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ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES FIND SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT AT JOE LEONE'S

December 14, 2021 (Point Pleasant, NJ): Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from The Arc, Ocean County Chapter Employment Center have been working for Joe Leone's in Point Pleasant Beach for four years preparing specialty gift boxes for the holiday season.

Developing job skills in a supported employment environment to find competitive work for people with disabilities is the goal for The Arc of Ocean County's Vocational Services team. At Joe Leone's, participants learn teamwork, communication skills, following directions, organizing inventory, counting and cleaning while earning a weekly paycheck.

"Over the course of the years my favorite part has been seeing the familiar faces make progress with their quantity and quality of work. I love seeing their confidence grow as they get more comfortable with the gift boxes and take pride in their work," said Amanda Coletta, Retail Director for Joe Leone's.

Twice a week, two individuals from The Arc along with a supervisor, package 60 gift boxes a day for their busy holiday season. They clock in and out, take breaks in the staff break room, and feel they are a part of the team at Joe Leone's.

"I like making the boxes and putting all the food inside because it's fun," said Xenia who has been working at Joe Leone's with The Arc, Ocean County Chapter since 2018.

The Arc of Ocean County's Vocational Services programs provide job training, employment opportunities, and transportation for adults with disabilities through community partnerships. To learn more visit www.arcocean.org.

About The Arc, Ocean County Chapter

The Arc, Ocean County Chapter, Inc. was established in 1955 with the mission to advocate, provide opportunities and supports necessary for all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be accepted and valued as citizens of the communities in which they choose to live, learn, work and play. Today, the chapter serves more than 1,000 individuals and families through housing programs, job training and employment opportunities, family support and recreation activities.

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Ryan and Xenia, participants at The Arc, Ocean County Chapter with their supervisor Giselle, prepare holiday gift boxes at Joe Leone's in Point Pleasant Beach.