

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

When I think about the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) that work for The Arc of East Central Iowa the first word that comes to mind is compassion. These kind and dedicated individuals who choose on a daily basis to share their hearts, their time, and their knowledge with those we serve are the backbone of our mission. They are the people who don't seek the limelight, they aren't out there looking for recognition of their own good works. They often quietly go about their work of supporting and caring for persons diagnosed with disabilities in nearly every aspect of consumers lives. From tending to personal needs, to teaching skills, to providing access to the fun things in life that we all want and need, our DSPs are extraordinary heroes making a difference one person at a time. They are the source of human tenderness that makes this world a better place for everyone. Author Amy Leigh Mercree said, *"Kindness can transform someone's dark moment with a blaze of light. You'll never know how much your caring matters."* I could not agree more.



September is the nationally designated month we celebrate Direct Support Professionals. Please join me in recognizing these individuals who freely give of themselves to help others rise up. They all are remarkable human beings.

Sincerely,  
Anne Armknecht, MBA HC  
Executive Director

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## 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 Shay Smith has to say about working at The Arc of East Central Iowa...

***"I love working with adults and children who have special needs. I enjoy helping my students and consumers work towards reaching their goals, discover their strengths, work and participate in their communities, and having a more fun and fulfilled life! I am rewarded everyday with smiles, hugs, and high-fives! I love what I do, and most days it doesn't feel like work."***



*"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do." ~Steve Jobs~*

**APPLY TODAY**

## **ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS**

**Tuesday, September 24th**  
**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!

## **HERE ARE THIS YEARS' WINNERS!**

**Super Siblings of the Year**  
**Easton & Camryn Clark**

**Para Educators of the Year**  
**Michelle Lodwig**  
**Colleen Urban**

**Volunteers of the Year**  
**Ruth Hojka**  
**Nancy Roth**  
**Stacy Stastny**

**Volunteer Group of the Year**  
**Collins Community Credit Union**

**Outstanding Community Service**  
**Michael Gerald**

**Direct Service Professionals of the Year**  
**Faith Lain**  
**Riley Wignall**

**Meritorious Service Award**  
**Nancy Rife**

**Media Excellence**  
**The Gazette**

**Professional of the Year**

Trisha Sellers

**Employer of the Year**  
Crystal Group

**Business Supporter of the Year**  
Veridian Credit Union

**Community Advocate of the Year**  
Westdale Bowling Center

**Bill Sackter Self-Determination/  
Self-Advocate of the Year**  
Darren Keller

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## GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP

**Wednesday, October 9th**  
**5:30 - 6:30 pm**

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



Please 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. ***Part of the Family & Community Workshop Series.***

Please RSVP by October 4th to Lexi at [lcoberly@arceci.org](mailto:lcoberly@arceci.org) or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

***Space is limited!***

**RSVP NOW**

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## 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!*

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## SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS

**Wednesday, November 13th**  
**5:30 - 6:30 pm**

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



Please join us here at The Arc as Kyle Wilcox, Attorney from Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergmann PLC, and Teresa Hackenmiller from Thrivent Financial share with us some information on the basics of Special Needs Trusts.

Please RSVP by November 8th to Lexi at [lcoberly@arceci.org](mailto:lcoberly@arceci.org) or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

***Space is limited!***

**RSVP NOW**

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## VARIETY GRANT RECEIVED

The Arc of East Central Iowa has received a grant from Variety- the Children's Charity to fund wall mounted fans in our onsite classrooms.

The Variety grant will be used to get wall mounted fans in each of our classrooms in our onsite programming rooms. This will allow our consumers, many of whom are sensitive to extreme temperatures, remain at a comfortable temperature while keeping them safe.

"The Arc of East Central Iowa is so appreciative of Variety funding for new wall mounted fans in our Day Care. They will allow us to greatly improve the environment for participants with a variety of intellectual and medical challenges, who can be quite sensitive to their surroundings. Thank you for all that you do to make this world a better place!" – Anne Armknecht, Executive Director, The Arc of East Central Iowa.



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## WELCOME TO THE ARC

Hi, I'm Andrea Roggeveen and I am the new Site Based Coordinator. While in college I worked for Handicare Inc and was a respite provider for The Arc of Johnson County. It was then that I decided that a career working to empower and educate people with special needs was my passion and hoped that I could assist others in seeing the unique attributes and powerful assets of all individuals. I spent the majority of my adult life (14 years) working on the Child Psychiatry Inpatient unit at the University of Iowa where I gained valuable experience with a very diverse population of children with intellectual, mental, emotional and physical challenges. I am a proud mother of 4 children, ages 21,19,17 and 8. I love to read, run, and spend time with my friends and family, as well as my rabbit, cat and dog.



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

**DONATE NOW**



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