FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

April showers bring May flowers – and this certainly has been accurate so far! As we see nature transform with the warmer weather, The Arc is also rolling out some changes. Several months ago, we revisited our Mission and Core Values. With a strong focus of diversity, equity, and inclusion, our goal was to ensure these key statements are truly representative of who we are and what we do.

The Arc felt it was important to add a Vision Statement. This represents the ‘why’ of what we do. The changes to our Mission are reflective of our inclusion focus by identifying that we serve individuals with a variety of different disabilities. And equally as important, their families. We want everyone who qualifies for our services to feel they are included and belong at The Arc. Each of our Values has a statement that expresses exactly what Dignity, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mean to us, and they are also more inclusive to fully support our Mission and new Vision Statement.

The Arc’s Board of Directors approved these changes at the March 2022 meeting and we will be working to make the changes to our website, publications, and other materials over the next few months. Stay tuned for more great news from The Arc!

With much appreciation,
Theresa Lewis
Executive Director

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Our Vision

A world where everyone belongs.

Our Mission

The Arc of East Central Iowa empowers people with disabilities and their families to engage in lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work, play, and advocate with dignity and full inclusion in their communities.

Our Values

Dignity * Diversity * Equity * Inclusion

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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

DAY HABILITATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Day Habilitation program is very excited to get back out into the community and give back! As COVID cases have continued to decrease we have been able to get back to doing some of our Pre-COVID activities. We are very excited about this! While we love doing recreational activities, (some examples include; mall walking, shopping at Target and Walmart, going to parks, walking the trails), we are also very excited to get involved in giving back and volunteering in the community. We have been safely delivering Meals on Wheels every day of the week for a few months now, and we are excited to get back to some of our other jobs! We have recently started delivering the Tidbit newspapers and cleaning at His Hands Medical Clinic. We also did some Pinwheel planting the first week of April to help out with Child Abuse prevention month! Mostly recently we helped stuff goodie bags for The Arc March, and helped stuff 800 Easter Eggs for The Arc’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt! In the next month or so we will be working on getting some of our other volunteer jobs back on the schedule! We look forward to partnering again with St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, the libraries, Free Community Health Clinic, and picking up some breakfast bag routes with Meals on Wheels. We really enjoy helping others, and after a two year break, we are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends at these places.

Our virtual program also continues as well. A few months back they had a surprise visit on their zoom call from the llamas at Prairie Patch Farms. They loved it! The individuals in virtual programming continue to suggest activities of different topics they are interested in learning about, and programs are built around those topics. In addition to those topics, they take part in chair exercises, games and craft activities to round out their time with each other!

SIGN-UP NOW TO PLAY UNIFIED SOFTBALL

We are looking for players and “peer partners” who are at least 15 years of age to play on The Arc's Unified Softball teams! Each player is required to have a "peer partner" who can assist them on the field, as a coach, or in other areas as needed.

Games will be held on Tuesday evenings from June 14th through July 26th and will be held at Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids.

Registration is $15.00 which includes a team t-shirt. Additional t-shirts are available for only $10.00 each. This year's color is Dark Orange! Registration forms are due May 6th.
ARC NIGHT AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Mark your calendar... Texas Roadhouse for supper on May 3rd! Whether you decide to dine-in or carry-out, SHOW THE FLYER, and 10% of your total food purchase will be donated to The Arc!

TEXAS ROADHOUSE FLYER

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.

Benefits of participating in this unique internship include:

- Gain competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills
- Increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- Individualized coaching, direct instruction, and daily feedback
- Build personal and professional relationships
- Assistance finding a job that meets skills and desires

Please click on the button below for an application and if you have any questions please contact Stephanie Beary at sbeary@arceci.org or 319-721-6245. Application deadline is April 30th.

PROJECT SEARCH APPLICATION

SAVE THE DATE

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

Mark your calendars. More details coming soon!

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Sexual assault, abuse, and harassment can occur to anyone at any time.
According to the University of Michigan, more than 90% of all people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual assault.

According to the Justice Department data on sex crimes, people with intellectual disabilities - women and men - are the victims of sexual assault at rates more than seven times than those for people without disabilities.

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual assault, abuse, or harassment contact Riverview Center’s Sexual Assault Hotline: 888-557-0310

Riverview Center offers 100% free and confidential services for survivors of sexual violence in Iowa, and for survivors of sexual and domestic violence in Illinois. Services include 24-hour crisis hotlines, legal, medical and social service advocacy, long- and short-term counseling, trauma-informed therapy, transition and basic needs assistance, and more. Care is specialized and client-centered based on an individual’s unique needs and circumstances.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

According to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children:

- Child abuse reports involved 7.9 million children.
- Five children die every day from child abuse.
- One in three children with a disability are often victims of maltreatment like neglect, physical or sexual abuse.
- One in three children with a disability will experience abuse in contrast to one in ten non-disabled children.

If you suspect a child under the age of 18 is being abused or neglected: Call the Abuse Hotline at 800-362-2178, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or 911 If you believe the child is in imminent danger.

WELCOME TO THE ARC

Hi, I’m Carrie Motto and I am the new Day Habilitation Coordinator. I am so excited to be part of The Arc team and can't wait to see where the future takes our Day Hab program! In my spare time I enjoy traveling with my husband, playing with our 3 rescue dogs and cooking/baking. I recently took a painting class and really enjoyed that so am looking forward to participating in more of those in the coming months!

WELCOME TO THE ARC

Hi, I’m Lexie Walker and I am the new Ability Center Coordinator. I have recently moved to the Cedar Rapids area from Tennessee. I enjoy being out in nature, painting, coffee dates, and spending quality-time with my
family and friends. I am recently graduated and I plan to get married in July. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting the new Ability Center Program ready for launch!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US

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

APPLY NOW

DONATE NOW

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE ARCECI.ORG

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A Partner Agency of United Way

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