karate Association
- YMCA Merrimack Valley
- North East Rehabilitation
- Ella's Way (Special Needs books)
- American Training
- SPaN
- Asperger's Works
- Northshore ARC
- Blue Skies Wellness
- Exceptional Lives
- Clinical Solutions
- Mass Down Syndrome Congress
- Methuen Fire Department
- Methuen Police Department
- FCSN/Family Ties
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center

For more information visit the www.methuensepac.com or contact methuensepac@gmail.com



The Spectrum

The Spectrum is a monthly electronic publication of the Autism Support Center. This newsletter is published to inform parents and professionals of resource information, upcoming events, and other autism-related topics. ASC is funded primarily by the Mass. Dept. of Developmental

INFORMED. EMPOWERED. CONNECTED.

Services. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the funding source. ASC does not endorse any product, service or theory referred to in this newsletter. Articles, resources and announcements are included for information only.

Anyone wishing to contribute information for this newsletter should send it to asc@ne-arc.org or to our mailing address. Parent contributions are encouraged. *Announcements are included as space is available.*



PLEASE CONTACT

ASC AT 978-777-9135

OR VISIT [HTTP://NE-ARC.ORG/SERVICES/AUTISM-SERVICES/](http://ne-arc.org/services/autism-services/)

FOR MORE INFORMATION.



6 SOUTHSIDE ROAD, DANVERS MA 01923

NortheastArc
Lifelong support for people with disabilities

