

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

June is almost over and we are in the **swing of summer** here at The Arc of East Central Iowa! Next month brings some fun family events we hope you will join – our Ability Experience riders will be stopping by again this year and that same week we will be celebrating at a Kernel's game for ADA Night at the Ballpark!



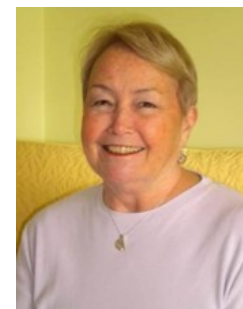
We play hard, but also work really hard to meet the needs of you and your family. While staffing challenges persist, we have launched a **new Employee Recruitment & Retention program** where staff working directly with participants can make up to \$4,000 in bonuses over the next 2 years! We want to incentivize our staff providing direct service to work more hours, and the bonus level they receive will be determined by average hours worked per month over a five-month period. Payments will occur in November 2022, April 2023, September 2023, and February 2024. If you know anyone who wants to help amazing people, tell them to work for The Arc and we'll get them rolled into the bonus program.

July is the beginning of a new fiscal year for The Arc and the launch of our new Strategic Plan. Our key focus areas over the next two years are **Purpose, People, Performance,** and **Permanence**. These four areas will drive our path forward with advocacy, staff development, programs and outcomes, and fund development. In the next issues of the Challenger, I will provide more information on each of these focus areas. Until then, we hope to see you at our events this summer!

With much appreciation,
Theresa Lewis
Executive Director

REMEMBERING JULIE BECKETT

The Arc of East Central Iowa joins our disability community colleagues across the US in mourning the loss of Julie Beckett. Together with her daughter Katie who passed away in 2012 at the age of 34, Julie blazed new trails for the rights of people with disabilities. Nearly a decade before the Americans with Disabilities Act became law, and nearly two decades before the Supreme Court ruled in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that people with disabilities have right to receive care in the most integrated settings appropriate, Julie fought tirelessly – and successfully – to give Katie the opportunity to grow up at home, with her family, rather than in the hospital. She came to disability advocacy as a mom, fighting on behalf of Katie, but she remained a committed advocate for disability rights throughout her life.



In the early 1980s, Julie's daughter Katie was three years old and needed a respirator. At the time, Medicaid did not cover at-home respirator use, which forced Katie to live in a hospital even though doctors said she could be cared for at home. As a result of Julie's tireless and determined efforts, the "Katie Beckett Waiver" was created, and Katie went home. She grew up, went to college, and lived independently until her death.

Julie and Katie changed the course of history. The waiver has made it possible for hundreds of thousands of children to grow up in their families' homes and live full lives. It also was an important first step toward the work we are doing today to expand access to home and community-based services so that all people can live the lives they want to live, in the community.

Julie's advocacy didn't stop when Katie came home. Both Julie and Katie went on to become leaders in the disability rights movement, testifying before Congress and working with the Department of Health and Human Services to improve opportunities for people with disabilities.

Julie was a resident of Cedar Rapids and her daughter benefited from services provided by The Arc of East Central Iowa. Her tenacity, passion for justice, and professionalism made America a better nation and will forever be part of history. We can never repay Julie and Katie for all they have done for Iowa and the rest of the country, but we can honor their legacy by continuing their work to ensure that people with disabilities can live in the community, with the same opportunities as people without disabilities.

CHEER ON OUR UNIFIED SOFTBALL TEAMS

This year we have TWO teams... The Arc Angels & The Arc Aces!

[Click here for this season's schedule.](#)

Come on out and cheer on our participants!

Games are at Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids (2000 Ellis Boulevard NW).

If a heat advisory is issued, the games for that evening will be cancelled upon issuance of the advisory by KCRG weather. Game cancellations will be posted to The Arc's Facebook page.



FUN AT THE FARM WITH JOURNEY OF HOPE

Tuesday, July 19th

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Old MacDonald's Farm at Bever Park

2700 Bever Ave



Please join us for an evening of fun with the cyclists 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 15th.

THE ARC NIGHT AT THE CEDAR RAPIDS KERNELS

Saturday, July 23rd

6:35 PM (*gates open at 5:00*)

Tickets are available for purchase at The Arc's office; M-F 8:00 - 3:30 for \$11.00 each until July 11th. After July 11th you must purchase tickets directly from the Kernels for full price. Children 3 and under do not require a ticket as long as they sit on a lap.



We have a limited number of tickets available so don't delay! Remember to wear your Arc gear and join us as we enjoy the ADA Celebration and fireworks show after the game!

For questions please contact Kristen at kkrambeer@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1028.

SAVE THE DATE

Bike, Pedal & Stroll

Sunday, September 25th, 2022

Mark your calendars. More details coming soon!



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