

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Over the last eight months, change has been our constant friend. Upon taking over as Acting Executive Director, it was only a matter of weeks and COVID was upon us. Our daily routines would change dramatically from working together in the office to Zooming from our homes. Adjustments were being made daily to define new policies and practices that protected the health of our clients and staff during these challenging times. We weathered the storm in August and once again returned our focus to meeting the needs of those we serve. At the outset we didn't foresee that COVID would still be present, but alas here we are, doing our best to learn how to live with it in a way that allows us to fulfill our mission as best we can. The road ahead is not crystal clear, but together we will prevail through resiliency and determination.



Over the last several months, a search for a new Executive Director was conducted. On October 1st we welcomed Theresa Lewis to our agency. With Theresa's leadership and the support of dedicated staff, The Arc is well positioned to meet the challenges before us head on. As I turn the reins over to Theresa I would like to thank all of you for your support during this time as Acting Executive Director.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Schramp

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Greetings The Arc of ECI family! I am very happy to be on board and appreciate all of the great leadership from Kyle and team in the interim. **Thank you, Kyle!** Because of the strong focus on service, we are in a position to continue to meet your needs in even more creative ways. But we need your help. Now is such an important time to advocate for and support the services and supports our friends with intellectual disabilities and their families need. There are a few things you can do. The first is to VOTE. Election Day is right around the corner. Be heard so our collective voice can carry the power to create lasting change that fosters empowerment, dignity, freedom, and full inclusion. The second is to SUPPORT. Now more than ever we need a hand up in making sure we can continue to serve. Continue your Membership. Help us find new Members. Make a donation. Anything is greatly appreciated, even games, puzzles, coloring books, or arts and craft supplies (which we also need) helps us fulfill our mission. You can [view our full Wish List](#) on our website.



Exciting things are ahead – and I look forward to partnering with you to achieve our goals!

Sincerely,  
Theresa Lewis  
Executive Director

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## PROGRAM UPDATES

**Day Hab:** Day Hab has moved back to Veteran's Memorial Building and the participants are doing their best to stay busy and active at the site. Many are eager to get back out into the community and we have begun looking into safe ways to restart some of our volunteering activities, hopefully in the near future. We



continue to offer virtual Day Hab services for those individuals who are not ready to attend in person but want to remain in programming.

**Project SEARCH:** Project SEARCH is in full swing! The interns initially spent all of their time in the classroom reviewing policies and procedures and preparing for their internships, which are now starting. They are eager to put their knowledge into practice and continue building their skills on the hospital units.

**Supported Employment:** We are going through some transitions with our Supported Employment program right now, and if you have any questions regarding job coaching or job development services, please reach out to Candice Murphy, Client Services Director, at [cmurphy@arceci.org](mailto:cmurphy@arceci.org) or 365-0487 ext. 1045.

**Daycare and Adult Enrichment:** School is underway and the daycare is providing before and after school services. We are actively seeking and hiring new staff and hope to continue bringing clients back to services and address our waiting list very soon. We are busy doing arts and crafts, playing games, and getting outside when the weather allows.

**Service Center:** The Service Center has been reopened for several months and our attendance has been down due to COVID-19. We want to continue offering this service for those individuals who would like to attend, and we are condensing the number of groups that are offered, beginning in November. Our goal with this is to minimize the number of group respites we have to cancel due to lack of registrants. If you are interested in attending group respite activities, please reach out to Emily Pennington at [epennington@arceci.org](mailto:epennington@arceci.org) or your Service and Support Coordinator.

**Home and Community Services:** The exceptions that were granted through the Health Emergency Proclamation remain in effect for the foreseeable future. This includes utilizing respite when the caregiver is working at home and providing telephonic or virtual support services, among others, on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to your Service and Support Coordinator if you have a need. We are eager to help you!

All staff and clients are asked to complete a COVID-19 Health Screening prior to any

services being provided, and to wear masks during services.

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## WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM & BOARD MEMBERS

On September 28th we held our annual meeting and approved our new executive team and incoming board members.

