

Highlights

In 2018 The Arc NW had over 6,000 contacts through advocacy and programs.

After I'm Gone (AIG)

- Funding through Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority
- The Arc NW provided 550 contacts with families in 2018
- AIG helps families plan for the future of loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Guardianship Alternatives Information Network (GAIN)

- Funding through Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority
- The Arc NW provided 492 contacts with families in 2018
- GAIN helps families consider decision-making that supports a self-determined life

Lekotek

- The Arc NW runs Michigan's ONLY toy lending library for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Funding through Detroit

Wayne Mental Health Authority

- Lekotek had 30 member families in 2018
- The Arc NW provided 452 contacts with children and families through play sessions, home visits, group sessions, and presentations.

Fiscal Intermediary Services

- In 2018 The Arc NW provided payroll services to support 163 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live self-determined lives
- The Arc NW supported 180 direct care workers in 2018 earning a total of \$2,036,777 adding value to the local economy
- Hired new staff in positions of Administrative Assistant and Claims/Accounting Assistant

Volunteers and Members

- More than 200 volunteers give 2,700+ hours annually, \$67,000 in value!

•In 2018 The Arc NW had 430 members

Just Fun Club

- In 2018, 193 people were Just Fun Club members
- The group sponsored 9 events: hotdog roast, Halloween dance, country western dance, Christmas dinner dance, Hawaiian luau, Valentine's dance, St. Patrick's dance, chicken dinner dance, ice cream social.

Arc NW Athletic Programs

- In 2018 172 members participated on teams and in competitions
- 20 volunteer coaches held over 100 practices and games in 2018
- Arc NW members participated in Special Olympics competitions
- Bowling fundraiser and millionaire parties raise funds for Arc NW athletic programs

Arc NW Advocacy

- Arc NW advocates have relationships with 65 schools and more than 1,700 contacts to provide educational support in 2018
- The Arc NW's Executive Director is consistently involved with The Arc of MI to stay aware of current governmental affairs impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families
- The Executive Director and a board member advocated for policy change at the Disability Policy Conference in Washington DC.
- The Executive Director and several board members attended the Michigan Disability Policy Conference in Lansing.

How To Get Involved



Make a Gift

Give to Arc NW Endowment

A group of parents started The Arc NW seeking equal education for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Their vision was full inclusion for people with I/DD in all aspects of life. Your gift to the Arc NW Endowment Fund ensures this work will continue for generations to come. Thank you!



Raise Funds

Support Our Signature Events

Whether you join a committee, donate, or attend an event, your involvement is critical to the success of our signature events allowing us to provide lifelong support to children and adults with disabilities.

Our signature events include:

- Millionaire parties 4 times/year
- Golf Outing May 17, 2020
- Dinner Dance February 29, 2020



Volunteer

Give of your time

In addition to our signature events, The Arc NW has many volunteer opportunities including:

- Just Fun Club
- Arc Athletics and bowling
- Newsletter and administration
- Fix-it jobs around the building
- Clean-up projects
- Lekotek Toy Drive
- Inclusion Awareness Reading Program



The ArcTM
Northwest Wayne County

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

ADVOCACY. EDUCATION. INDEPENDENCE.

To learn more or get involved today, email info@thearcnw.org or call 313-532-7915.

Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

We are in desperate need of a world where everyone is someone and no one is left out. This is why the work of The Arc is critical. What a thrill it is to lead an organization that creates real life choices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities which, in turn, creates inclusion for all people.

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's mission remains steadfast while we embrace exciting organizational change. In 2018 long-time Executive Director, Chris Lerchen, retired and I had the great privilege of inheriting a healthy, dynamic Arc chapter.

The success of The Arc NW comes from committed volunteers and members. Advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities continues to be the heart of The Arc NW's work. It's projected that the number of Michigan adults with disabilities will grow to 200,000 by 2030. The Arc NW plans to get ahead of that need! This year we shifted staff roles to increase the capacity of our advocates. The Arc NW will partner with an intern to expand fiscal intermediary services and to multiply advocacy. Development efforts will focus on community partners, donors, and grants to provide a sustainable financial base for increasing advocacy efforts.

The Arc NW's programs remain strong reaching a growing number of families. This year launched our plan to expand the Lekotek play/toy lending program. We will bring Lekotek into the community for maximum inclusion and to reach more families. We will cultivate relationships with major donors

and apply for grants to sustain growth into the future. The Arc will work with an intern who will help with this outreach and development.

New staff joined The Arc NW this year in the roles of Lekotek Librarian, Administrative Assistant, Claims and Accounting Assistant, and Director of Development. This dedicated staff team goes above and beyond to serve Arc members. With a growing staff, The Arc NW needed technology upgrades. We started with improving the computer system and internet service for greater effectiveness and lower costs. Next steps are realigning office space and upgrading the phone system to help staff better serve members. The Board appointed a building committee to consider needs for future growth and whether the current building space and location will serve our purposes.

We are so grateful for more than 200 volunteers who gave over 2,700 hours in 2018. This represents a \$67,000 value to the organization and a priceless value to the communities we serve. Volunteers work tirelessly on fundraisers supplying about 20% of revenue in 2018. Volunteers supported Arc NW athletic programs, bowling, and The Just Fun Club providing rewarding health and social opportunities for participants.

The Arc NW is poised for our most successful year yet in 2019. We are committed to the fight for full inclusion so all people can live their best lives.

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director

Our Staff

Gretchen Sanewsky,
Executive Director

Latrice Wilborn,
Office Manager

Michelle Driscoll,
Advocacy and
Community
Resource Director

Chesley Giertz,
Advocate

Wendy Erzen,
Director of
Development

Sandra Dobson,
Program Assistant

Amy Pomicter,
Claims & Accounting
Assistant

Branden Powell,
Administrative
Assistant

Lana Richardson,
Lekotek Play Leader

Katie Perkins,
Lekotek Librarian

Celebrating Success: Xavier & Tracey



When Xavier was two-years-old he had his first individualized education program (IEP) to meet his unique needs. His mother, Tracey, remembers being totally overwhelmed and emotionally drained (see photo on left). It was then that Xavier started coming to Lekotek at The Arc NW. "Xavier adores coming to play with Ms. Lana," she beams. Lekotek offers play sessions and a toy lending library, the only one of its kind in Michigan. In these play sessions Xavier can be himself, freely explore his interests and strengths, while gaining important socialization skills.

Through their participation in Lekotek, Tracey met Michelle, an Arc NW Advocate. As Xavier was transitioning from preschool to kindergarten, the school recommended that he go to a special education class. Tracey believed an inclusive experience would best help Xavier grow, and Michelle was there to support them. With Michelle's guidance Xavier has supports like speech-to-text for writing assignments to show his content knowledge. Most important, Michelle helped the teaching team understand that Xavier's

challenging behavior was not a discipline problem, but him asking for help.

When Xavier started middle school this year, The Arc NW continued providing robust support through Lekotek and advocacy. With anxiety about starting over in a new environment, Tracey worried, "Would everyone see Xavier as I do - the smart, sweet, funny and kind little boy who lights up my life, or would they only see his struggles?" A few months in, when Xavier struggled, The Arc's advocacy helped his team of teachers come together to support him so he could learn from his mistakes in a positive way.

Tracey says, "I can honestly say that the last few months of school have been the best of Xavier's career...He is more independent...[he's] making new friends. He is more confident...happier and more successful at school than ever before."

Support from The Arc NW since the beginning helped Xavier grow and supported Tracey to become an expert advocate for them both. We all share the joy of Xavier's success!



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Our Mission

Building inclusive communities
through advocacy, support,
and information.