Advocacy

The Iowa legislative session has begun which means The Arc is busy monitoring any bills that may positively or negatively impact persons diagnosed with disabilities and their families. The Arc of East Central Iowa takes seriously our mission of advocacy. We have been doing it since 1953. There is always work to be done to protect rights, promote inclusion, and fight for a better system of care. As a member of the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP) we have access to their lobbyists who represent nonprofit providers across the state. This year they have identified three main areas of advocacy: appropriations, managed care oversight, and regulations. Specifically, we are advocating for funding Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) technical assistance and using part of the Managed Care Organizations (MCO’s) $344 million dollar increase to be passed on to providers through rate increases. As you may know, most providers have not seen rate increases in many years. Advocacy efforts will also be aimed at ending the cap on the Brian Injury Waiver. We are also very supportive of greater oversight of the MCO’s in relation to discharge planning, payments made in good faith for services provided, and timely payments to providers. Advocating for enactment of a tax credit for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) is also a high priority. There is currently a senate bill (SF40) that would exempt from taxes wages paid by a nonprofit for people who are providing services to individuals who have a physical or mental disability.

As an affiliated chapter of The Arc of the United States, we also benefit from their Washington DC headquarters, where they monitor and advocate daily on a national level. There are several areas of interest right now. Recently, the president signed the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019. Included in this was a three-month extension of Money Follows the Person (MFP). This program moves people with disabilities from institutions into the community by paying for programs not normally covered by Medicaid, such as employment and housing services. The next step will be to work towards a permanent extension of this important funding. The Arc is also closely following the U.S. Department of Education’s announcement of an initiative to address the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion on students with disabilities. According to national data, this happens all too often to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are a member of The Arc of East Central Iowa, you have access to The Arc U.S. web site, which will connect you to a wealth of information. I highly encourage you to check it out at www.thearc.org.

Rest assured The Arc will closely monitor all issues and bills that will make this a better life for those we serve and their families. We may call on you from time to time to take action by contacting your legislators or congress persons, in our advocacy efforts. If you have any issues that you would like to see us research, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are stronger together!
Anne Armknecht
Executive Director

From the Director’s Desk

As our 2018 Annual Campaign comes to an end, I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone that contributed. When I think of all of the wonderful things that we are able to do with your generosity…well…it is quite humbling. We are so very grateful.

Many of the things we do at The Arc of East Central Iowa have limited or no funding sources. So you may ask why do we continue to provide these services when there is inadequate funding. The simple answer is that it is our mission to do so. We know that most people don’t know a great deal about the complexities that can come from the need for disability related services until it affects them directly. So it is extremely important that we provide educational opportunities throughout the year for the community to learn about Special Needs Trusts, ABLE Accounts, Guardianships, etc. These educational events are free and open to the public because of donors to The Arc. In addition to education, The Arc firmly believes in the rights of people with disabilities to be fully included in their community. Everyone deserves the opportunity to develop friendships, to enjoy this wonderful community, and to have great fun! To that end, we provide a variety of family oriented free events. Our Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt is a good example. We usually have between 100 and 150 people participate in this fun, free event. And this year’s Holiday Party had almost 200 attendees! It was a wonderful afternoon filled with games, face painting, cookies and of course Santa. Our events have an added benefit of providing an opportunity for parents to get to know and learn from each other. Our biggest free advocacy event is just around the corner, and it is also one of our biggest fund raisers of the year. The Arc March will be held March 23rd starting at 8:00 am at Lindale Mall. This is by far the greatest self-advocacy event of the year. This year we are hoping for over one thousand participants! If you have never attended an Arc March I highly encourage you to do so this year. It is a remarkable display of self-advocacy, joy, comradery, and good old fashioned fun!

None of these would be possible without your continued support of The Arc. On behalf of the consumers and families, we thank you for your support. You truly are making a positive difference in their lives.

Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

28th Annual Golf Tournament

Join us as we golf for a cause!

SAVE THE DATE!

Hunters Ridge Golf Course

June 13, 2019

A partner agency of United Way of East Central Iowa
What’s Happening

2018 A Better Place Annual Campaign

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our 2018 A Better Place Annual Campaign and to Amy Belice for sharing her story with us.


Service Enterprise Certified

The Arc of East Central Iowa is pleased to announce that it has been certified by Points of Light, the world’s largest organization dedicated to volunteer service, as a Service Enterprise! Achieving Service Enterprise certification is a very prestigious accomplishment for an organization. In fact, organizations that certify join the top 11 percent of nonprofits nationwide in volunteer management and organizational performance. Certification signifies that organizations have the capability and management expertise to strategically use volunteers to improve the performance of their organization.

We completed an extensive assessment, over 20 hours of training and coaching, and an extensive internal planning and change process to better integrate volunteers into our human capital strategy. By achieving this level of excellence and certification, we are now better equipped to leverage the time and talent of volunteers and better meet our mission.

Summer Programs - ENROLL TODAY

The Arc has various summer programs for your child and teen to participate in. Sign up for summer programing has begun for all sites. Think warm thoughts and start your summer off right!

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 Street SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

For more information contact Tara Cornelius by phone 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 by phone at 319-365-0487 ext. 1044.
Jones County - contact Emily Pennington by phone at 319-365-0487 ext. 1016.

