Lana Richardson Celebrates 25 Years as Arc NW Staff

For Lana Richardson, working with children who have disabilities is more than a job, it’s a calling. She recalls being 12 years old and observing a group of kids her age at school who were learning in their own classroom. Lana was immediately drawn to these youth with disabilities and knew she wanted to be part of making a difference in their lives.

Early in her career Lana worked in daycare centers and preschools and readily demonstrated her gift for connecting with children who have learning differences. Her passion became working one-on-one with children who needed extra support and understanding.

On February 1, 1994 Lana began working with the Latchkey program through The Arc NW at the urging of her niece. After three years she became the Director. During this time, she worked in the Community Participation Program for individuals 26 years and older, helping them to be included in community activities. She also worked at The Arc NW summer camp for teens and young adults.
All this experience was a springboard to Lana’s dream job of being the Lekotek Leader at The Arc NW which she began in 2000. Lekotek is a national program that provides monthly play sessions and a toy lending library for children with disabilities ages 12 and under. Lana’s duties include leading play experiences with children and their caregivers, providing play to school groups, giving presentations to parent groups, and supervising the Toy Librarian.

Lana finds that child-directed play is important for self-discovery, socialization, and helping parents learn how to interact with their child. She understands toys as “children’s tools for learning” and the play sessions a welcome departure from therapy and the structure of school. “Play is the cornerstone for being part of the community,” Lana says. She is providing a gateway for a future of successful inclusion and employment.

When asked what she loves most about her job Lana says, “I love watching the kids grow, supporting families, and being an advocate for them. I’ve grown a lot too.” Lana exudes patience and a gentle presence which immediately attracts kids of all ages. Children who come to The Arc in a grumpy mood immediately brighten with smiles and hugs when they see Ms. Lana! One of the most rewarding things for Lana has been watching these kids grow into adulthood over her 25 years with The Arc NW.

Lana has seen a lot of changes in programs and staff at the Arc NW but remarks how blessed she feels to share in this important mission with such an excellent team. She hopes that The Arc NW will continue to expand and reach more people who need services. Over the last few decades society has come a long way with including individuals with disabilities and not using hurtful labels. She hopes that job opportunities will increase and those with disabilities will be even more integral in community life.

Lana has given so much to The Arc NW, and to families over these past 25 years. We cannot thank her enough for her dedication, her faithful commitment and her huge heart. We congratulate her on this milestone and thank her for blessing all of us with the special person that she is!
**Amy Pomicter  Claims Processor/Accounting Assistant**

Amy holds a bachelor’s degree in finance from Wayne State and a master’s in professional accountancy from Walsh College. She has experience working for Michigan National and Comerica Banks reconciling accounts, posting invoices, maintaining accounts payable records, working with vendors, and troubleshooting account issues. She is detail-oriented, motivated, and a solid team player. Most important, she has a heart for the mission of The Arc and has benefitted from The Arc NW advocacy services.

**Wendy Ernzen  Director of Development**

Wendy Ernzen holds a bachelor of science degree in Finance from Oakland University and a master of public administration degree from UM. She has extensive experience in nonprofit development including event planning, grant writing, administration of corporate and individual giving, and procurement of major gifts. She is currently the Chair of Transportation Riders United advocating for inclusive public transportation in Detroit. She has a personal passion for The Arc NW’s mission as she has a daughter with a disability.

---

**The Arc of Northwest Wayne County**
**The Arc of Western Wayne County**

**After I’m Gone Program**

**February 14**

“Social Security & the Dept. of Human Services” Speaker will discuss the programs and services available to your son or daughter with a disability, including SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Food Assistance and Adult Home Help.

**February 28**

“Supporting People in Decision Making” Attorney Roxanne Chang will discuss the various options for supporting people in making important decisions, such as Power of Attorney, Representative Payee Status, and Trusts.

Information sessions are held monthly during the school year at
**Western Wayne Skill Center/Garfield Community School**
10218 Arthur St., Livonia, MI 48150
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Interested in Serving on The Board of Directors of The Arc NW?**

We’re seeking individuals wishing to contribute their time, experience and resources to furthering The Arc NW’s mission of “support, information and advocacy” on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental abilities. We’ve come a long way - and there is still much to be done!

Contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Rebecca Wenglinski at beckpolska@gmail.com or call her at 313-378-9876.
Happy New Year!
What a FABULOUS way to end 2018 with our annual Christmas Dance with over 200 people at the Hellenic Center on Dec. 15th. We were served a delicious dinner and yummy dessert. Everyone enjoyed dancing to so many songs that the Trademark Band played for us. Many of the members and their families visited the photo booth to have their colorful pictures taken. It was so much fun wearing the silly glasses and hats. Santa also visited us going table to table to shake hands. He also enjoyed having his picture taken on the dance floor!

Our Hawaiian Luau Dance was held on Friday, Jan.11, at Thurston High School. We had 200 people attend and enjoy cheese, pepperoni or vegetable pizza with salad, pop, water and ice cream cups! Trademark Band ROCKED the night away with so many awesome songs to dance to. There were also colorful Hawaiian leis, head bands and necklaces for everyone to choose from.

