

What does a nickel buy? Most people might answer, "Not very much these days." Here at The Arc Quinebaug Valley however a nickel, when multiplied by many nickels, can provide individuals with disabilities an opportunity to work, increase their independence and learn new skills. The Arc is pleased to report that the business venture that helps our local community conserve limited resources and provide "real work for real pay" for individuals with life-affecting disabilities is growing! Project Redemption is a bottle and can redemption business here in Northeast CT. The employees of The Arc's vocational program have been working in the program for over a year now and are proud of their accomplishments. Over one million bottles and cans have been redeemed!

<u>What's next?</u> As a goal of our agency's Strategic Plan we continue to grow the scope of Project Redemption and include businesses and other community locations. Proceeds from this endeavor will also benefit all of the services provided by The Arc including Education, Residential, Retirement, Advocacy, Family Support and Day Programs. We hope to be opening a community redemption center in Putnam in the coming weeks. At this time we are securing all the necessary permits, a lease and a partnership with the state's leading redemption company TOMRA.

How can you help? Sign up your business! We will provide companies with a receptacle for employees to deposit the bottles and cans. Based on your needs we will develop a schedule for picking up these donations each week at your location and convenience. To promote your dedication to the community and to thank you for your partnership we will feature your business on our website, facebook page and in our newsletters. We will also offer you a free one year membership to The Arc for you to appreciate how your donations positively impact the lives of individuals with disabilities in our community.

We are also in need of the boxes that beer comes in. Distributors will only take the beer bottle returns back if they are in a box. Boxes may be dropped off at three locations 160 Main St. in Putnam, our Emporium store, 193 Mechanic St., the Danielson Day Program or 687 Cook Hill Rd. office in Danielson. If you have a quantity, we can arrange to pick them up. Of course we will gladly accept the bottles and cans as well!

Watch for more information on our grand opening in the coming weeks in the local media and thank you for your support of our program. More information about our redemption business can be obtained by calling Linda Lamoureux or Nikki Williams at The Arc Office at 860-774-2827 or at The Arc Redemption Center at 860-928-1401.

