Americans with Disabilities Act 28th Anniversary

July 26th marked the 28th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 gave civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age and religion. They also assured equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications. Iowa’s own retired Senator Tom Harkin was instrumental in the passage of the ADA. With over 57 million people diagnosed with a disability in our country, the ADA provided sweeping changes in their ability to integrate more fully in the communities where they work, live and play.

The Arc celebrates the progress that has been made since 1990 that reaffirms our nation’s acceptance, equality and inclusion of persons diagnosed with disabilities. We also recognize that the ADA opened up new worlds for families as well. The Arc’s Day Habilitation Program is a prime example of the ADA opening new doors of community participation. Program participants spend nearly their entire day in the community, using public transportation, accessible stores and restaurants, parks with specially design playground equipment, etc. Although great strides have been made the last 28 years, discrimination still exists.

We must always be vigilant in our advocacy efforts to fight against poor attitudes, lack of enforcement, underfunding, and plain old ignorance. For example, a bill was introduced in January 2017 called the ADA Education and Reform Act (HR 620). In summary, the legislation would require that any person claiming discrimination must first provide written notice and give an owner 60 days to acknowledge receipt of the complaint, plus an additional 120 days before legal action could be initiated. This is known as a “notice and cure” provision. No other civil rights legislation currently on the books contains such a provision. Supporters of this bill stated its purpose was to “crack down on frivolous lawsuits” related to businesses not following the laws related to the ADA. Opponents of the bill accurately state that businesses have had 28 years to meet requirements of the law. And that our government should not encourage businesses to ignore the law until someone complains. Further, the bill would reverse decades of progress by undercutting an individual’s ability to advocate for their own rights to full inclusion in their community. Unfortunately, this bill passed the House in February, 2018. It has yet to reach the Senate Floor. When it does, I hope that you will join The Arc of East Central Iowa in opposing this bill.

We will continue to keep you updated on its status, and any other bills, that may infringe on your rights or the rights of your loved ones. We are in this together…. For the long haul.
From the Director’s Desk

Did you know that Summer officially starts at The Arc of East Central Iowa in June? That’s the beginning of our 7 weeks of Summer Day Groups. I had the pleasure of being able to attend their end of season celebration at Kennedy High School recently. The room was filled with happy participants and their families, eating lots of ice cream and sharing stories of the fun they had. Jen Olson, our Graphic Designer and Web Coordinator, did a great job producing a video for everyone to watch with pictures of all the participants throughout the action packed summer activities. It was fun for the participants to see themselves on the big screen! Each week of Summer Day programming has a different theme, from Disco Dayz to Sherwood Forest, participants are sure to have a fun and amazing time. We utilize so many supplies we have to rent a U-Haul each year to move them! This year we had 50 individuals participate in Summer Day Linn County, 8 in Summer Day Jones County and 52 in Summer Daycare.

It is quite a feat to prepare for all the additional summer activities at The Arc each year. Planning for Summer Day begins in earnest every January. We hire over 35 additional Direct Support Professional (DSP) staff each year to work our summer programs. They go through extensive orientation and training under the direction of Tara Cornelius, Site Based Program Manager. Many of these “seasonal” staff come back to The Arc’s summer programs each year because it is such fun and rewarding work. A huge thank you goes out to all of the staff that make summers so special for so many Arc participants. In particular, thank you to:

- Patience Aaron - Site Based Coordinator
- Katie Kiekhoefer - Site Based Coordinator
- Emily Pennington - Service Center Coordinator
- Pam Razor - Summer Day Linn County Site Director
- Carissa Serbousek - Summer Day Linn County Site Assistant
- Wendi Fortman - Summer Day Jones County-Lead
- Katie Goedken - Summer Daycare Site Assistant

Thank you all for making each summer special, with new adventures, creative and educational opportunities, and just good old fun for all. I appreciate your dedication and spirit!

Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

SUNDAY FUN DAY

Sunday, September 9th - 12:30 - 2:30
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!

Please RSVP by September 4th to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext.1024.

