

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Spring is almost here! The Arc is excited for warmer weather and to move past the last few years of COVID restrictions. COVID is still out there, but we are making sure to take as many precautions as possible to assure safety for all. While we have lifted our mask requirements, our ability to bring individuals back into programming has been limited. The Arc, like so many other organizations, is struggling with workforce issues. We are being as diligent as possible to attract and retain talent, but it is difficult to compete with businesses and other for-profits entities who can charge more for their services. You can help by contacting your Legislators and telling them how Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are critical to individuals with disabilities AND their caregivers, and agencies like The Arc need more funding. Take a few minutes and click [here](#) to have your voice heard.



Our 25th Anniversary Arc March on Saturday, March 12th was a huge success! It is amazing to realize this event has been creating awareness about the Abilities in each of us for a quarter of a century. With your support it will remain an annual success for the next 25 years. As always, your generosity and passion for changing the lives of individuals with a disability is humbling, inspiring, and cherished!

With much appreciation,
Theresa Lewis
Executive Director

WE ARE HIRING FOR SUMMER!

Are you ready to create smiles and memories working with some really awesome individuals? Summer is coming and our programs have openings. Whether you are looking for that special summer job or maybe a second job, we welcome your application. Encourage friends and families to apply as well. We have many open positions to meet your availability. Please go to www.arceci.org/jobs/ to view all job openings and apply!



APPLY NOW

DAYCARE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Registration for summer care at our programs is well

underway. **Daycare Enrichment** will be open M-F from 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM this summer on the first floor of The Arc building in downtown Cedar Rapids. **Summer Day** will run June 14 - July 28, M-F from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Jefferson High School. And **The Ability Center** is a new program being held on the Kirkwood campus in the Prairiewoods Transition Center with hours and prices yet to be determined for summer care, but we are hoping to get these out to families soon. If interested in any of these programs for your loved one, please reach out to Tara Cornelius, Site Based Program Manager, at 319-365-0487 x1044 or tcornelius@arceci.org.



Throughout the summer, our staff work tirelessly to create a fun, engaging, and inclusive schedule of activities for everyone to enjoy. We go on field trips to the local pools, parks, play zones, and museums, to name a few! We have weekly themes in each of the programs that our crafts, activities and discussions tie into. This year, advocacy is a big focus for us and we look forward to bringing those topics and themes into our programs as well.

While we are gearing up for summer and continually receiving inquiries and registrations from families eager to receive our services, we are dealing with a significant worker shortage and need your help! The Arc of East Central Iowa is in need of year-round and summer only workers to staff the programs our participants want to get back to and enjoy.

All of our Site Based Programs are hiring:

Daycare Enrichment: Varying hours between 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM, M-F

Summer Day Program: Employment from June 8 - July 29, M-F; 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Ability Center: Summer hours TBD, M-F

THE ARC MARCH

We would like to thank everyone for joining us for this years' Arc March and helping us celebrate our 25th anniversary of this event! It was great to gather and see everyone enjoy the morning as they saw old friends, did a little dancing, and did our annual walk for awareness. We want to give a special thanks to all participants, donors, sponsors, mascots, and volunteers!

A number of teams and individuals really put their heart and soul into what it means to be an advocate for The Arc. In the spirit of competition they reached out far and wide to seek donations. The Arc March would not be what it is without all of the great people working so hard to make it a success.

Thank you to everyone who either fundraised or donated... you all are truly amazing!

This year we raised over \$36,700! Congratulations to our top three fundraising teams for all of their efforts and hard work!

- **1st Place:** Team Larin
- **2nd Place:** Sited-Based Team
- **3rd Place:** Team Emma



PROJECT SEARCH ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

We are accepting applications for the next Project SEARCH group which begins September 2022.

Project SEARCH is an employment training program for young adults ages 18-30 who have graduated high school (or the equivalent) with an intellectual or related disability. It is held at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital.