Both programs are currently accepting employment applications.
The Power of Community Partners

The wonderful support of our sponsors over the past several years has helped us continue the expansion of services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community. Last year, The Arc served over 800 individuals through its In-home Services, Groups Program, Daycare Services, and Adult Services. It is with assistance from our corporate sponsors that invest their financial contributions that The Arc is able to fulfill its mission to empower 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.

Sponsors are able to set a benchmark about the importance of giving to a local non-profit in the community who provides individuals with disabilities opportunities when they need it most. Our sponsors are associated with one of the longest standing non-profits serving those with disabilities in the area. The Arc of East Central Iowa is grateful to have so many strong community partners. Through these partnerships our mission to support our consumers & their families’ has become a reality.

The Arc is very thoughtful about how financial resources are utilized. It takes non-government funding to research and implement new programs and to meet the growing needs of the individuals served by The Arc. The Arc is committed to continuing to research and implement new programs to meet the unmet opportunities. Sponsorships have allowed The Arc to bring more valued services to the community and are humbled by the ongoing support to us. As we look ahead and plan for the future, The Arc hopes to continue with your partnership and support to help us reach new heights. If you would like additional information regarding our many sponsorship opportunities please contact Lexi Coberly at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024. We would love to talk with you about how we can highlight your business as you support families with disabilities in your community.

Thank you!!
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. November 2018 - January 2019.

Volunteers  Hours - 1300.5

Dorothy McGuire
Anne Davis

Sara Smith
Ryan Smith

Marie Stepanek


Membership

Arc Angel
Dennis McCollough

Arc Builder
Teri Copler (True North Companies), Rosemary Gabe, Mark & Sheryl Morgan, Sandra Raymon, Sara Raymon

Arc Friend
Anne Armknknecht, Ronald & Beverly Dorch, Jack & Nancy Evans, Eugene & Crystal Fisher, Dudley Fleck (Fleck Sales), Annette Kenney, Randy Krejci, Mark Ogden & Iris Muchmore, Joel & Sandra Schmidt, Kevin & Kim Steele, Joyce & Warren Trotter

Memorials

Don Auman
Connie Bowler, Jamie, Tara, Kaden & Katelynn Bowler, Micheal, Jill & Taylor Scott

United Way
Thank you to those below and the anonymous donors who designated their 2018 United Way donations to The Arc of East Central Iowa.


Thank You

General Donations

Photography
Special thanks to Jim Messina from Prairie Wings Media Productions, LLC for our wonderful event photographs.
Hi, my name is Ethan and I am 3 1/2 years old and I live in Marion. I have a big beautiful Great Pyrenees dog that I love. She doesn’t mind me touching and pulling on her. She is so patient with me!

My Favorite Arc Event: The Ice Cream Social at St. Mark’s was amazing! It was on my birthday and I even got a fancy cupcake for my birthday! Everyone there was wonderful. I also love The Arc March!

My Favorite Arc Memory: The Arc Easter Egg Hunt! I made new friends participating in activities and the egg hunt! What a great day!

My Favorite Outside Activity: I love to swing and go for walks in my stroller.

My Favorite Hobbies: Playing with my cardboard books, fine motor toys, and I love flipping things!

My Favorite Food: Fruit and veggie melts, yogurt, and goldfish.

I also love Daniel Tiger and Sid the Science Kid.
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.

DONATE A CAR CHANGE A LIFE
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www.thearc.org
Identify The Arc of East Central Iowa and we will receive 90% of proceeds. Program administered by Melwood Co. in cooperation w/The Arc of the US

CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS SUPPORT THE ARC
Use the following number to donate in support of The Arc of East Central Iowa
Arc # 1957 - 252 Blairs Ferry Rd NE, Cedar Rapids
More information please call 319-365-0487
No appointment needed when contributing to a Non-profit.

Want to advertise on this page? Please contact us at 319-365-0487 for more details! Large & Small Ads Available

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Options of Linn County
Celebrating 50 Years of Services to the Community

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A Direct Support Professional (DSP) assists with activities of daily living, encourage attitudes and behaviors, assist individuals to lead a self-directed life, and contribute to the community. A DSP also acts as an advocate, in communicating their needs, self-expression, and goals.

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• Daily full and half day integrated community opportunities.

Flexible hours • Work with a variety of ages • Work in various settings • Participate in an assortment of activities

Applications are available at The Arc or online at www.arceci.org. Please return to HumanResources@arceci.org or 680 2nd Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Want to work for us!

Options of Linn County
Celebrating 50 Years of Services to the Community
1240 26th Ave. Court SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 • Ph: 319-892-5800

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Options of Linn County
Celebrating 50 Years of Services to the Community
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

Come walk with us as we join together to raise awareness about intellectual and related disabilities at the 22nd Annual Arc March!

March 23rd, 2019 • Lindale Mall
8:00 am - T-Shirt pick-up / Breakfast / Entertainment
9:30 am - Walk begins

Go to www.arceci.org for details on this event or to make a donation!

Registration deadline is March 1st. GET REGISTERED TODAY!

• CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES IN ALL OF US! •