



The Arc[®]

Northwest Wayne County

2017

Annual Report

Achieve with us.



MISSION

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County is committed to building inclusive communities through advocacy, support, and information.

VISION

The highest quality of life for all people. Inclusion and participation in community life is essential to the well being of every person. With assistance and support, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be contributing and valued members of the community.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

ADVOCACY

Increase the reach, influence and effectiveness of advocacy.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Operate programs and services that promote innovations and best practices.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Expand The Arc's outreach through a marketing program that enhances the public's knowledge and awareness of our mission.

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

Strengthen The Arc's financial portfolio to ensure organizational sustainability.

Organizational Highlights

The Arc NW Informational Sessions and Workshops are provided free of charge
Activities listed supported Organizational Priorities: Advocacy, Programs & Services, Public Awareness, Finance and Fundraising.

January 2017

Information posted: Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page

After I'm Gone, Lekotek, and Guardianship Alternative Information Network programs are supported through a contract with the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority.

- **After I'm Gone** sessions in January:
 - January 12th—**Financial Planning and Advanced Funeral Planning**
 - January 26th—**Developmental Disabilities and Dementia**
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes; 4 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings.

February 2017

Information posted: Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page

- **Board of Directors** meeting, February 13th
- Wayne State University Developmental Disabilities Institute contract with The Arc NW to conduct **National Core Indicator interviews** for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. www.nationalcoreindicators.org The [core indicators](#) are standard measures used across states to assess the outcomes of services provided to individuals and families. Indicators address key areas of concern including employment, rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety.
- **After I'm Gone** sessions held in February:
 - February 9th—**How to Get What You Want Out of Life**
 - February 23rd—**Social Security & The Department of Health and Human Services**
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held **15 basketball** and **1 swim** practice in February.
- **Athletic Program** athletes participated in the **Area Basketball Tournament** on February 11th
- **Athletic Program** athletes participated in the **SO Area 23 Polar Plunge** on February 18th
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes; 3 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings.
- **Just Fun Club Valentines Day Dance**, February 5th
- **Annual Dinner Dance** February 25th raised funds to support The Arc NW's advocacy services.

March 2017

Information posted: Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page

March—Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

- **Board of Directors** meeting, March 14th.
- **After I'm Gone** sessions held in March:
 - March 9th—**Supporting People in Decision Making**
 - March 23rd—**Beyond Group Homes**
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held **10 basketball** and **4 swim** practices in March.
- **Athletic Program** participated in the **Special Olympic District Basketball Tournament, March 4th.**
- **Athletic Program** participated in the **State Women's' Basketball Tournament, March 24th & 25th**
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes 2 Saturday afternoons and 2 mornings.
- **Just Fun Club St. Patrick's Day Dance**, March 17th
- **Millionaire Party** fundraiser; March 30th - April 2nd at Vision Lanes

Organizational Highlights - continued

April 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **National Disability Policy Seminar** in Washington, D.C. promotes The Arc mission to members of Congress. Jean Walsh, and Christine Lerchen attended.
- **Board of Directors** meeting April 11th
- **After I'm Gone** session held in April:
 - April 13th— **Estate Planning for Your Future**
 - April 27th—**Home & Community Based Services**
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held 4 **swim** practices.
- **Athletic Program** athletes participated in **swim meet** on April 23rd.
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes 3 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings.
- **Just Fun Club Chicken Dinner Dance** April 28th.
- **Millionaire Party** fundraiser; March 30th - April 2nd at Vision Lanes.

May 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **Board of Directors** meeting April 11th
- **Annual Golf Outing May 21st** raised a **\$27,309** to support The Arc NW's advocacy services.
- **Annual Meeting** was held on May 23rd:
 - 2017 Annual Report, Elected 2017-2018 Board of Directors**
 - 2017-2018 Arc NW Awards**
 - Volunteer of the Year: Angie Brey Just Fun Club**
 - Achiever of the Year: Carly Diakow**
 - Education Team of the Year: Lincoln Park Middle School**
 - Team of the Year: Plymouth Canton SJ5K**
- **Athletic Program Annual Bowl-A-Thon** fundraiser held on May 5th.
- **Athletic Program** athletes participated in the **Area 23 Tournament** on May 5th.
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held 1 baseball and 1 swim practice.
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes 2 Saturday afternoons.
- **Arc Bowling Banquet** was held on May 27th
- **Just Fun Club Ice Cream Social**, May 12th

June 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **Board Meeting**, June 12th
- **Independent Audit** conducted by Cole, Newton, and Duran, CPAs approved by the board, June 12th
- **Athletic Program** 37 athletes competed in **Michigan Special Olympic Summer Games**, June 2-4.

