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“Our mission is to advocate for persons with developmental disabilities to enable them to live, learn, work and play with dignity, respect and meaningful involvement in their communities.”



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Media Release
April 13, 2022

Dog Treat Business Staffed by Individuals with Disabilities to Open Allegan Storefront

ALLEGAN, Mich.—Less than a year after selling its first bag of all-natural dog treats, Beyond Bones will open its own retail store in downtown Allegan. Located at 219 Hubbard Street, Suite A, the store is next door to The Arc of Allegan County (The Arc), the creator of Beyond Bones.

The Arc and Beyond Bones will officially open the store in June. An official opening date will be announced as renovations progress.

Since its founding in 1956, The Arc has advocated for the inclusion and dignity of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. In response to limited employment opportunities and skill development programs for the individuals it serves, The Arc created the pet-focused business in 2021.

Beyond Bones currently employs 20 bakers. Treats are made and packaged four times a week using kitchen space at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Allegan and Path of Grace in Wayland.

The retail space will sell Beyond Bones’ handmade dog treats, which are available in regular and mini sizes, and other pet-focused products. Four to six additional positions for individuals with disabilities will be created within the store.

“The creation of Beyond Bones has been a labor of love for The Arc, its Board of Directors, and our dedicated volunteers,” said Stacy Engelsman, Executive Director of The Arc. “Seeing the sense of accomplishment and pride on our employees’ faces is as rewarding as knowing they are earning fair pay while engaging meaningfully in the community.”

Funding for the business is also a community effort. The Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation has provided funds to renovate the retail space. Support for start-up costs was provided by The Perrigo Company Charitable Foundation.

Keith Hayward, President of The Arc Board of Directors, said, “We can’t thank our generous supporters, donors, and customers enough for making this business and retail store possible and helping us to provide much-needed job opportunities for the individuals we support.”

Since last summer, Beyond Bones have been sold at vendor fairs, farmers’ markets, online, and The Arc office. Fourteen retail partners located in and around Allegan County also sell Beyond Bones treats and will continue to do so once the store opens.

The Arc of Allegan County
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010
269.673.8841 • info@arcalleghan.org • www.arcalleghan.org



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For more information about Beyond Bones or The Arc of Allegran County or to purchase treats, please visit <https://www.arcallegan.org/beyondbones>.

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Editor's Note: Five images are included for your use, including:

- Arc of Allegran County logo.
- Beyond Bones logo.
- Beyond Bones treat bags.
- Beyond Bones' future storefront located at 219 Hubbard Street in Allegran.
- Beyond Bones baker Keith Conlon of Shelbyville with a bag of Beyond Bones treats and a furry friend.