A partner agency of United Way of East Central Iowa

Sponsored by:

The Arc
East Central Iowa
Summer Fun At The Arc
**Eagle Scout Project Provides Us With Some Games**

On Friday, July 20th our daycare received a very special donation. Isaac Taylor and his mom Maria dropped off a collection of yard games for our consumers to enjoy. Isaac is part of Eagle Scouts and wanted to do a project for a local organization. He wanted to do something that would benefit its participants. We are honored that he chose us! When thinking of ideas, his mom showed him a large yard game online and he liked it so much he came up with another 10 ideas to go with it. He laid out his ideas and presented them to our Site Based Program Manager, Tara Cornelius, who was on board with his ideas right away. Once receiving Tara’s approval, he presented his idea to an Eagle Scout board member who also gave their approval. From there, Tara narrowed it down to the top games that the consumers would most enjoy. Isaac went out into the community to seek donations in order to build the games. Habitat for Humanity was a very generous donor in supplies and materials. The supplies that weren’t donated, Isaac purchased with money that he had earned from selling popcorn each fall. He then lined up 16 volunteers one Saturday and spent seven hours making all the games, such as matching, bean bag toss, checkers, and more. We can not thank Isaac, Maria, and all the donors and volunteers enough who helped make Isaac’s idea become reality. Our staff and consumers are having a GREAT time with all the games.

**The Ability Experience - Journey of Hope**

On July 17th we had the privilege of hosting a fantastic group of guys from The Ability Experience - Journey of Hope North Team. These guys bike their way across America to raise money and awareness for individuals with disabilities. When they arrived in town they enjoyed dinner and then had a blast parting with some of our consumers. So many smiles, many new friendships formed, and memories to last a lifetime. They also surprised us with a donation to help us further our mission! We can’t thank these guys enough for all they do for us and everyone they visit & help along the way! We look forward to seeing them again next year!
Thank you for all of your continued generous contributions to The Arc. We will continue to recognize volunteers, donations and members in the quarterly editions of The Challenger newsletter. May - July 2018.

Volunteers  Hours - 697.25

Arc Friend
Terry & Johanna Abernathy, Tom & Kathleen Aller, Scott & JoAnne Carbaugh, John & Diane Dougherty, Eric & Ann Hearn, Brad & Tamara Lang, Mike & Suzanne Myers, Tod & Lori Pike, Albert & Marcia Simon

Arc Builder
Rosemary Gabe, Harvey & Judy Landt, Clint & Gale Mote, Charles & Mary Peters

Arc Angel
Mark & Denise Mitchell

Thank You
General Donations

Memorials
Mike McCabe
Terri Brennan, Kayla Carroll, Shellie Graden, Heather Johnson, Andrea Klimesh, Scott Kostoryz, Amy Kotula, Holly Manske, Kevin McGrane, Craig Meirick, Megan Merkel, Lori Morrison, Joe Paul, Brandon Reis, Amanda Tomlinson, Lindsley Vajpeyi, Jason & Amanda Wolter

Dan Rockwell
Jim & Connie Birmingham, Kevin & Mary Gesing, David & Judith Leavitt, Ken & Susie Messer, Jess Rockwell (United Fire Group), John Szewc

Sara Smith
Ryan Smith
Sue Smothers
Karen Bachman
Lois Thompson
Lavonne Adams, Deborah & Gary Cordell, Rick & Julie Franklin (Anamosa Monument), Carole Hansen, Robert & Debra Wernimont, Pamela & Mark Zimmerman

Nicholas Zahorik
Brett Bechtel, Shannon Greenman, Judy Griffith, Hills Bank

Arc Advocacy... Social Security - House Committee Advances Online Tools Bill
Recently, the House Committee on Ways and Means marked up the Social Security Online Tools Innovation Act (H.R. 3309), sponsored by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX). As amended by the Committee, the bill would require the Social Security Administration (SSA) to create within 2 years an online tool or tools to allow Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to estimate the potential impact of earnings on their benefits. The bill would also prohibit recovery of any overpayments that arise from a beneficiary relying on inaccurate information from the tool (in the event of inaccuracy by the tool). The Committee reported the amended bill favorably by a voice vote. The Arc supports the bill, as amended and approved by the Committee, to provide SSDI beneficiaries with important information about opportunities to work and the impact of earnings on their SSDI benefits.
Achieve with us.

Consumer Spotlight

Ashlyn Presley
Hi, my name is Ashlyn and I am 10 years old and live in Cedar Rapids. I have one older sister and one younger sister. I have two dogs - Brock and Kannon. I like school and being able to see my teachers and friends every day. Last spring I won my age group in basketball skills competition through the Special Olympics.

My Favorite Arc Activity:
I love going to the pool at Kennedy or the YMCA.