July 2017

Information posted: **Website, Facebook Page**

August 2017

Information posted: **Website, Facebook Page**

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Organizational Highlights continued

September 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **Board of Directors** Meeting, September 12th.
- **Athletic program** volunteer coaches held 8 poly hockey practices.
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes 4 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings

October 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **Board of Directors** Meeting October 10th.
- **After I'm Gone** Information Sessions:
 - October 12th– **Supporting People in Decision Making**
 - October 26th– **Beyond Group Homes**
- **Just Fun Club** Halloween Dance, October 13th.
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held 12 poly hockey practices.
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes; 4 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings.

November 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **Board of Directors** Meeting November 14th.
- **After I'm Gone** Information Sessions:
 - November 2nd– **Estate Planning for your Future**
 - November 16th– **Transition Planning**
 - November 30th– **Opportunities for Life After School**
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held 6 poly hockey practices.
- **Athletic Program** athletes participated in the **State Poly Hockey Tournament**.
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes; 3 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings.
- **Just Fun Club Country Western Dance** November 10th.

December 2017

Information posted: **Newsletter, Website, Facebook Page**

- **Board of Directors** Meeting December 12th.
- **Just Fun Club Christmas Dinner Dance**, December 16th
- **Athletic Program** volunteer coaches held 14 basketball practices.
- **Arc Bowling** at Oak Lanes; 4 Saturday afternoons and 2 Saturday mornings.

2017-2017 Annual Meeting
May 23, 2017 - One Under Livonia Banquet Facility

ANNUAL AWARDS

Achiever of the Year

Carly Diakow

Volunteer of the Year

Just Fun Club

Angie Brey

Education Team of the Year

Lincoln Park Middle School

Team of the Year

Plymouth Canton SJ5K

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The Arc of Northwest Wayne County had 444 members in 2017. Membership categories include; family membership (\$35), individual membership (\$25), associate membership (\$25).

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County is governed by a volunteer board of directors which includes seven directors and four executive committee members consisting of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The majority of board members are individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or family members. On November 14, 2017, the Bylaws were revised stating the Standing Committees of the board as the Executive Finance, Board Development, and Government Affairs Committees. Nine Board meetings were held in 2017.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President	Jean Walsh
Vice President	Kathy Pfuhler
Secretary	William Winkler
Treasurer	Susan Gardynik
<p>Directors</p> <p>Kristine Copeland Rebecca Wenglinski Marianne Licari Steve Erickson Ray Schuhholz Heidi Warren Greg Wittrock</p>	

The organization’s mission is carried out by the Board of Directors governance and the daily work of the professional staff and volunteers. Members of the board, volunteers, and professional staff, including the executive director, have family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Staff

Executive Director	Christine Lerchen
Office Manager	Shonda Jones
Advocacy & Community Resource Director	Michelle Driscoll
Advocate	Chesley Giertz
Lekotek Play Leader	Lana Richardson
Program & Services Assistant	Sandra Dobson
Claims Submission	Mary Scala
Clerical Assistant	Tammy Clements
Lekotek Librarian/Custodian	Holly Balaka

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Staffed Programs

Individual Advocacy

Advocates share knowledge and experience to help families from birth or the time their child is diagnosed with a developmental disability and through the entire life cycle. Knowledgeable, experienced, connected advocates help individuals access education, housing, employment, financial assistance, direct care staffing, Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and other supports they and their families need.

Systems Advocacy

Volunteers and staff actively participate on local and state government affairs committees, disability policy work groups, and consumer advisory committees to promote public policies that support self determination and community life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Programs and Services Operations

The Arc NW operations depend on funding that is acquired through various sources including member dues, donations, memorials, bequests, fundraisers, contracts, and grants. Funds are used for operations that promote best practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over 90% of every dollar provides services.

