FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Hello Arc Friends and Family!

Happy July! It’s the start of a new fiscal year for The Arc of East Central Iowa. Legislatively, thanks to the advocacy of so many groups, Medicaid and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) have increased our service rates by 5.25%. This is great news! As a result of these increases, we are happy to announce that as of July 1 we have increased the wages for our Direct Service Professionals (DSPs)! 100% of the rate increases are going directly to DSP wages, and in alignment with our Strategic Plan, we look forward to new and innovative recruitment strategies that will allow for us to more fully meet the needs of those we serve.

The Arc has been working in partnership with other local agencies to impact how other agencies work with our participants. We have developed “I Need Your Help” cards that we will offer to our participants. This card is designed to help when in the community or interacting with law enforcement, first responders, victim advocates, or even local businesses. Our Service and Support Coordinators (SSCs) will be talking with families about this card during their next meeting to review the benefits of having this card and how to use it.

In addition, we have developed a Helper’s Guide to provide to teachers, other agencies, law enforcement, and victim advocates. This pocket-sized trifold Guide can travel with the person to be used as a resource. It gives cues and clues to assess if a disability is present, suggestions for successful interactions, best communication techniques, and other helpful information like our phone number for assistance or to make a referral.

July is full of fun and we are excited to spend time with you – it’s been awhile! Please join us to celebrate this year’s Journey of Hope with the Ability Riders! We have a fun evening planned at Old MacDonald’s Farm at Bever Park from 6-8 pm on July 20th. Come catch up with us, pet some farm animals, and play some games with the riders (see below for more details on how to RSVP). We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Theresa Lewis
Executive Director

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HAPPENINGS IN DAYCARE
Summer is half over, and we are making the most of it at the Daycare Enrichment Program! Classrooms have been busy going to parks, splash pads, Wikiup Hill Learning Center, The Iowa's Children Museum, and many, many more local attractions. After taking the year off from field trips due to COVID-19, the participants are extra excited to be out and about. We would like to take a moment to thank a local auto body company for coming to the rescue when these field trips might have had to be put on hold due to an issue with one of the vehicles.

After getting back from an outing, one of the doors on the van would not close. After close inspection from Cheryl and Tara, they soon realized auto repair was out of their league and called Andrew’s Auto Body just down the street. They told us to bring it in and within minutes the guys at Andrew’s figured out what the issue was, fixed it and set us on our way at no charge! They are truly heroes in our eyes as they saved our summer that day.

THANK YOU, Andrew’s Auto Body.

The Daycare Enrichment Program would also like to thank and congratulate Ethan Coblentz! Ethan ended his time with The Arc in July to get married and start a new life with his wife in Indiana. He had been with the program for close to three years and in the role of Lead for the adult room (also known as Choice) for the last two. Thank you for your time and commitment to the participants of this program and others within The Arc over the years, Ethan, you will be missed.

SEXUAL ASSAULT & GROOMING TRAINING EVENT

Tuesday, July 13th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm | via Zoom

Please join The Arc of East Central Iowa and Riverview Center for a free afternoon training and Q & A on sexual assault and grooming of individuals diagnosed with a disability. We will discuss the signs of sexual assault and grooming, risk increases for individuals diagnosed with a disability, and what support is available to help each individual and their family through the experience. This event is open to families, friends, and staff. Please share this throughout the community. Our goal is to increase awareness, stop sexual assault, and create an environment for individuals to heal from their experiences.

Pre-registration is required. Register in advance to attend by clicking the button below by July 9th. Prior to this training, please submit any questions to Kristen Krambeer at kkrambeer@arceci.org by July 9th. Event flyer.
FUN AT THE FARM WITH JOURNEY OF HOPE

Tuesday, July 20th
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Old MacDonald’s Farm at Bever Park
2700 Bever Ave.

Please join us for an evening of fun with the cyclist from Journey of Hope an Ability Experience and the animals of Old MacDonald’s Farm at Bever Park. Each summer the young men of Journey of Hope, cycle across the United States to raise awareness for individuals diagnosed with a disability. Along the way, they stay at non-profits spreading their message of hope and acceptance and we are excited to have them return to our building this year. Admission to the farm is free and a cold treat will be available for purchase before or after your farm tour.

Please RSVP to Kristen Krambeer at kkrambeer@arceci.org by July 9th.

Event flyer.

BIKE, PEDAL & ROLL: THE WHEELY BIG BIKE RIDE FOR THE ARC

Save the date to join us at our first ever bike ride benefiting The Arc!

Sunday, October 10th

More details to come soon!

WE ARE HIRING

Are you looking for a new job or maybe a second job? Do you know someone who is? We have many open positions available right now! Please go to www.arceci.org/jobs/ to view all job descriptions and apply!

Join our team and make a difference!