

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I heard some wonderful news about advocacy recently that I wanted to share. A woman named Kayla McKeon just became the first ever registered Capitol Hill Lobbyist diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Kayla is a 30-year-old woman from New York who works for the National Down Syndrome Society. She reports that she enjoys sharing her story and advocating for persons with disabilities. Are you an advocate? If you are a family member, an individual who receives services, a provider or volunteer, then YES, you are most likely an advocate.



Advocacy can take many forms. Advocacy is a process of supporting and enabling people or groups to express their views and concerns, defend and promote their rights, explore choices and options, and work toward social change. Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society, are able to have their voices be heard. Although we have come a long way in our efforts to advocate for persons with disabilities and their families, the job will never be done. Here at The Arc of East Central Iowa we take our responsibility to advocate very seriously. On a daily basis our staff advocate for the appropriate level of services and funding for individuals, as well as your rights to live an integrated life in the community. On a local level we work together to promote inclusion and integration through public speaking and educational events throughout the year, such as the CARE Autism Expo and Abilities in Action. We invite the public to many of our events, such as our upcoming Sunday Funday and ADA Celebration. This gives people the opportunity to learn about services available to them through The Arc, as well as get to know people as people, not just their disability. On a State level we work hard to advocate legislatively. Our membership in the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP) allows us to join forces with 130 Iowa providers to work toward legislative and social change. Nationally, we benefit from our membership in the Arc of the United States, and the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR). These National organizations represent thousands of providers nationwide, fighting to ensure all people have access to information, advocacy, and skills needed to participate as active citizens of our democracy, and active members of our communities.

Whatever your role in life, you too can create positive change. It's not all about creating new laws or changing current ones. It's also about listening, caring, and sharing with others the great value that people with disabilities bring to our communities and each other. If you need assistance in an advocacy issue, please reach out to The Arc. We will be here for you to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,
Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

THE ARC NIGHT AT THE KERNELS

Saturday, July 28th at 6:35 pm

(Gates open at 5:30 pm)

Tickets can be purchased at The Arc's main office
(680 2nd Street SE)
Monday - Friday | 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Tickets purchased by Monday, July 23rd are \$6.00 each.

*After July 23rd you must purchase tickets directly from the Kernels for full price.
Children 3 and under do not require a ticket as long as they sit on a lap.*

Stay after the game for the fireworks show!

Please contact Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024 for questions.

CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE TRUSTEE FOR A CHILD'S SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST WORKSHOP

**Tuesday, September 4th
6:00 - 7:00 pm**

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



Please join us here at The Arc as Frank Varvaris, a proprietor of a firm in Cedar Rapids, shares with us some information on choosing an appropriate trustee for a child's special needs trust. ***Part of the Family & Community Workshop Series.***

Please RSVP by August 30th to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.
Space is limited!

SUNDAY FUN DAY

**Sunday, September 9th
12:30 - 2:30 pm**

**Variety Star Playground
at Noelridge Park
4900 Council St. NE, Cedar Rapids**



Free event for family and friends of The Arc!

Activities: Kona Ice, Balloon Twisting, FastTrac Slot Cars, Walking and Biking Around the Path (Bring your bike/scooter/etc.) Appearance by Mr. Shucks, Race Car, and More!

Sponsored by: U of I Community Credit Union & The Arc of East Central Iowa

NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY

It is that time of year to formally recognize the many people who help make The Arc the success it is today. So many great people and organizations contribute to our success.

Do you know someone who represents one of the categories below?

Let them know by [submitting](#) your nomination today.

Nominations are due August 31st.

