

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings Arc Family!

As I think about my first 30 days, it has been full of listening and learning but most of all, fun! I have been able to visit our programs in action and talk with our team and the individuals who we serve each day. I learned about the creative virtual and in-home programming our team has developed to make sure individuals in need get services, and was able to secure a \$10,000 grant from the United Way to further support our COVID-adjusted Day Habilitation programming. I met the new Project SEARCH class and got to hear how much they enjoy their lessons and internships. I have connected with board members, Arc members, and donors and am amazed at all of the passion and commitment so many people have for this agency. I see the challenges we face due to the pandemic and Derecho, but I also see tremendous possibilities to impact our community in even more creative and innovative ways. I am excited to take part in our first Online Store fundraiser, and hope that like me, you will purchase many gifts from our online store for your friends and family this holiday season!



November is the month of Thanks. We at The Arc of East Central Iowa would like to Thank All of You for your determination and grit in weathering these past nine months. We know it has been difficult and we are here to support you. We also thank you for your generous support over the years, and this year it is especially appreciated. Our Annual Campaign will be underway soon and we hope we can count on you to help us continue to help those most in need.

From The Arc of East Central Iowa family to yours, we wish you a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,  
Theresa Lewis  
Executive Director

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## PROGRAM UPDATES

**Day Hab:** Clients and staff got creative and put an Arc twist on a traditional board game! They called it "ARC-opology" and had a blast playing it! We continue to offer in person and virtual Day Hab options. The in person team continues to search for new ways to stay active and involved in the community since we remain limited with outings.



**Project SEARCH:** The interns are into their first round of internships throughout the hospital and the skills trainers remain available for coaching and support to enhance both their soft and hard work skills while on the units and in the classroom.

**Supported Employment:** Leah Moser has moved into the role of Senior Program Manager and will oversee both the Day Hab and Supported Employment Programs. One of our clients just got promoted to full time employment this month, and another just celebrated his one year anniversary at work. Congratulations to both of them and all of the other individuals that are working in the community! We are seeking two new Employment Specialists to begin working with our job candidates and hope to have those positions filled very soon.

**Daycare and Adult Enrichment:** We have been doing a lot of fall related crafts and activities, including a pumpkin science experiment in the green room! We've also been trying to stay active whether it be through getting out on the patio or a walk (when weather permits) or even playing musical chairs. Beside that the classrooms enjoy doing karaoke & instruments and playing board games.

**Service Center:** Our Group and Getaway respite services remain available on a limited basis until we have more interest from participants. We've been working hard to come up with creative activities to do to celebrate the holidays. Last weekend we had a monster egg hunt and pumpkin painting to celebrate Halloween and still social distance.

**Home and Community Services:** We are starting to have more families reach out to resume services after being on hold for a period of time. Our staff is hard at work trying to meet all of our client needs amidst COVID-19.

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## THE ARC ONLINE STORE

***It is OPEN FOR BUSINESS!***

We have variety of items available for purchase. Items to keep you warm, inspired, and entertained; all of which would make great gifts this holiday season! We are also offering gift wrap so we can even wrap them for you!

Don't delay making your purchases! **The store will only be open until November 30th.**

Orders placed on or before November 15th will be ready for Christmas delivery or pickup. Orders received on or after November 16th are not guaranteed to be delivered or ready for pickup prior to Christmas. Pickup notifications will be sent to the email address on your order once your item(s) are ready.



**SHOP NOW!**

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## AMAZONSMILE & WISH LIST

As you do your holiday shopping online this year don't forget to use [AmazonSmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazon-smile)! When using AmazonSmile, designate The Arc of East Central Iowa as your non-profit of choice and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to us!



It's a simple way for you to support The Arc every time you shop, at no cost to you!

### *Want to do more?*

We are always needing items for our programs; check out our [AmazonSmile Wish List](#). Make a purchase there and they will ship it directly to us!

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## 2020 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Arc will observe the following holidays.

- **Thanksgiving** - November 26th & 27th
- **Christmas** - December 24th & 25th
- **New Years** - December 31st & January 1st (*Daycare will be OPEN December 31st*)



*We hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season!*

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## SPECIAL EDUCATION BASICS

Are you interested in learning how to navigate IEPs, early intervention, and more special education topics? The National Arc is offering a comprehensive special education [Advocacy Curriculum](#) which offers nearly 10 hours of online training!



The Advocacy Curriculum helps you understand the special education process, so your student gets the best possible education. Whether you're a parent, teacher, or non-attorney advocate, the training will help you be a stronger, more knowledgeable champion for students with disabilities.

**LEARN MORE**

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## GIVINGTUESDAY

GivingTuesday is a global day of generosity that will take place on December 1, 2020.

Everyone can show their generosity in a variety of ways during GivingTuesday - whether it's helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to a cause, everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts.



You can make an impact... we hope that you join us in this global day of giving.

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

