FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Happy Holidays! The Arc of East Central Iowa wishes each of you a joyous holiday season! So far this holiday season has brought many good things. We were recognized by the Economic Alliance’s Leadership for Five Seasons at their annual breakfast, and want to thank Laura Sellers; Jill, Bill, and Joe Ryder; and Cindy, Tyler, Samantha, and Erica Smothers for telling their story and sharing how much The Arc means to them. We also have kicked off a strong campaign season and our Day Hab program was just recently highlighted on KCRG, bringing positive attention to the work we do.

The end of the year is also a time to reflect on where we’ve been and where we need to go. The Arc has made great progress on our Strategic Plan. But we need to go further. We need to be even more creative, resourceful, and effective in how we deliver our services. Every agency is dealing with the staffing crisis, and The Arc is no exception. We will engage in a new Strategic Planning process at the start of the new year to determine how we will strengthen our programming and adjust our recruitment and retention strategies, and how we will further advance our work and mission through Advocacy and Community Engagement. More to come on this work!

Thank you all for an amazing 2021! And remember, for some, the holiday season can bring memories and sadness for those no longer with us. The Arc would like to acknowledge all of the families who have lost a loved one: we are honored to have served you, grateful to be part of your family, and will always be here for you.

With much appreciation,
Theresa Lewis
Executive Director

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

Exciting things are happening in the world of Employment! Currently, we are serving 39 individuals in our Supported Employment Program; 26 of those are competitively employed and we are providing job coaching to help them be successful in their employment. The other individuals are receiving job development services. We are actively helping them find areas of interest, apply for positions, and help them be successful in interviews. In the month of November we have successfully closed out 2
individuals that are able to do all aspects of their job independently and successfully, without coaching.

Additionally, one of our Employment Specialists, Tora Phelps, has recently received her Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) Certificate in Community Employment with Emphasis in Customized Employment. This is a certification to be able to provide the new Customized Discovery Service through Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. We are very excited to get this process going to help individuals take a different approach in gaining community integrated employment.

We have individuals working at 30 different community businesses right now. We are accepting referrals for individuals who want to work in the community and need assistance working through the process of being employed.

JUSTICE ELECTRIC BRIGHTENS OUR WORLD

We want to give a shout out and special thanks to Justice Electric! They installed sensors on our outdoor entry lights and updated parking lot lights with new LEDs!

A group of participants from our Daycare shared a token of appreciation by baking cookies and making thank you cards and delivered them in person.

A LOVELY DAY ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Our annual campaign story this year features a young man named Brayden. Brayden is one example of someone who has battled through many hurdles but always manages to keep a smile on his face. Click on the button below to read his story.

You can also view our annual campaign video. The video shows you a glimpse of what a lovely day is truly made of.

YOUR contribution will help to sustain meaningful programs and services that impact the lives of our Arc participants. We invite you to join us in working to make everyday a lovely day for our participants and their families.

BRAYDEN'S STORY

VIEW VIDEO

DONATE TO THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

DELIVERY OF SPECIAL TOYS

Dr. Hal Evensen, Professor of Engineering Physics, and his team of volunteers and students from the University of
Wisconsin Platteville strikes again with 'Toy Hack'!

Hal and friends go out and get donations to then purchase toys that they can “hack” and make more accessible for individuals with disabilities by putting in a switch attachment for easy use. Each toy becomes a gift to a lucky individual! THANK YOU to the ‘Toy Hack’ crew for thinking of our participants for 4 years now and for all of the special gifts they provided this year!

VOTE FOR US!

Everyone can vote, even if you are not a Gazette subscriber!

If you are a Gazette subscriber you have 5 votes, non-subscribers have 1 vote. Gazette Rewards members are also able to convert their Rewards points to receive extra votes. Not a Gazette Rewards member yet? Sign up now at https://rewards.thegazette.com/ or login to see your available points.

By voting for The Arc we in turn we will receive FREE advertising space in The Gazette. Your vote helps us continue to spread the word and advocate for those in our community with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

THE PERFECT GIFT

We have some of these one of a kind, colorful cups for sale!

This 16 oz pint glass is great for everyday adventures at home or on the go. They are unbreakable and flexible in shape as they are in utility. They are perfect for your morning coffee, afternoon smoothie and after dinner drinks. It even comes with a lid!

We are having a holiday special!

1 for $15.00
2 for $25.00
4 for $40.00

Limited quantity available and will be sold on a first come first served basis. Click on the button below to make your purchase. Once your order is placed you will be sent a confirmation email of your order. Please check your Junk/Spam folder if you do not see it in your Inbox.

Your order will be available for pickup at The Arc’s main office (680 2nd Street SE) the next business day (8:00 am - 4:30 pm) following your purchase. For questions please contact Cheryl Duke at cduke@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1010.
AMAZONSMILE & WISH LIST

As you do your holiday shopping online this year don't forget to use AmazonSmile.com!

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 Charity List. Make a purchase there and they will ship it directly to us! Along with our Amazon Charity List we also have a general Wish List. Items from our Wish List can be purchased anywhere and dropped off to our office anytime.

SHOP AMAZONSMILE  SHOP OUR CHARITY LIST  VIEW OUR WISH LIST

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Arc will be closed the following days:
- Christmas - December 24th & 27th
- New Years - December 31st & January 3rd (Daycare will be OPEN December 31st & January 3rd)

We hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season!

SAVE THE DATE

The Arc March
Saturday, March 12th, 2022
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Mark your calendars!

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 openings and apply!

Join our team and make a difference!