- **Bill Sackter Self Determination/Self Advocate of the Year**
- **Business Supporter of the Year**
- **Community Advocate of the Year**
- **Direct Service Professional of the Year**
- **Employer of the Year**
- **Media Excellence**
- **Meritorious Service Award**
- **Outstanding Community Service**
- **Para Educator of the Year**
- **Professional of the Year**
- **Scholarship Award**
- **Super Sibling of the Year**
- **Teacher/Educator of the Year**
- **Volunteer of the Year**
- **Volunteer Group of the Year**



ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS

Tuesday, September 25th
7:00 pm

St. Patrick Parish Center
120 5th St. NW | Cedar Rapids

(Entrance is on 5th Street behind St. Patrick Church)



Please join us as we celebrate the success of the past year and recognize the many great citizens and employees that help make a difference in our community and at The Arc!

SOCIAL SECURITY INSURANCE & SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, October 2nd
6:00 - 7:00 pm

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



Please join us here at The Arc as Frank Varvaris, a proprietor of a firm in Cedar Rapids,

shares with us some information on Social Security Insurance & Social Security Disability Insurance for people with disabilities and their families. **Part of the Family & Community Workshop Series.**

Please RSVP by September 27th to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

Space is limited!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's raffle and congratulations to all of our lucky winners!

- **Kansas City Getaway - Steve Duke**
- **Notre Dame Football - Mark Mitchell**
- **Iowa State Football - Dodie Easton**
- **Kid Fun Package - Shawn Hesson**
- **Des Moines Getaway - Chrisanne Alber**
- **Omaha Getaway - Delaine Petersen**
- **Minneapolis Getaway - Nick Alber**
- **Chicago Getaway - Julie Gasway**
- **See The Arts - Jeff Slechta**
- **Wisconsin Getaway - Kerri Fountain**
- **Sports Lovers Package - Wilford Stone**
- **Eastern Iowa Family Fun - Stephanie Huffer**
- **Home & Me - Steven Rogers**
- **Casino Time - Steve Stenerson**
- **Explore Cedar Rapids - Dodie Easton**



We would like to also thank all our wonderful donors!

AirFX Trampoline Park, Airport National, Andrew Schaefer, Bankers Trust, Bed Bath & Beyond, Brooks National Golf Club, Butcher Block/Riley's/Broken Spoke, Cedar Rapids DoubleTree, Cedar Rapids Kernels, Cedar Rapids Marriott, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cheesecake Factory, Chicago Cubs, Country Inn & Suites by Carlson, Green Bay Crayola Experience-Mall of America, Durham Museum, Family Museum, Figge Art Museum, Firehouse Subs, Fireside Winery, Freedom Festival, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Guthrie Theater, Henry Doorly Zoo, Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago O'Hare Airport, Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza, Holiday Inn Des Moines/Urbandale, Iowa Children's Museum, Iowa Cubs Game, Iowa State Athletics, Isle Casino Hotel-Waterloo, Jethro's BBQ, John Deer Golf Classic, Joslyn Art Museum, Jumer's Casino, Kansas City Royals, Kansas City Zoo, Lacombe Golf Course, Lauritzen Gardens, Linn County Conservation, Mall of America & Nickelodeon Universe, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Timberwolves & Minnesota Lynx, Mitchell Park Domes, My Chiro, Niabi Zoo, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, National Farm Toy Museum, Need Pizza, Old Creamery Theatre, Omaha Children's Museum, Orchestra Iowa/ Arts Iowa, Parallel 44 Vineyard and Winery, Prestige Dance Studio, Rhythm City Casino Resort, Riverside Casino, Riverside Theatre Sanctuary Spa, Scheel's, Scratch Cupcakes, Shedd Aquarium, The Class Act, The Playstation, The Potter's Obsession, Theatre Cedar Rapids, UNI Athletic Department, U of I Credit Union, US Cellular Center, Zio-Johnos, 7G Distributing

COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR ARC SOFTBALL TEAMS

Looking for something to do on Tuesday evenings this summer? Come cheer on our three wonderful unified

softball teams as they have fun playing ball!

**The Arc Angels
The Arc Aces
The Arc Astros**

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




2018 Softball Schedule

Your donations help us support those with disabilities in our community.




DONATE NOW



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
ARCECI.ORG**

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



A Partner Agency of
United Way
United Way of East Central Iowa



CONSUMER MARKETPLACE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

