

## Arc throws royal party for its consumers

June 18, 2024 by Cliff Smelley

BY CLIFF SMELLEY

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If you're going to have a party, it makes sense to have the "Best Partygoer" in attendance.

The Arc of Bradford held its annual Purple Day event on June 14. Those who receive Arc services (known as consumers) were presented with certificates that recognized their unique traits. Allen Sullivan, for example, received a certificate for being "Best Partygoer."

What would a party be without music and dancing? Purple Day had that, giving consumer Chris Miller the chance to show off his moves before he received a certificate recognizing him as "Best Dance Machine."

T.J. Barker and Robbie Pickering are able to liven up a party as well. Barker was named "Biggest Joker," while Pickering was named "Biggest Kidder."

Certificates recognized all kinds of characteristics, such as "Prettiest Dress Fashionista," which went to Stacy Fulmer, and "Biggest Fingernail Glam Girl," which went to Kim Lee.

Though the Arc serves those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, the organization believes in highlighting an individual's ability. Therefore, some consumers received certificates for such things as "Best Creative Designer," which was presented to Greg Smith, and "Best Note Taker," which was presented to Terri Smith.

Prior to the presentation of certificates, consumers enjoyed games, water activities and food.

What's the best part about Purple Day? As far as consumer Richard Miller is concerned, "everything." He said he enjoys "going in the water and sliding and eating watermelon and all kinds of stuff — hamburgers and hot dogs."

Consumer Terry Albert said the whole day is fun.

"That's what it's all about," Albert said.

Andy Martinez said he enjoys being around his fellow consumers.

"I'm down here with my guys," Martinez said.

Purple Day gets its name from the fact that the color purple signifies royalty. With that in mind, Arc staff members do their best to make consumers feel like kings and queens. All you had to do was look at Chris Ballance's face, which showed the "Best Smile" that he earned a certificate for.



Eric Miller dances as he's feeling good after cooling off on the water slide.



Arc staff member La'Kia Radford (left) enjoys some time with William Vandervoort.



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AyJay Pernel (left) helps consumer Terrance Holmes enjoy the mini waterpark.



Chris Miller shows off a cross with the word "Mama" that he got painted on his arm.



John Smith (left) and Richard Miller enjoy a cool plunge at the bottom of the slide.



Jon Farrell participates in a game of cornhole.





T.J. Barker grills up some burgers for the event.



Greg Smith tries to pick the lucky duck so that he can win a prize.



Eric Miller shows off a smile as he enjoys a snow cone and a snack.



James Spoon has hooked himself a prize in the fishing game.



Chris Miller (far right) enjoys dancing with Arc staff members Melinda Godwin (far left) and Savannah Godwin.





Chris Ballance gets wet from all directions.



Robbie Pickering tries his luck at horseshoes.



Steven Garfield adds a bit of green to his tie-dye shirt.



Stacy Fulmer (left) and Greg Smith enjoy each other's company, which is the biggest appeal of Purple Day — having the chance to have fun with friends.





Eric Miller splashes down at the bottom of the slide.



Terri Smith lets a horseshoe fly.



Chris Ballance enjoys a snow cone.



Robbie Pickering (left) has some fun with Richard Miller — the kind of fun that resulted in Pickering earning a certificate for being the Biggest Kidder.





Tyler Williams works on a tie-dye shirt.



Rodney Coar (left) and Terrance Holmes beat the heat with snow cones.



If you're the Best at Show-n-Tell, like Tyler Williams, then you have no choice but to show off your certificate for the camera.



Terry Albert was recognized as Bradford High School's Best Graduate of 1985.



Terri Smith was recognized as The Best Note Writer.





T.J. Barker was named Biggest Jokester.



Stacy Fulmer received a certificate for being Prettiest Dress Fashionista.



Robbie Pickering shows off his certificate for being the Biggest Kidder.



Need a vacay sidekick? Richard Miller is the best. He has the certificate to prove it.





Purple Day works out great for Michael Smith, who was recognized as Biggest Clemson Fanatic. One of Clemson's colors is purple.



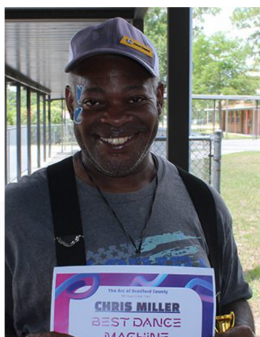
Kim Lee was recognized as being the Biggest Fingernail Glam Girl.



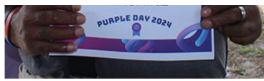
Jessica Genosa was named Most Caring.



Greg Smith shows off his certificate for being Most Creative Designer.







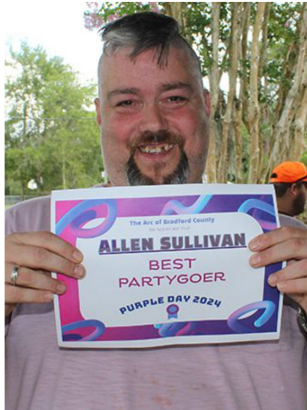
Chris Miller took time out from showing off his moves to accept his certificate for being the Best Dance Machine.



Chris Ballance shows off the smile that earned him his certificate.



Andy Martinez was recognized as Biggest Movie Fan. He said his favorite movie is "Godzilla."



Allen Sullivan was named Best Partygoer.



Alfred Thomas received a certificate for being Best Ladies Man.

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