

# CHAMPIONS of The Arc Rockland



**Sometimes the most meaningful connections come from the most unexpected places.** That's how we met Vinny Garrison—a talented drone pilot, photographer, and founder of *Flying Films NY*. Vinny is also someone whose personal story and passion for people brought him into The Arc Rockland family in the most genuine way.

## A Chance Encounter

During The Arc Rockland's 70th anniversary celebration last year, the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge was lit in orange to honor our work supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The next day, we were surprised and moved to find a stunning drone video of the bridge lighting online - captured by Vinny.



Along with the video, he shared a heartfelt message about his late Uncle Tommy, (pictured on left) who received services through The Arc Rockland for many years, including attending our Day Program and living in one of our residences.

***“I remember hearing stories of Tommy becoming more outgoing and communicative after joining The Arc Rockland.”***

## A Passion Turned Purpose

Vinny is a public school teacher by day, while his passion project, *Flying Films NY*, allows him to use media to create lasting memories and impact. Since that first bridge lighting, Vinny has filmed numerous Arc Rockland events - including the Holiday Glee Concert and the Harold Peterson Memorial Golf Classic. ***“The people who benefit from The Arc Rockland have families who love them dearly. Showing them in their best light is uplifting.”***

## Why He Keeps Coming Back

What motivates him? The people. The mission. And the joy.

For Vinny, being involved with The Arc Rockland brings a sense of pride. ***“The Arc Rockland gives people a chance at a more fulfilling life. I know how hard the people at The Arc Rockland work. I feel proud to contribute.”***

## Looking Ahead

Vinny hopes to continue building a visual archive of joy and connection - highlighting those we support, especially individuals thriving in the community.

**“ Reach out and offer what you can. It will make you feel good.”**

Thank you, Vinny, for capturing our story through amazing video footage - and being a true champion of The Arc Rockland.



**Vinny Garrison –  
Teacher. Storyteller.  
Advocate. Friend.**