FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

With a new year comes renewed focus and future planning. The Arc has begun our strategic planning process for the next two years. We are excited for our strategic direction and look forward to sharing more with you next month.

The year also brings new opportunities for funding. The Arc is applying for America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from Cedar Rapids/Linn County. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is a $1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. It is meant to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding package builds upon the CARES Act from March 2020 and its extension in December 2020. ARPA provides a total of $350 billion in assistance for eligible state and local governments to respond to the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. **$72 MILLION in federal relief funds is coming to our area!** Linn County and the City of Cedar Rapids have launched a joint application process for the federal ARPA funds. The Arc hopes to receive some of this funding for building and programming enhancements that will allow us to serve more participants and be more financially stable in the years to come.

To focus my efforts for The Arc in 2022, I have selected my one-word: **Energy**. I will infuse as much energy as I can in my leadership to move us forward and continue our progress as we navigate the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and new opportunities. I challenge you to choose a word to focus your efforts at home or at work to help you achieve your goals!

With much appreciation,
Theresa Lewis
Executive Director

DAYCARE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The participants and staff in our Daycare Enrichment program have had the opportunity to spend some extra time together lately with the holiday break, no school days and a couple of late starts sprinkled in as well. During the break, they were able to get out and partake in lots of fun community activities including Potter’s Obsession, Bowling, and the Children’s Museum! The Children’s Museum is definitely a fan favorite! Our Daycare Enrichment Program follows the Cedar Rapids School District schedule and we are very thankful for a strong and dedicated team of DSPs who step up to cover shifts when school is
not in session, and often times with very short notice due to the winter weather. We are open for before and after school care and we are currently looking to add more participants to our morning roster. We have just recently begun to sift through our waiting list for our after school care as well and we hope to be able to start adding more participants soon. If you have questions about where your loved one falls on the waiting list, or have questions about our Daycare Enrichment Program, please reach out to Tara Cornelius at tcornelius@arceci.org or Madalynn Adams at madams@arceci.org.

Just another quick note about our pilot daycare program: The Ability Center, in partnership with College Community School District. Our start date has been pushed back as we continue to search for qualified staff to carry out the program. We are also still gathering names of individuals that are in need of childcare. The targeted group for the pilot program is students that are in 7th – 12th grade in the College Community School District who live in Linn County. Please reach out to your SSC or Tara at tcornelius@arceci.org if you are interested in this program.

**A FINAL LOOK BACK AT 2021**

2022 is finally here and we are hopeful that the new year will bring us good vibes and blessings. As we get ready to close our 2021 Annual Campaign we want to make sure that everyone was given one last chance to take a final look back at 2021.

A young man, Brayden, has been our inspiration this past year. His kindness, thoughtfulness, and bright smile has warmed all of our hearts. Thank you Brayden for being a shining light for us and the community!

*Please help us start 2022 off on a happy note by making your first donation of the year to our Lovely Day Campaign.*

**CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY IS CERTIFIED SENSORY INCLUSIVE**

KultureCity has partnered with the Cedar Rapids Public Library to make the library and the programs and events the library hosts to be sensory inclusive. This new initiative promotes an accommodating and positive experience for all guests and patrons with a sensory issue that visit either the Downtown or Ladd Libraries.

The certification process entailed the staff at the library being trained by leading medical professionals on how to recognize those patrons with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation. Sensory bags, equipped with noise canceling headphones
(provided by Puro Sound Labs), fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads are available to all guests at the Downtown and Ladd Libraries who may feel overwhelmed by the environment. There are also designated quiet areas marked with signage for those who may need a quieter and more secure environment.

You can [read the full story here](#).

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**CUPS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

We still 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!

**ON SALE!**

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.

[PURCHASE NOW!](#)

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**SAVE THE DATE**

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

*Mark your calendars. More details coming soon!*  

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**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/](http://www.arceci.org/jobs/) to view all job openings and apply!

[APPLY NOW](#)
Join our team and make a difference!

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

DONATE NOW

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