

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Spring is in the air. What a beautiful thing! The robins have returned, trees are starting to show their buds, and the late snow has melted. Here in Iowa we are lucky to be able to witness the wonder of the changing of the seasons. And who doesn't enjoy feeling the warm sun on their face after a long cold winter. I've always viewed spring as a time of hope and new beginnings. Here at The Arc of East Central Iowa we are all about hope and new beginnings. We believe in the resiliency of the human spirit. Nowhere can that be witnessed in all its glory more than at The Arc March.



What a wonderful day filled with hope, compassion, and resiliency. In my 30 plus years of working for nonprofits in Iowa I have participated in my fair share of walks. But this was something different. Something special... There was excitement in the air. The bustle of people meeting up with friends and family, laughing together, coming together for a shared purpose. The teams with their matching shirts and signs- all there to support a loved one and The Arc. The mascots roaming through the crowd, getting hugs at every turn. And the pure joy on the faces of those dancing to the DJ. All this before the actual walk even started! Yes, it was a beautiful celebration to start off what we hope to be a great spring and summer. The Arc staff and volunteers have been working hard planning for a variety of events that bring hope and compassion to those we serve. The crowd at the Easter Egg Hunt was not deterred by a cold blustery day. Over 80 people participated and had a great time. Planning is underway for the Spring Fling Dance, a hugely popular event to be held on Sunday, April 22nd 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Elk's Lodge on 33rd Ave. And this year we are proud to co-sponsor a new event with our friends at The Arc of Southeast Iowa. Please read about Wings For All within this issue of the e-Challenger for more details. It is the first time this airport based event has ever been held in Iowa, so we are very excited to bring this opportunity to you. And last but not least, springing forward with hope, is our annual Golf Tournament and Raffle held June 14th at Hunters Ridge Golf Course in Marion. We would love for you to join us at any of our spring events. Come for the fun, and in the process help us share hope for the future and advocate for individuals with disabilities everywhere. **Happy Spring to you all!**

Sincerely,

Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

2018 GOLF FOR A CAUSE - REGISTER TODAY

Get registered today for the 28th Annual Golf Tournament. Join us as we enjoy a great afternoon of golf and support each other by standing united and making a difference! No matter your score at the end of 18 holes, your support makes you a true champion.

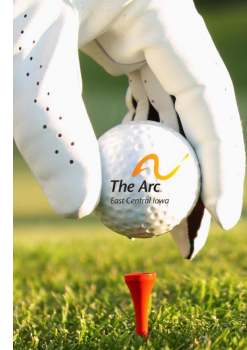
Thursday, June 14th, 2018

Hunters Ridge Golf Course in Marion

- **11:30 am** - Registration
- **12:30 pm** - Shotgun Start
- **5:00 pm** - Dinner & Awards

Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, and dinner. On-course competitions include hole-in-one, putting green, and flag events. Please contact Lexi Coberly at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024 for more information.

**Registration deadline is June 5th.*



We look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTER NOW

RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

As we prepare for our Annual Raffle Fundraiser we are seeking donations. Donations can be in the form of items, money, gift cards, services, trips, etc. If you, someone you know, or you know of a business that would like to donate something, please contact Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024. All raffle item donations are welcome and greatly appreciated!



WINGS FOR ALL COMES TO IOWA

The Arc of Southeast Iowa, The Arc of East Central Iowa, Allegiant Airlines and TSA are teaming up to host a Wings for All® event at the Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) on **May 5, 2018!** Those with disabilities will be able to receive boarding passes, go through security, and board a real airplane. This is open to all ages. Space is very limited and **registration is due by Fri. April 27th.** We ask that only the person(s) with the diagnosis and 2 family members/support staff accompany them to the event.



To register or for more information please go to:

<https://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism>

or contact Mariah Simmons at mariahsimmons@arcsei.org or 319-351-5017.

To view the event flyer, please click [here](#).

This is a FREE event with FREE parking for all participants and volunteers on the day of the event.

If you are interested in helping with this event, volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks. Volunteers are needed from 1-5 PM on Sat. May 5th. In order to volunteer

you must go through a volunteer orientation at the Eastern Iowa Airport on Tues. May 1 from 2-3 PM. If interested please fill out this [form](#) and contact Lexi Coberly at lcoberly@arceci.org as soon as possible.



SPRING FLING DANCE

Sunday, April 22nd
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Elk's Lodge

801 33rd Ave SW | Cedar Rapids
\$5.00 per person



Spring is in the air and it's time to celebrate! Please join us at the Elk's Lodge for the annual Spring Fling Dance. There will be a DJ playing all your requests, so make sure to dust off your dancing shoes and join us!

~ Refreshments will be served ~ No RSVP needed

GUARDIANSHIPS & CONSERVATORSHIPS WORKSHOP

Join us here at The Arc as David Wenzel, an attorney from Lynch Dallas, P.C., covers the basics of guardianships and conservatorships and how to go about the process.

