

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

October we celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEA) Month. The Arc of East Central Iowa is proud to provide a variety of services to individuals with disabilities to aid them in gaining meaningful employment in the community. Our Day Habilitation Program provides a starting point for over 70 individuals to begin thinking about, and exploring different types of jobs. Participants volunteer at over 20 sites throughout the community, learning about tasks they may enjoy as well as gaining valuable job skills. Our Project SEARCH Program provides a nine-month internship to twelve people. Classroom instruction coupled with working internships throughout UnityPoint - St. Luke's Hospital prepares them for integrated community-based employment. Our expanding Supported Employment Program currently serves over 40 individuals at varying stages of pre-employment and employment services.



At our recent Annual Meeting and Awards Night, we were thrilled to be able to recognize a local business for their contributions related to disability employment.

Crystal Group won the Employer of the Year Award. This past year they independently sought out information in order to hire someone with a disability. Once connected with The Arc of ECI, they hired a Project SEARCH graduate and Supported Employment client who continues to work in their office. He is fully included within their organization and loves his job!

Our community has many employers that understand the business benefits of employing people with disabilities. The Arc of ECI encourages **all** employers to recognize and celebrate the value and talents people with disabilities bring to the workplace. To learn more, visit the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment policy at www.dol.gov/odep. If you are interested in exploring hiring people with disabilities, please contact The Arc any time. We would be happy to help you expand your workforce with dedicated and reliable employees.

Sincerely,
Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Friday, October 25th
7:00 - 9:00 pm

NW Rec Center
1340 11th Street NW | Cedar Rapids



Put on your costumes and join your friends at the NW Rec Center for a night of dancing and fun! Dance and groove to the music and enjoy snacks and drinks. **Prizes will be awarded for the best costume!**

All Ages Welcome. \$5.00 per person.

No need to pre-register... pay at the door!

ANNUAL REPORT

The Arc of East Central Iowa's annual report is now available. Please click on the image to the right to view.

Thank you for everyone's continued support!



ARC APPAREL

It's that time of the year to get your Arc apparel! We have lots of options available such as: t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, polos, fleece, and more!

If you would like to place an order please fill out the order form and return with payment to The Arc's main office before October 18th!



APPAREL ORDER FORMS

THE ARC'S UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

It's that time of year again when the United Way of East Central Iowa holds their annual campaign. As a funded partner of United Way, The Arc of East Central Iowa utilizes United Way funding to support our many community events, including Voices Unlimited, which



provides fun, social opportunities for individuals diagnosed with disabilities. United Way funds also help subsidize Arc Daycare costs so parents are able to continue to work. As a proud supporter and funded partner of the United Way, The Arc of ECI is happy to participate in their annual campaign and encourage you to also LIVE UNITED.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The theme for 2019 is "The Right Talent, Right Now."



NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Upon its establishment in 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

OLMSTEAD TASKFORCE SURVEY FOR HCBS RECIPIENTS

The Olmstead Consumer Task Force is a statewide advocacy group that works to support full inclusion of people with disabilities in housing, employment, transportation, healthcare and other areas.

They are asking consumers who receive Home and Community Based Service to complete the [survey](#).



TAKE SURVEY

HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 8th
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Hallagan Center - Mercy Medical Center
Cedar Rapids

Santa, Hot Cocoa Bar, Cookie Decorating, Crafts, Games, BINGO, Balloon Twisting, Face Painting, Photo Booth, and more!

Fun for the whole family!



Please RSVP with number attending no later than Monday, December 2nd to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

Sponsored by the employees of Collins Community Credit Union

RSVP NOW!

2019 RISE UP ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The Arc of East Central Iowa rises up each and every day to help those with intellectual and developmental disabilities rise up in each of their own lives. These wonderful individuals amaze us every day with what they accomplish and continue to strive for. We need you to rise up with us! We need your support to help maintain and grow programs vital to those we serve. As we approach the holidays and this time of giving, please consider a donation to our **2019 Rise Up Annual Campaign**.



[Rise Up Featured Individual Story](#)
[Rise Up Campaign Video](#)

**YES! I WANT TO HELP THOSE WITH DISABILITIES
RISE UP!**

THE ARC OF EAST CENTRAL IOWA EMBRACES DIVERSITY

The Arc of East Central Iowa is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where all employees, consumers, Board members and stakeholders respect each other as valued contributors to our mission. We strongly believe in the following principles:

- 1) A shared and inclusive understanding of cultural diversity
- 2) An environment that welcomes, supports and celebrates diversity
- 3) Recruitment and retention of a diverse group of employees, Board members, persons served and volunteers
- 4) Ongoing training for employees that enhances their understanding of diversity
- 5) Community experiences that offer consumers opportunities to participate in and learn about diversity

If you have any question about diversity at The Arc please contact:
Anne Armknecht, Executive Director
AArmknect@arceci.org
319-365-0487 ext. 1000

WE ARE HIRING

We are looking for more wonderful, compassionate people to join our team! If you're interested in a job where you can make a difference please check out our [job opportunities](#) and fill out an [application](#) today!

Here is what Brian Miller has to say about working at The Arc of East Central Iowa...

"Being a student at Mount Mercy can be hectic, busy, and tiring. Between clubs, athletics, classes and of course a social life, it doesn't leave much time for work. Finding a job to fit in to this hectic schedule can be difficult. It was for me until I applied at The Arc. The Arc gave me the ability to take on a full class load at Mount Mercy, and still have all the hours I wanted. The Arc is also very flexible as I was able to basically set up my own hours that work for me. Being a full time student at Mount Mercy is amazing and busy. Having a job at The Arc that is so flexible and I can create my own schedule has been an amazing stress reliever for me because I don't have to worry about my schedule because I make it."



APPLY TODAY

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

DONATE NOW

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ARCECI.ORG

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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United Way of East Central Iowa

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