

CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF TOURS PAXTON CAMPUS

Leesburg, Virginia – August 14, 2013 – On Thursday, August 8th, Congressman Wolf with his Chief Aide, Dan Scandling, toured Paxton Campus.



Darcy Cunningham, Director of Advocacy at Paxton Campus; Congressman Wolf and Jennifer Lassiter, Executive Director of Paxton Campus outside of The Aurora School. -Photo courtesy of Dan Scandling/Congressman Wolf's Office.

Congressman Wolf's last visit was four years ago, during the groundbreaking ceremony for The Arc of Loudoun's move to the Paxton Campus in Leesburg. Since his last visit, Paxton has opened four buildings that are now running full-time programs.

The largest is The Aurora School, that has grown nearly three times in four years, with 35 students with intellectual disabilities enrolled to start classes at the beginning of the school year. Paxton is also home to Open Door Learning Center, an inclusive preschool that serves children with and without disabilities; and "A Life Like Yours" (ALLY) Advocacy Center that provides free information on disability rights, guidance, support, events, and workshops to families and caretakers of those with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. All of these programs provide opportunities for adults and children with disabilities and their families, as well as bettering the greater Loudoun community.

Congressman Wolf was excited about the vocational training work sites that Paxton has established. Paxton Campus houses two onsite: Maggie's Closet, a clothing store that offers Loudoun's families in need a chance to shop at no cost and Paxton Attraction, an onsite convenience store. Both microbusinesses are part of the Supported Training and Employment (STEP Up) Program, and provide job training for our students and others with disabilities in the community.

In 1922, Rachel Paxton had a vision to turn her home and property into a safe and welcoming environment for underprivileged families. In 1967, a group of parents whose children had special needs formed The Arc of Loudoun, a non-profit to start a school for their children when no one else would. In 2010, those two visions combined when The Arc of Loudoun moved to the Paxton Campus. Since then, the Campus has grown into a full-service organization to provide an integrated and innovative learning environment for all ages and abilities. Programs include The Aurora School, Open Door Learning Center preschool, STEP Up vocational training program for adults, and ALLY ("A Life Like Yours") Advocacy Center, all devoted to serving people with disabilities and their families, as well as helping children of all abilities thrive in our community.

For more information, contact Rachel Roseberry, Communications Coordinator of Paxton Campus, at roseberry@paxtoncampus.org or by phone at 703-777-1939.

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