2017 Staffed Programs and Services

Programs Funded By

Fiscal Intermediary Services	Community Living Services
After I'm Gone, Lekotek, GAIN	DWMHA
Special Ed Technical Support	Arc UW Collaborative
Financial Stability Assistance	Arc UW Collaborative
National Core Indicator Surveys	WSU DDI/MDHHS
Advocacy	Arc MI/MI Dept. of Ed
Advocacy	Dinner Dance/Golf Outing

Volunteer Supported Programs

The Arc Athletic Program

Arc volunteers fundraise, organize, coach, and chaperone events and trainings for participation in Special Olympic events. Sports training in 2017-2018 included: basketball, softball, swimming, bowling, soccer and poly hockey. The Arc NW office manager and program services assistant support these activities.

Bowling

Since The Arc began volunteers have organized bowling leagues as both an Athletic Program sport and the enjoyment of the game. Volunteers provide bowling opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Saturday mornings and afternoons.

Just Fun Club

Arc volunteers organize monthly activities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, 16 years and older. Activities include: hotdog roast, monthly dances (Halloween, Country Western, Hawaiian Lau, Valentines, St. Patty's, Chicken Dinner), an ice cream social, and a semi-formal Christmas dinner dance. The Arc NW office manager and program services assistant support these activities.

Volunteer Operated Fundraisers

The Arc NW is known for being reliable, effective, and responsive to the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This reputation is the result of effective fund development needed to operate an office of knowledgeable professionals to meet the needs of our members and the community at large.

Annual Dinner Dance & Annual Golf Outing

The continued success of the Annual Dinner Dance and Golf Outing are the direct result of many hard working dedicated volunteers. Funding from these events support The Arc NW's advocacy services.

Athletic Program Fundraisers

Volunteers spend countless hours throughout the year raising funds through Millionaire Parties and a Bowl-A-Thon to pay for uniforms, gym, and tournament fees.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2017 Financial Statements (audit) were completed by Cole, Newton and Duran, Inc. and will be available for review after June 13th, 2018. The Arc NW operates within the calendar year, January through December. The board of directors approved the 2017 budget which included funding to add a development director and development software. Beth Kohler was hired as the new Development Director on January 28, 2018 and Bloomerang software was purchased in April 2018. December 2017 Profit & Loss report indicates \$863,070.87 income and \$655,648.91 expense resulting in a year end surplus of \$207,421.96.

**Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.
The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.**

Thomas A. Edison

VOLUNTEERS

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County appreciates and commends the contributions and talents of all our volunteers. The Arc NW 2017-2018 plaque honors the names of over 200 volunteers who shared many hours to help with fundraisers, coaching, mailings, office tasks, building maintenance, and much more. All the volunteers work and efforts help The Arc improve the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The plaque commemorating Arc volunteers is proudly hung in the main hall of The Arc NW building commemorating their work. *We apologize if we missed anyone's name. Please let us know so we can include those names on the next plaque.*

The Arc NW thanks the continued support provided from the Zeta Tau Alpha volunteers who prepare The Arc NW's newsletters for mailing. These sorority members travel from far and wide. The Arc NW is very grateful for Zeta Tau Alpha's many years of assistance!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Improving Lives

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY

The Arc assisted 6,027 contacts in 2017 through one on one consultations, public trainings, and information sessions on important issues that affect the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Navigating complex service systems to assure entitlement supports for person centered services from local school districts, Medicaid Providers, Social Security Administration, Department of Human Services, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, etc.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County actively participates on the Howell Group, The Arc Coalition of Wayne County, The Arc Michigan Conference of Executive Directors, Michigan Special Education Advisory Committee, The Arc Michigan Government Affairs Committee, The Arc Michigan Education Committee, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board Meetings and Committees, Michigan Department of Community Health Developmental Disability Practice Improvement Team, and other pertinent local and state committees. Members and staff attend a variety of training seminars and conferences to stay abreast of best practices through state of the art policies and programs. In addition, The Arc of Northwest Wayne County staff presented information about relevant topics at local and state organization's conferences and training sessions.

LEKOTEK

The Arc Lekotek program is an affiliate of the National Lekotek Center in Chicago, Illinois. In 2017, The Arc Lekotek program had 453 contacts with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members and friends through individual and group play sessions in 2017. The Arc's Lekotek Play Leader, Lana Richardson, facilitated fun interactive typical childhood play for children with special needs. Families enjoyed access to an inventory of hundreds of typical and adapted toys during each scheduled Lekotek play session and then select toys to borrow for fun at home. Lana Richardson also provided parents consultations regarding their child's play and interactive abilities and information about other services and supports for their family's unique needs. Lana is trained and certified by the National Lekotek Center.

