For nearly sixty years, The Arc of Northwest Wayne County has served people with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome. We offer lifelong support and build inclusion through advocacy, resources, and information. \textit{This work is only possible because of donations from people like you.}

How does your generosity help others? Let me share a story with you about the Radons.

The Radons welcomed Sean into the world on Valentine’s Day. Because of his disabilities, the hospital kept him for another three months and then all of his therapies started when he arrived home.

The many appointments, therapies, and home practices became consuming for the Radons with constant, hard work— but they didn’t want to miss one opportunity to help their son improve. \textit{“As a parent, you do everything you possibly can,”} his mother Janice said.

When Sean was five, the school district wanted to place him in a special education classroom, but his parents didn’t. That’s when Janice heard about The Arc of Northwest Wayne County. Not only did The Arc team help get Sean enrolled in general education with support, but they also introduced the family to Lekotek.

\textbf{Lekotek is the only toy lending library for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the state of Michigan} with hundreds of toys to choose from. It turned into a gateway of support for the Radons.

“It was such a blessing. It made therapy fun! We learned to play as a family.” They could try out toys, borrow six each month, use them as motivation to reach milestones, and just play. Over time, Sean learned to walk, communicate without words, and connect with others.

Lekotek also brought her sons closer. “The boys were five years apart, and Jon, Sean’s brother, didn’t know how to play with him. But Lekotek changed that.”
The Arc
Northwest Wayne County
26049 Five Mile Road
Redford, MI 48239
Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488
www.thearcnw.org

Next Board Meeting
December 10, 2019

2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Kathy Pfuhler
VICE PRESIDENT Greg Wittrock
SECRETARY Rana Ramouni
TREASURER Susan Gardynik
PAST PRESIDENT Jean Walsh

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Marianne Licari Heidi Warren
Ryan Klotz Bill Winkler
Roxanne Riggio

STAFF
Executive Director: Gretchen Sanewsky
Advocacy & Community Resource Director: Michelle Driscoll
Director of Development: Wendy Ernzen
Programs & Services Assistant: Sandra Dobson
Advocate: Chesley Giertz
Lekotek Play Leader: Lana Richardson
Lekotek Librarian: Katie Perkins
Claims Processor: Amy Pomicter
Accounts Payable Clerk: Diamond Watkins
Office Manager: Latrice Wilborn

Achieve with us.

Make a Difference in
Schools this March!

EVERYONE BELONGS

Would you like to volunteer during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month?

• Read to 2nd graders
• Help build an understanding of inclusion
• Training and lunch included!

Contact Robin for more information at:
rcook@thearcnw.org
313-532-7915

For more information, visit our website at www.thearcnw.org.

Wishing you happy holidays and a joyous New Year!

With gratitude from the Board and Staff of The Arc NW
Their favorite was the card game Uno. “Sean loved Uno, and he was good at it! The boys would play all the time growing up. And even when Sean was in the hospital, they would play as a team against others online. Almost every time they’d win - and then they would high five! They developed an unbreakable bond.”

Sean passed away earlier this year at the age of thirty-two. Janice shared, "Everyone said that Sean inspired them. He was here for a reason. He may not have spoken and he walked later than expected, but he was the same as everyone else. Because of The Arc, he lived a great life."

We have started to expand Lekotek this year, and our plan is to grow from 452 play sessions to 1,000 each year by 2027. But Lekotek is just one of the programs we offer. Families also need help navigating the complicated system of supports and services. We provide educational advocacy to help them access the best education for their children. Adults can build social skills, friendships, and healthy lives through our Athletic Program and Just Fun Club. Families can get help transitioning their loved one from school to adult life, planning their future, and managing benefits and caregiving.

**Will you make a special year-end gift of $50, $100, or $500 to help more families like the Radons?**  Make your gift online through our website at [www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org) or call Wendy Ernzen at 248-532-2915, ext. 208 to make your donation today. With your generosity, many more people with disabilities will get the chance to live their best lives.

Best,
Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director

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**Christmas Dinner Dance**

**Just Fun Club**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

Hellenic Center in Westland

2:00-6:30 PM

Must pre-pay $15 at The Arc NW by December 2, 2019

*Special thanks to the Edward and Evelyn Dik Family Foundation for covering extra costs for this fun event!*
Information sessions are held monthly during the school year at

**Western Wayne Skill Center/Garfield Community School**
10218 Arthur St., Livonia, MI 48150

and at

**Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School**
36075 Currier, Wayne, MI 48184
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Please RSVP: 734-729-9100 or 313-532-7915 ext 204

info@thearcww.org
mdriscoll@thearcnw.org

Check our website for info on webinars beginning in October!