My Favorite Arc Memory:
Last month I was able to throw out the first pitch at the Kernel’s game. I practiced throwing the baseball with my sisters and dad leading up to the game. I had fun going out on the field and having my name announced.

My Favorite Outside Activity:
Playing with my two dogs, riding in my Powerwheels Boomerang, playing at the park and swimming. I love the pool!

My Favorite Food:
Pizza, pizza and pizza!

I also like to watch YouTube video’s like “Ryan’s Toy Review” and even make my own video’s on my iPad. I love board games such as Pop the Pig, Wet Head, Pie in the Face and Don’t Wake Daddy.

Upcoming Family & Community Workshops

Choosing an Appropriate Trustee for a Child’s Special Needs Trust

Tuesday Sept. 4th
6:00 - 7:00 pm
RSVP by August 30th

Social Security Income & Social Security Disability Insurance

Tuesday Oct. 2nd
6:00 - 7:00 pm
RSVP by Sept. 27th

HCBS Waivers 101

Tuesday Nov. 6th
6:00 - 7:00 pm
RSVP by Nov. 1st

RSVP to Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024.

Please check out the Events page on our website for more details about each workshop. www.arceci.org

All workshops will be held at The Arc Building (680 2nd St. SE · Cedar Rapids)

SPACE IS LIMITED

SO RSVP TODAY!

Wish List

From every day items to special requests. We are always in need of items to keep our office and programs running. Donations can be dropped off at The Arc’s main office anytime. Thank you for your support!

Kitchen Needs
Paper Towels / Paper Plates
Ziploc Bags (Gallon & Sandwich Size)
Plastic Spoons & Forks / Plastic Wrap
Scrubbers For Washing Dishes
Digital Kitchen Timer

Snack/Cooking Activity Items
100% Juice
Snack Crackers (Whole Wheat)
Cake Pans / Blender

General Supplies
Baby Wipes / Kleenex
Dish Soap / Bleach
Hand Sanitizer, Soap, Soap Refills
Garbage Bags / Disinfectant Wipes

Office Supplies
Sharpies / Ink Pens (blue/black ink)
Dry Erase Markers / Clipboards
Composition Notebooks
Plastic/Paper Folder (2 pocket)
Loose Leaf Paper (Wide Ruled)
3-Ring Binders (2-inch)
Coloring Pencils & Washable Markers
Mechanical Pencils
Masking Tape / Duck Tape
White Construction Paper

Program Needs
Batteries (AA, C and D)
Dolls/Barbies/Transformers/Dinosaurs
Star Wars & Marvel Toys
Adult Coloring Books
Kids Coloring/Activity Books
(Super Hero/Contemporary)
Board Games For Teens/Adults
(Scattergories, Pay Day, Life, Clue,
Apples to Apples Jr., Heads Up!,
Scrabble, Monopoly)

CDs (Kid Music, Nursery Rhymes)
Karaoke CDs (w/ Vocals)
Legos (Ages 8+) / Kinex
Whiffle Ball & Bat Set
Dramatic Play Sets
(Kitchen, Grocery Store, Tools, etc.)

Books On CD For Kids & Teens
Weighted Blankets
Newer DVDs (G or PG)
Paint For Crafts
Weaving & Jewelry Making Kits
Bean Bag Chairs / Bubbles
Reusable Water Bottles

Clothes
Towels (Bath or Beach)
Teenage Sized Shorts/SwimSuits
(Boys & Girls - Draw Strings or Elastic)
Dress Up Clothes (Various Sizes)
Travel Size Deodorant (Mens & Womens)
Combos/Hair Brushes / Elastic Hair Ties
Choose The Arc of East Central Iowa as your beneficiary when shopping on smile.amazon.com. At no cost to you, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to The Arc of East Central Iowa. Shop for yourself and support The Arc of East Central Iowa at the same time!

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Arc # 1957 - 252 Blairs Ferry Rd NE, Cedar Rapids

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www.thearc.org

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The Arc of East Central Iowa
680 2nd Street SE, Suite 200
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Phone: 319-365-0487 • Fax: 319-365-9938
www.arceci.org

Mission Statement
The Arc of East Central Iowa empowers people with intellectual and related disabilities to engage in lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work and play with dignity, freedom and full inclusion in their communities.

Make a Difference
Donate at www.arceci.org

The Arc of East Central Iowa
ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS
Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 pm
St. Patrick’s Parish Center • 120 5th Street NW • Cedar Rapids
(Entrance is on 5th Street behind St. Patrick’s 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.