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JUST FUN CLUB

174 Just Fun Club (JFC) members participated in monthly events, including dances and community outings. Each year the committee plans new outings and experiences for the participants including the Annual Kickoff Hot Dog Roast in September, the Ice Cream Social, Holiday Dinner and Spaghetti Dinner Dance. Jackie Norris is the Just Fun Club Committee Chairperson.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The Arc Athletic Program volunteers provide sport activity opportunities to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sports activities include; bowling, swimming, basketball, track and field, softball, team handball, soccer, and poly hockey. Janice Bearden is the Athletic Program committee chairperson coordinating the volunteer coaches and, chaperons, fundraisers, venues, practice schedules, Area and State tournaments for 149 athletes with disabilities.

AFTER I'M GONE PROJECT

The After I'm Gone program had 596 contacts that provided important information and guidance on subjects such as; housing, special needs wills and trust, advance funeral planning, alternatives to guardianship, writing a letter of intent, and other topics to future planning. Michelle Driscoll, Advocacy and Community Resource Director manages the After I'm Gone program.

SELF-DETERMINATION / FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES

Fiscal intermediary services were provided to 160 people participating in the Community Living Services, Inc. Self Determination Voucher Program in 2017. Fiscal Intermediary Services help individuals live self determined lives; they choose where and with whom they live and decide if they want to receive direct care support from either a staffing agent or directly hire their staff. An annual audit is conducted to assure that Fiscal Intermediary Services uphold Medicaid and Social Security requirements through state and federal generally accepted accounting principles.

GAIN - GUARDIANSHIP ALTERNATIVES INFORMATION NETWORK

GAIN had 349 contacts that provided information about the legal alternatives to guardianship for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. GAIN is an information and referral network, promoting Self-Determination through the legal alternatives to guardianship including: power of attorney for healthcare, patient advocate, joint bank accounts, power of attorney for finances, trustee, conservator, representative payee, etc.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

The Arc provided monthly meetings on a variety of topics including Social Security, Housing, Respite Care, Home Help, Special Education, Alternatives to Guardianship, Person Centered Planning, Self-Determination, Detroit-Wayne County's Managed Comprehensive Provider Network, and other topics of interest to members and the community.

NEWSLETTER

Nine issues of "Inside The Arc" were published and mailed monthly to 435 individuals, families, and Organizations. Newsletters were also available to nonmembers on The Arc NW web site, thearcnw.org. Fliers, brochures, and informational documents were distributed throughout the year sharing information and announcing educational and/or recreational opportunities for individuals and their families.

WEB SITE/SOCIAL NETWORK

The Arc NW provides valuable information 24/7 regarding topics that affect our mission, vision, and position statements on its website www.thearcnw.org and Facebook page. Monthly newsletters are mailed to members and current and past editions are also available on the website.

UNITED WAY for Southeastern Michigan

United Way continued the contract with The Arc Collaborative for Southeast Michigan in 2017 with a focus on services that promote financial stability. The Arc Collaborative members include The Arc of Northwest Wayne County and the Arcs of Western Wayne County, Dearborn/Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Downriver, Macomb and Oakland Counties with The Arc Michigan acting as the lead fiduciary. The Arc Collaborative meetings are held at The Arc of Northwest Wayne County.

FUNDRAISING

2017 organizational fundraising events included the Dinner Dance, Golf Outing, 4- Millionaire Parties, and a Bowl-A-Thon. The dedication and hard work many fantastic volunteers made the 2017 events successful once again!

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Public policy, its oversight and development, is an important role of The Arc NW as it pertains to the well being of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc NW has a volunteer governmental affairs committee as one of the standing committees to the board of directors. In 2017, Arc staff and volunteers met with local and state legislators to promote public policy that supports the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as The Arc NW's vision and mission. The Arc NW Jean Walsh, government affairs committee chairperson, Kathy Pfuhler, board member, and Christine Lerchen, executive director participated in the 2017 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. promoting The Arc NW vision and mission to members of Congress.