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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| January 9, 2020    | **After I’m Gone Program** at Western Wayne Skill Center/Garfield Community School
|                    | Transition Planning and Turning 18                     |
| January 15, 2020   | **After I’m Gone Program** at Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary
|                    | Transition Planning and Turning 18                     |
| January 30, 2020   | **After I’m Gone Program** at Western Wayne Skill Center/Garfield Community School
|                    | Beyond Group Homes                                     |
| January 21, 2020   | **After I’m Gone Program** 2:00-4:00pm via Zoom webinar
|                    | Transition Planning and Turning 18                     |
|                    | You MUST RSVP via email in order to get participation  |
|                    | login: info@thearcww.org                               |

What a fantastic turn out we had for our **Hawaiian Luau pizza dance**! It was held on Friday Nov. 15 in the new Thurston High School cafeteria. We served pizza, salad, ice cream cups, and pop to over 230 folks. Our entertainment was provided by Trademark. We would like to give a special thank-you to all the Girl Scouts in troop #77302 for the candy that they provided for our tables. We appreciate you thinking of all of our members!

**Our upcoming JFC Calendar of Events for the 2019-2020 year:**

Dec. 8, 2:00-6:30 p.m. *Christmas Dinner/Dance*, (Dinner served at 2:30 p.m.) Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Rd., Westland. MUST pre-pay $15 at The Arc by Monday Dec. 2, 2019.

Jan. 10, 6:30-9:00 p.m. *Country Western Dance*, Thurston High School cafeteria, $3.00 at the door

Feb. 14, 6:30-9:00 p.m. *Valentine Dance*, Thurston High School cafeteria, $3.00 at the door

March 13, 6:30-9:00 p.m. *St. Patty’s Dance*, Thurston High School cafeteria, $3.00 at the door

April 17, 6:30-9:00 p.m. *Chicken Dinner Dance*, Canton High School, MUST pre-pay $5.00 at the Arc by Thursday, Apr. 9, 2020

May 8, 6:30-9:00 p.m. *Ice Cream Social Dance*, Canton High School, MUST pre-pay $5.00 at the Arc by Friday, May 1, 2020

Happy Holidays to All, Jackie Norris
Basketball is starting!! See the right column of the calendar inside the newsletter for the date, time, and location of when practice will be starting for your team. Remember to check with your coach or Lana to make sure your health form is current. If your health form is expired, or will be expiring during the basketball season (through March 2020), you must update it before the season starts or you cannot practice. Tournament dates for basketball are: Area: Feb. 15, 2020, District: Mar. 7, 2020 (men or mixed teams only), if you win District, State Tournament Mar. 20-21, 2020.

Coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers, athletes
On Dec. 17th please come to Cooper Elementary, located on Ann Arbor Trail in Westland, between 6-8pm. The sports program will be highlighted in the 2020 Arc Dinner Dance video, and the video company will be at Cooper school filming. The Arc would like as many athletes, coaches, and volunteers to be in attendance. If you’d like to come & be part of the video please call or email me closer to Dec. 17th for the exact time.
Thanks to everyone for all your volunteering, time, and help you’ve donated to the sports program in 2019. This wonderful program brings much joy and friendships to so many people; without you it would not be possible.

Enjoy your family and friends and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ~ Janice

Basketball Team Schedules

**Pistons Basketball**
Monday December 2, 2019 - March 16, 2020
7:00PM – 8:00PM Riley north gym

**Wolverines Basketball**
Monday December 2, 2019 – March 2, 2020
7:00PM – 8:00PM Cooper

**Wildcats Basketball**
Monday December 9, 2019 – March 16, 2020
5:45 PM – 6:45PM Riley

**Hotshots Basketball**
Tuesday December 10, 2019 – March 17, 2020
6:00PM – 7:00PM Cooper

**Lightning Basketball**
Tuesday December 10, 2019 – March 17, 2020
7:00PM – 8:00PM Cooper

GUYS & DOLLS
SATURDAY AFTERNOON BOWLING

**OAK LANES**
New bowlers are being invited to join us, but NOT UNTIL NEXT SEASON.
To register for bowling beginning in September, please contact:
Jim Gallas  248-318-8856 (cell) or jagallas@comcast.net

The Arc NW
EARLY BIRD BOWLING
We bowl every other Saturday morning at 9:00 am 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.
**BALL FOR ALL | 2020 Dinner Dance**

**FEBRUARY 29, 2020**

**6:30 PM-12:00 AM**

Laurel Manor | 39000 Schoolcraft Rd. | Livonia, MI | 48150

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**This year help us celebrate athletes and coaches from Arc NW Athletics**

**Tickets $95 per person | $65 per person with a disability**

Includes dinner | vegetarian option upon request

**RSVP BY FEBRUARY 1, 2020 AND ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL RAFFLE**

Laurel Manor | 39000 Schoolcraft Road | Livonia

Open Bar | Dinner | Raffles | Live Band & Dancing

---

**Purchase raffle tickets now and save!**

Tickets will be full price the night of the event

**PRE-EVENT PRICE:** 10 TICKETS FOR $20.00

**EVENT PRICE:** 6 TICKETS FOR $20.00

Raffle tickets good for chance to win great prizes. Must be present to win. 50/50 raffle at event. Tickets available at www.thearcnw.org.