Please click on the button below for an application and if you have any questions please contact Stephanie Beary at sbeary@arceci.org. **Application deadline is April 15th.**

PROJECT SEARCH APPLICATION

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 2nd
Prairie Point Middle School

8015 Kirkwood Blvd SW | Cedar Rapids

10:00 AM - Activities
11:00 AM - Egg Hunt



For participants ages 21 and under and their siblings up to age 10. Join us for a morning of fun activities including an Easter egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Please bring along your Easter basket to collect your eggs!

Please RSVP by March 28th to Cheryl at cduke@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1010.

RSVP NOW

SAVE THE DATE

Bike, Pedal & Roll
Sunday, September 25th, 2022

Mark your calendars. More details coming soon!



ADVOCACY AND READING: 31 BOOKS FOR 31 DAYS

Celebrate National Reading Month with The Arc of East Central Iowa by reading books written by authors diagnosed with a disability and/or with character(s) diagnosed with a disability. Reading allows us the opportunity to learn new things, view experiences from other people's perspectives, and change how we move forward in the world. We hope you find time in the month of March to visit a local bookstore, library, grab your eReader or listen to an audiobook. If you have book recommendations to add to our list contact Kristen Krambeer, Advocacy Program Coordinator kkrambeer@arceci.org.

National Reading Month



Happy Reading!

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir, History, Disability Justice

- *Being Heumann* by Judy Heumann with Kristen Joiner (Author with a disability)
- *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice* by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (Author with a disability)
- *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century* edited by Alice Wong (Author with a disability)
- *Ghost Boy* by Martin Pistorius (Author with a disability)
- *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's* by John Elder Robison (Author with a disability)
- *Notes on Blindness* by John M. Hull (Author with a disability)
- *No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality* by Michael J. Fox (Author with a disability)
- *Sitting Pretty* by Rebekah Taussig (Author with a disability)
- *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism* by Naoki Higashida (Author with a disability) and translated by KA Yoshida & David Mitchell (Advocates)
- *There's a Hole in my Bucket: A Journey of Two Brothers* by Royd Tolkien (Author Advocate)
- *The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal* by Jonathan Mooney (Author with a disability)

Fantasy, Science Fiction

- *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor (Author with a disability)
- *Borderline* by Mishell Baker (Author with a disability)
- *Burn the Dark* by S.A. Hunt (Character(s) with a disability)
- *October Daye Series* by Seanan McGuire (Author with a disability)
- *On the Edge of Gone* by Corinne Duyvis (Author with a disability)
- *The Good Hawk* by Joseph Elliott (Advocate Author)

Fiction (Adult, Children, & Youth)

- *Authentically Addie* by Stephanie Wolfe (Advocate Author)
- *Real* by Carol Cujec and Peyton Goddard (Advocate author & author with a disability)
- *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo (Author with a disability)
- *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly (Advocate author, character(s) with a disability)
- *The Christmasaurus* by Tom Fletcher (Character(s) with a disability)
- *The Five of Us* by Quentin Blake (Character(s) with a disability)
- *The Sign for Home: A Novel* by Blair Fell (Advocate author)
- *The Tidal Zone* by Sarah Moss (Character(s) with a disability)
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Character(s) with a disability)

Literary Critic

- *Disability, Deformity, and Disease in the Grimms' Fairy Tales* by Ann Schmiesing (Advocate author)
- *Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space* by Amanda Leduc (Author with a disability)
- *The Right Way to be Crippled and Naked: The Fiction of Disability: An Anthology* edited by Sheila Black, Michael Northern, Annabelle Hayse (Advocate author & author with a disability)

Poetry

- *Beauty is a Word: The New Poetry of Disability* edited by Jennifer Bartlett, Sheila Black, & Michael Northern (Advocate author & author with a disability)
- *Dear Body* by Hannah Hodgson (Author with a disability)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US

Please go to www.arceci.org/jobs/ to view all job openings and apply!

Join Our
TEAM

APPLY NOW

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



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