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**Happy Thanksgiving!**



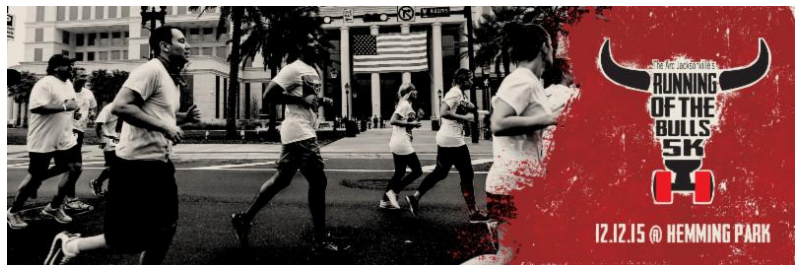
The Arc Jacksonville wishes you and your family many blessings this Thanksgiving Holiday!

**Faces of the The Arc**

**Eric Pagan**

Direct Support Professional

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





Working as a Direct Support Professional at The Arc Jacksonville has helped Eric Pagan find his purpose in life.

"After two months of working here, I became passionate," he said. Working in an environment where he was able to have a positive effect on the lives of others was very encouraging. What Pagan thought was just a pit stop in his life became much more.

"I love everything about my job," Pagan said. "I enjoy helping participants reach their goals and communicate better with their peers." Pagan said he has gained a better understanding of the importance of effective communication.

Pagan finds joy in witnessing participants grow and triumph over challenges. He described his excitement at witnessing a participant with Autism, who rarely spoke, hold a full conversation, "I was excited that he spoke. It was awesome to witness," he said.

Pagan feels coming to The Arc Jacksonville is important for adults with disabilities. "It provides great opportunities for participants to connect with others in their community," he said.

Pagan hopes that participants are happy after being at The Arc Jacksonville and look forward to coming back the next day.

**Because of The Arc...**"I was able to

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. Register today - Registration price goes up on November 27, 2015!

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

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## Employment News: Evelyn Colon



Evelyn Colon joined The Arc Jacksonville in October as Business Relationship Specialist. She will be recruiting companies, large and small, to hire people with disabilities. By seeking commitments to hire from executives and senior management, Colon hopes to place persons with disabilities throughout the organization. She will also work with mid-management

employees to identify tasks that are well suited to abilities of individuals with disabilities.

Colon believes in learning about the culture of each business or organization she plans to approach. "I want to learn as much as possible about the culture of each company," she said. The goal is to help the company see how hiring a person with a disability will make a positive impact on their company's bottom line. Expanding the hiring practices of a company helps provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to obtain a position.

Colon's long term goal is for The Arc Jacksonville to become a recognized source for those seeking to hire people with disabilities. "I want companies to view The Arc as a specialist in this area," she said.

figure out my path in life through helping others reach their full capacity in life."

## Amazon Wishlist



Tis' the season of giving! As the Holidays are approaching, don't forget to view items needed on The Arc Jacksonville's Amazon Wishlist.

Amazon offers great deals during Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the perfect timing to make purchases.

Items purchased go towards helping enhance our day programs and services and help participants achieve their full potential in their daily living.

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

**Shop AmazonSmile today!**

**DONATE** >

Working at The Arc Jacksonville has expanded Colon's passion and willingness to consider personality as a large part of what people bring to any employment position regardless of their physical abilities. "I've learned that everyone can contribute something," she said.

## Mission Moment: A.S.K. at The Arc Jacksonville

The Arc Jacksonville's Advocacy department, better known as A.S.K. (Advocacy, Support and Knowledge), is a rich resource in providing assistance and outreach to the disability community. The advocacy department consists of Charlotte Temple, Vice President of Advocacy and Denise Torres, Advocacy Specialist. Advocacy is the only department in the agency that serves people with disabilities throughout their life span. Of the many services and resources they provide, information about the protection of rights and guardianship/guardian advocacy, are subjects that come up often among parents and guardians.

Guardianship/Guardian Advocacy helps caregivers protect the rights of their loved ones with a disability. It is encouraged that families begin to consider guardianship/guardian advocacy before the person with a disability turns 18, if they have a significant intellectual disability. Once they turn 18, they are of legal age and according to state law, the person is of age to make all legal decisions. Education rights and decisions are transferred to the student from the parent(s)/caregiver(s).

[Click here to read more about our advocacy department and the guardianship process](#)

## Holiday Volunteers

We are currently seeking volunteers to help make the holidays more delightful for our participants. Volunteers are welcome to sing Christmas carols, create Holiday crafts or cards, as well as participate in recreational activities at our group homes, Downtown or Westside locations.

[Click here to sign-up and see other volunteer opportunities](#)

**The Arc Jacksonville**

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