Our raffle winners were:

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Dances:
- Valentine Dance, Friday, Feb. 8, 7:00-9:30, $3.00 (at the door) Thurston High School.
- St. Patrick’s Dance, Friday, March 15, 7:00-9:30, $3.00(at the door) Thurston High School
- Chicken Dinner Dance, Friday, April 12, 6:30-9:30, $ 5.00 (MUST pre-pay at the Arc by Apr. 5) Canton High School
- Ice Cream Social Dance, Friday, May 10, 6:30-9:30, $5.00, (MUST pre-pay at the Arc by May 3) Canton High School

Happy Winter, Jackie Norris

Happy 2019 and Valentine’s Day Everyone

WESTLAND BOWL is the new location
For May 3rd Sport Program Bowling Fundraiser
Westland Bowl is located on Wayne Rd. in Westland
Lots & lots of room. Start getting your group together.

Basketball has started. Thank you coaches for getting your rosters to me so quickly. Upcoming basketball tournaments: February 16th at Franklin High School. District tournament March 2nd at either Northville or Saline High School. State Tournament weekend of March 15 & 16. Lady Hot Shots will be attending. Men’s team must win both games at District tournament to attend. Good Luck, Everyone!

Field & Track season starts Tuesday February 12th 7pm at Franklin High School Fieldhouse.
Swimming season starts Sunday February 17th at Schoolcraft College, 4-5pm for beginner swimmers and 5-6pm for advanced swimmers. Congratulations to Swim Coach Addie and her husband on the upcoming arrival on newest little dolphin in their family Baby Newberry who is due the first of February. Tournament dates for these sports: Area Spring Games - May 10. State Summer Games - May 30-June 1.

Health forms Parents can call the Arc, speak to Lana, she’ll check your Son’s or Daughter’s health form for date before the season even starts. Health forms expire 3 years from date of doctor’s exam. If new form is needed visit The Arc or SOMI website to obtain one. Form must not expire before June 1st.
Coaches of field/track, swimming check the dates of expiration on your athletes, volunteers, & yourself. If they expire on or before June 1st new forms or certifications are needed. Health Forms must be current when season starts.

Thank you, Everyone – Janice Bearden
Volunteers needed for a research study: Assessing the effect of an inhaler demonstration on performance of inhaler technique by people with intellectual or developmental disabilities

You are invited to learn more about a research project that is being conducted by researchers from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy. The study will determine whether people who have an intellectual disability can use and learn how to use an inhaler by viewing a commonly used internet-based inhaler educational video. I am looking for people who do NOT use inhalers, who are age 18 years and older, and who is a person who has an intellectual disability. People who complete the study will receive a $10 gift card as a thank you for participating.

Whether you are a person with an intellectual disability or you are a person who supports a person with an intellectual disability, contact me if you are interested in learning more about this study. My name is Steve Erickson and I can be reached at phone number 734 763 4989 or by email at serick@med.umich.edu.

GUYS & DOLLS
SATURDAY AFTERNOON BOWLING

OAK LANES.
30 weeks of Saturday afternoon bowling.
If you are interested in joining please contact:
Jim Gallas  248-318-8856 (cell) or jagallas@comcast.net

The Arc Early Birds Bowling League

We bowl every other Saturday morning at 9:00 at Oak Lanes on Middlebelt in Livonia. It's a fun league made up of bowlers with a variety of skill levels. If you want to join, please call Vicki Soto at 734-422-3732.
If you hear of the passing of an Arc member please let us know. Help us honor the memories of our members and support one another through difficult times.

Call The Arc NW office at 313-532-7915
# The Arc of Northwest Wayne County

**February 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image10" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image11" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image12" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image13" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image14" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image15" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image16" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image17" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image18" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image19" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image20" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image21" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image22" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image23" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image24" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image25" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image26" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image27" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image28" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image29" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image30" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image31" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image32" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image33" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image34" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image35" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image36" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image37" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image38" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image39" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image40" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image41" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image42" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image43" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image44" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image45" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image46" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image47" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image48" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image49" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image50" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image51" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image52" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image53" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image54" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image55" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image56" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image57" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image58" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image59" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image60" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image61" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image62" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image63" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Arc NW Dinner Dance**
Saturday February 23, 2019
Laurel Manor Livonia

**2019 Annual Meeting**
Wednesday February 27, 2019
Laurel Manor Livonia

**CHECK IT OUT!**
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County’s
Web Site
thearcnw.org

Friend us on Facebook
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
Each edition of this newsletter is prepared for mailing by volunteers from Zeta Tau Alpha.

Inside The Arc is also available online at thearcnw.org
Call 313-532-7915 to end your printed mailed newsletter.

Membership Application

Name ______________________________________ Daytime Phone_________________________

Email Address ___________________________ Address ____________________________________________

City _________________________________ State _____________ Zip________________

Name __________________________________________________ Birth Date______________

(Name line above for member(s) with intellectual and developmental disability)

Address (if different) ___________________________________________________________

Telephone (if different) _________________________________________________________

Welcome!

Membership Dues

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member ☐ Associate Member

☐ $35 Annual Family or Group Home Membership

☐ $25 Individual Membership

☐ $25 Associate Membership

DONATIONS ☐ $10 ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $150 ☐ ______ Other