

PRESS RELEASE

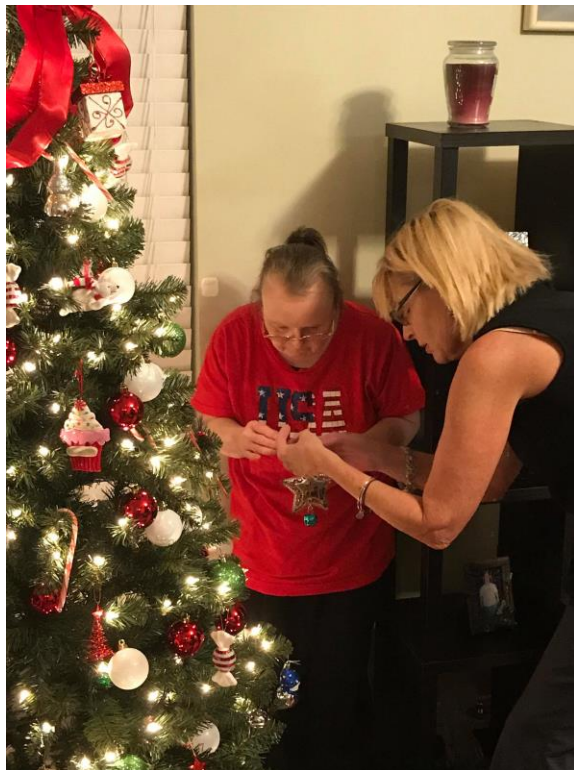
For Immediate Release

“Because of the generosity of First Florida Bank, these homes that The Arc of the Emerald Coast provide services to are Merry & Bright this Christmas”

The Arc of the Emerald Coast

The spirit of Christmas was in the air on Tuesday, December 5th as the staff of First Florida Bank delivered Christmas trees to the homes of those that The Arc of the Emerald Coast provides personal support services to. Christmas music filled the homes as the trees were decorated jointly by First Florida Bank and the home's residents. The Arc of the Emerald Coast relies on these donations and those from our community to continue to provide the personal support services required for the men, women and children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida and all other intellectual and developmental disabilities. One of the support services that The Arc of the Emerald Coast provides is supported living. The program provides the opportunity for those with disabilities to live everyday lives in the home of their choice and inclusive within our community. Many individuals who receive these services strive to lead everyday lives and to live a life we all dream of. Health issues, fixed income, and other factors make it a bit harder than most non-disabled individuals. Many face having to choose between buying a Christmas tree or buying a gift for a friend or even food. With the care and compassion of First Florida Bank, that choice was eliminated this year. As members of our wonderful community, First Florida Bank is a recognized company whose efforts in giving do not go unnoticed. The Arc of the Emerald Coast appreciates First Florida Bank and its staff in helping continue these efforts.





For more information about this program and many other services provided contact our offices in Fort Walton Beach at (850) 863.1530 or Milton at (850) 623-

9320. Additional information can be found on our website at www.arcemeraldcoast.org.

About: **The Arc of the Emerald Coast**, formerly Horizons, is a 501(c)(3) providing services to people who have developmental and other disabilities. Our mission statement is "To create a path from disability to capability." We provide services to approximately 450 people in and around Okaloosa, Walton, and Santa Rosa Counties, providing 16 different support programs with 245 staff and 271 volunteers throughout the year. For More Information visit our www.arcemeraldcoast.org or call the main office at (850) 863.1530