

New nominees for The Arc of Aurora's Board of Directors, 2019

Damon Vaz

Damon Vaz recently retired in good standing from the Aurora Police Department on November 1, 2018. His career in law enforcement spanned twenty three years. During that time Damon worked in many assignments to include working patrol as a patrol officer, a field training officer, and a PAR officer. While assigned to PAR, Damon became known for his innovation and outside of the box problem solving efforts that were implemented as policy which still stand to this day. He was awarded the cities Eagle Award for his innovation in 2004, an award given only once a year to either a Fire Fighter or Police Officer.

Damon was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2008 where he supervised multiple patrol teams, PAR units, and the SRO Unit. On September 26th, 2015 Damon was selected to head up the Aurora Police Departments first at risk adult unit. This was the first unit of its kind in all of the metro area. Damon and his team aptly named the unit, SVU, as they served special needs victims and at-risk elders. The unit to this day is held in high esteem as they tackle the most complex crimes to at risk adults within the city of Aurora.

Damon continues to be passionate about serving and is now testing the waters of entrepreneurship by creating a consultation business. Damon hopes to provide his twenty three years of law enforcement experiences to both law enforcement and the caregiving world in order to reduce the frequency of abuse to at risk adults with an I/DD and elders, however that abuse manifests.

Damon has been married to his beautiful bride Lisa for 21 years and they have one 16 year old son who has aspirations to play football at the college level. Damon may have retired from police work, however he is not done with trying to make a difference and serving his community. If things go his way, they'll be no need for the business he created as laws, regulations, and social views of vulnerable adults will have been drastically improved, resulting in more inclusion and less abuse to all at risk persons.

Rhonda Schlereth

I was educated in Michigan and began my teaching career there. My experiences and passion have always been to work with students with disabilities. I spent 38 years as a special education teacher in the public school setting, working with every grade level and in four different states. The last 15 years of my career had a focus on Autism as I became an Autism Consultant. In this capacity I set up and monitored the 4 Autism Centers in our district, participated in diagnostic evaluations, and provided in service for staff.

I would be honored to become part of The Arc family and excited to offer my services.