Wednesday, May 16th
6:00 - 7:00 pm

The Arc Building | 680 2nd St. SE | Cedar Rapids

Please RSVP by May 14th to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

There are only a few seats left! Reserve your spot today.

Part of the Family & Community Workshop Series.



FFLO (Friends and Family Lunch Out)

Arc Friends and Family Lunch Out – or FFLO – is a loosely organized group of people who have a shared interest in The Arc. The group has been meeting for many years and would love to have you join them! There is no organized agenda for any of these meetings; it is simply meant to be an opportunity for people with a common interest in The Arc to socialize and network. However, if there are current issues or a need for uniting with one voice about an issue, you are always encouraged to share and generate discussion. Please plan to join FFLO on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Cedar Rapids Marriot on Collins Road at 11:30 am for lunch and socialization. All are responsible for the cost of their meal. RSVP to Delaine at ddl4600.dp@gmail.com or Jody at The Arc 319-365-0487 ext.1045 or jbridgewater@arceci.org.



DAYHAB RECEIVES VOLUNTEER AWARD

On Saturday, April 14th The Cedar Rapids Public Library hosted a five year Volunteer Celebration. As part of their celebration, the library recognized an elite group of volunteers that have shared 500+ hours with the library. Over the past 5 years, The Arc teams have collectively volunteered over 1,746 hours!

While volunteering, the "Clean Team" does a variety of dusting the shelves and making sure the children's areas are dusted and sanitized. The Clean Teams volunteer 3 times each week helping the library stay clean!



SUMMER PROGRAMS - ENROLL TODAY!

The Arc has various summer programs for your child and teen to participate in. *Sign up for summer programming has begun for all sites.*

Daycare/Enrichment Program is a year round Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed daycare program, designed to serve school aged children and young adults with and without disabilities. This program focuses on skill development such as sharing, appropriate social skills, personal hygiene, and incorporates learning through field trips, crafts, and developmental activities and is held Monday through Friday at The Arc's main office, 680 2nd St. SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information contact **Tara Cornelius at 319-365-0487, ext. 1044.**



Summer Day Program - The Arc provides Summer Day programming in Linn (Cedar Rapids) and Jones (Monticello/Anamosa) counties. Both programs run for various weeks/times during the summer months and are designed as a group respite/break for parents. For more information or to request an application please contact:

Linn County - contact Tara Cornelius at 319-365-0487, ext. 1044.

Jones County - contact Emily Pennington at 319-365-0487, ext. 1016.

Check out this year's [Summer Programming Opportunities Flyer](#) for more details.

SUMMER JOB OPENINGS

We are looking for employees for our Daycare Enrichment Program and

Summer Day Program. Shifts are Monday - Friday ending at 6:30 pm at the latest (depending on setting). No weekends, holidays, or nights! Beginning pay rate of \$9.90/hour plus opportunities for advancement. We offer paid training and flexible scheduling. Great opportunity for college students looking to gain experience in the Human Services field or educators seeking summer employment. Please contact Human Resources at 319-365-0487 ext. 1054 or HumanResources@arceci.org for more information. Applications are available [here](#) or at The Arc offices: 680 2nd Street SE, Suite 200 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.



REGISTER NOW TO PLAY UNIFIED SOFTBALL

Come play for The Arc Angels or The Arc Aces! **No experience is necessary, just team spirit and a willingness to have fun. Find a "peer partner" and *LET'S PLAY BALL!***

(Each player is required to have a "peer partner" who can assist them on the field, as a coach, or in other areas as needed.) Players and partners must be at least 15 years of age.



Games will be held on Tuesday evenings from June 5th through July 24th and will be held at Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids.

[Click here for a Registration Form!](#)

**** Forms MUST be returned no later than May 4th. ****

Registration is \$10.00 which includes a team t-shirt. Additional t-shirts are available for only \$10.00 each. ***This years' color is Dark Pink!*** For questions please contact Derek at dxayasouk@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1056.

PROJECT SEARCH IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Arc is accepting applications for the next Project SEARCH group which will begin in September 2018. Project SEARCH is an employment training program for young adults with intellectual and related disabilities. It is located at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital. If you would like further information or to get an application, please contact Nancy Rife at (319) 365-0487 ext. 1063 or nrife@arceci.org. ***Applications are due April 30th.***



ANNUAL PROGRAM GOAL RESULTS

In order to provide certain services, agencies must be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting firm. The Arc of East Central Iowa is

accredited by CARF International - the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, which is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. The Arc's



services that require this type of accreditation are Day Habilitation, Project SEARCH, and Supported Employment. One of the CARF requirements is that each service must have annual goals; these goals have to be tracked and evaluated, and results shared with the stakeholders of the services and the agency. The goals from fiscal year 2017 and their results for all three programs can be viewed on the attached pdf links.

[Day Habilitation Community Integration Report](#)

[Project Search Report](#)

[Supported Employment \(Assessment & Employment Services\) Report](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Rife at (319)365-0487, ext. 1063 or nrife@arceci.org.

