

Dusty has never met a stranger

A charmer and instant friend to everyone he meets, Dusty has a well-earned reputation for lifting spirits and brightening days everywhere he goes. But, Dusty has had quite a journey getting to where he is today.

In 1993, at just 3 months old, his mother, Dawn, received a call from his daycare that Dusty was having seizures. Over a horrifying 17 days in the pediatric ICU, his mother learned Dusty had been shaken by his sitter. He had a broken leg and had lost his vision in one eye and had serious damage to the other. His mom was told he would likely not ever walk or talk and may have seizures the rest of his life. After the heartbreaking news settled in, Dawn turned her focus to find ways to make the rest of Dusty's life the best it could be.

In the midst of managing their new reality, Dawn learned about The Arc from a friend who had a son who was an Arc participant. She gave Dawn helpful information and insight to make her aware of how The Arc could support Dusty and her throughout his life.

It's important to dress for success

Dusty has defied the odds! He not only walks and talks, he also rides his adaptive bike and he loves to learn about airplanes. He is active and engages in the world around him.

Dusty sees his Arc activities and outings as “going to work,” and you'll rarely encounter him engaging in our programs without a hat, a tie or both. Not only do they make him very dapper, but they make it instantly obvious that Dusty is fully engaged in our programs and our community.

Dusty's enthusiasm for life mirrors his enthusiasm for The Arc programs he enjoys. He loves to bowl every Monday and he has a reputation for sharing high-fives with his team. He has been an enthusiastic participant in our daycare enrichment and summer programs and he loves his time each day in our Day Hab program. He specifically enjoys The Arc overnights because he gets to sing karaoke with his friends.

“The Arc has become so much a part of us.”

“We have used just about every program The Arc offers, starting with respite,” his mother tells us. In addition to our programs that directly serve Dusty, respite has been a lifesaver for Dawn, giving her anywhere from a few hours to a whole weekend where she can take a break knowing that Dusty is with his friends and is thriving in life. Like so many other families served by The Arc, it has become a way of life for Dusty and his mom.

Please join us in supporting Dusty and our entire Arc family

Your tax-deductible donation will stay right here with The Arc of East Central Iowa, helping us serve participants like Dusty and the people who care for them. You'll help us help people reach their full potential and spread the joys of their successes throughout our entire community. ***Thank you for being a part of all our lives.***