### Executive Team

- **President** - Blake Wilkinson
- **Vice President** - Melissa Tandy
- **Secretary** - Melissa Cullum
- **Treasurer** - Michele Means
- **Past President** - Jody Donaldson

### New Board Members

- Terese Fisher
  - Nathan Haas
  - Heidi Kinder
  - Carol Meade
  - Ben Mulholland
  - Michael Neuerburg
  - Shelly Strellner
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## TRUNK OR TREAT - DRIVE THRU STYLE

Arc clients, staff and immediate family members of all ages are welcome to dress up and join us on **Sunday, Oct. 25th** from **12:30 - 2:00 pm** for a drive thru trunk or treat! This fun event will be held in the **South Side Parking Ramp across the street from our main office off 2nd Street SE.**



In order to control the flow of traffic we ask that you **ENTER through the 2nd Street side.** As you drive thru the ramp our staff & volunteers will hand goodies to you through your window. You will then **EXIT out onto 6th Ave SE.**

To keep this event fun and safe we are asking that everyone attending to please wear a mask, and that if anyone in your family has not been feeling well that you remain at home. We are excited to see you at The Arc's Trunk or Treat!

If you have any questions you can contact Lexi Coberly at [LCoberly@arceci.org](mailto:LCoberly@arceci.org).

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## 2020 - YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

The 2020 election is underway here in Iowa. The Arc of East Central Iowa and other area agencies want to make sure your voice is heard this election. From now until the close of the polls on Election Day; Tuesday November 3rd, 2020, you can vote if you are a registered voter.

The Iowa Secretary of State website <https://sos.iowa.gov/> is the place to go for any voting

information that you may need. Here is a highlight of some of the items available to you.

The screenshot shows the Iowa Secretary of State website. At the top left is a photo of Paul D. Pate, the Iowa Secretary of State, with the text "IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE Paul D. Pate" and the state seal. A navigation menu includes Home, Business Services, Search Databases, Online Filing, Elections, Notaries, Nonprofits, and Youth. A yellow banner below the menu states: "TEMPORARY PARTIAL CLOSURE We are temporarily closing our lobby through October 28th. Click here for additional information." The main content area features a large graphic with the word "YOU" in red and blue, with the text "OUR ELECTION NEEDS" above and "TO BE A PRECINCT ELECTION OFFICIAL" below. Below this are three smaller graphics: "REGISTER TO VOTE", "FIND MY POLLING PLACE", and "FELON RESTORATION". On the right side, there is a "FEATURED RESOURCES" sidebar with a search bar and a list of links. The "Elections" section is highlighted with a red box and includes the following links with numbers next to them: "Request an Absentee Ballot" (3), "Am I Registered to Vote in Iowa?" (1), "Register to Vote" (2), "Track Your Absentee Ballot" (4), and "Find Your Precinct/Polling Place" (5). Below the sidebar is a "2020 GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION" section with a "General Candidate List" button.

1. [Am I Registered to Vote in Iowa?](#) If you are unsure if you are a registered voter in Iowa, enter in your information and it will tell you if you are already registered.
2. [Register to Vote.](#) If you are not registered to vote in Iowa this is where you need to go. You may submit a Voter Registration Form online or download one to print and mail in.
3. [Request an Absentee Ballot.](#) If you are registered to vote in Iowa you may request an absentee ballot. This allows you to vote early from the comfort of your home. Fill out the absentee ballot request form found here. You may either mail it in or take it to your county Auditor's office. Once received, they will verify your information and then mail you an official ballot. You have until October 24th to request an absentee ballot.
4. [Track Your Absentee Ballot.](#) Your absentee ballot comes with a postage paid stamped envelope. If you choose to mail in your ballot you can track it here.
5. [Find Your Precinct/Polling Place.](#) If you would like to vote in person on Election Day you can find where to do so by entering in your information here.

You also have the option to take your completed absentee ballot and surrender it to your county Auditor's office or an official satellite voting location in your area prior to election day. Lindale Mall is an official satellite voting location for Linn County. Please call ahead to verify hours if you choose to surrender your ballot at any official location.

The Linn County Advocacy Collective has created a short informational video highlighting some additional information on the voting process.

If you have any questions at all do not hesitate to reach out to us here at The Arc of East Central Iowa.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

## COMING SOON - THE ARC'S ONLINE STORE

This year we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel our Wrapping for a Cause fundraiser. We will miss seeing all of our wonderful volunteers that did the wrapping and our wonderful customers that allowed us to wrap their special gifts for them.

Instead... this year we are excited to introduce The Arc's Online Store! The store will open soon (watch your email for upcoming details) and have a variety of items to purchase so keep your holiday shopping in mind! The online store will only be open for a limited time and will feature some limited edition designs.

Here's a sneak peak into some of the items that you will find!



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE

Please enjoy as we highlight some of our 2019-2020 fiscal year accomplishments and highlight all the great supporters of The Arc that help make our mission possible!



[VIEW REPORT](#)

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

[DONATE NOW](#)



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