All proceeds benefit Arc NW Programs

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**Ball for All Committee**

Cynthia Bryant
Luke Contos
David DiPonio
Chris Lenchen
Marianne Licari
Vince Licari
Bill Winkler

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**The Arc NW Board**

Kathleen Pflueger
Gregory Wittrock
Susan Gardynik
Rana Roumani
Jean Walsh
Ryan Klutz
Marianne Licari
Roxanne Riggio
Heidi Warren
Bill Winkler

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Past President
Director
Director
Director
Director

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**Our Gold Sponsors**

Building Bridges Foundation
DTE Foundation
EMAGINE

26049 Five Mile Road | Redford, MI | 48240 | 313-532-7915 | www.thearcnw.org
Dear Friends,

In 1992 The United Nations established an international day of celebration for people living with disabilities to be held on December 3 each year. As their website describes, this day is owned by everyone who has a vital role in “identifying and addressing discrimination, marginalization, exclusion and inaccessibility” faced by many people with disabilities. “It is one day on the international calendar, yet it symbolizes the actions we should take every day, in order to create diverse and accepting communities.” This year the theme is “The Future Is Accessible,” which means that we must strive toward a future where barriers that stand in people’s way no longer exist. (www.idpwd.org)

Do you ever wonder what countries around the world are doing to meet this goal of a completely accessible future? Here are some of the good news highlights:

- In Nepal, the inclusion of people with sensory or physical limitations in schools was estimated to generate wage returns of 20%.

- In China, estimates indicated that each additional year of schooling for people with disabilities led to a wage increase of 5% for rural areas and 8% for urban areas.

- In Bangladesh, children who were provided with assistive devices (hearing aids or wheelchairs) were more likely to have completed primary school compared to those who did not receive any supports.

- In Pakistan, it was estimated that rehabilitating people with incurable blindness would lead to gross aggregate gains in household earnings of USD 71.8 million per annum.

- In the US, concerted efforts by Walgreens and Verizon to employ significant numbers of people with disabilities saw gains of 20% increase in productivity and a 67% return on investment, respectively. (www.idpwd.org/pages/the-case-for-why)

As we approach the holiday season, it’s nice to have some good news! Efforts toward full inclusion in many nations around the world are making a difference and improving the lives of our global community! Let’s join these voices in securing an accessible future for all!

Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director

December 3, 2019
The 30th Anniversary of ADA coming up!
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The Arc US will be in touch with local chapters about honoring this important milestone.

There will be a presidential disability forum January 13, 2020 in Austin, TX. This will be live streamed and The Arc US will let chapters know when and how to access it.

In addition, here’s an online link filled with toolkits and ideas for celebrating and commemorating the 30th ADA anniversary:

https://adata.org/ada-anniversary
Memorials

In Memory of
Walter Balaka
Bonita Jarlock
Lana Richardson

In Memory of
Sean Radon
Richard and Loren Parker

In Memory of
John Norton
Paul and Nancy Johnson
Laura Drlik & Carol Weyand

The Arc NW is sad to learn of the recent passing of Karen Beatty, daughter of long time members Gordon and Barbara Beatty.

Karen Beatty passed away on November 8, 2019.
We offer our condolences to the Beatty Family.

Donations

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

Thank You
# December 2019

**The Arc Northwest Wayne County**

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Wolverines  
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Cooper | Giving Tuesday |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Christmas Dinner  
Dance  
Hellenic Center in Westland  
2:00-6:30pm | Basketball  
Wildcats  
5:45 - 6:45pm  
Riley Pistons  
7:00 - 8:00  
Riley North Gym  
Wolverines  
7:00 - 8:00pm  
Cooper | Basketball  
Hotshots  
6:00 - 7:00  
Cooper Lightning  
7:00 - 8:00pm  
Cooper | Early Birds  
Morning Bowling League  
9:00am  
Oak Lanes |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
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Riley North Gym  
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Cooper | Sports Video at Cooper |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| Hanukkah Starts | Basketball  
Wildcats  
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Riley North Gym  
Wolverines  
7:00 - 8:00pm  
Cooper | Christmas Day |  |  |  |  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |  |  |  |  |
| Hanukkah Ends | The Arc NW office will be closed December 23rd through January 1st. The office will re-open on January 2, 2020. |  |  |  |  |  |

The Arc NW Board Meeting  
December 10  
6:30pm  
Arc Office
### January 2020

#### Northwest Wayne County

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<td><strong>AIG &quot;Beyond Group Homes&quot;</strong>&lt;br&gt;Skill Center/Garfield 6:30 - 8:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Basketball Hotshots</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cooper Lightning</td>
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**CHECK IT OUT!**
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's Web Site thearcnw.org

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Each edition of this newsletter is prepared for mailing by volunteers.

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

Membership Application

Member Name(s) ________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ______________________            ZIP_______________

Daytime Phone __________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address __________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

PHOTO DISCLAIMER: By joining The Arc NW I am agreeing to have my image used for printed and online marketing efforts.
Signature: ____________________________________________________________________________

Membership Dues

O New Member
O Renewing Member

DONATIONS  O $25 Individual Membership
O $25
O $50
O $75

O $50 Family Membership
O $100 Organization

$100

Additional Membership Fees: $5 to join Just Fun Club
$15 to join Lekotek

An individual and his/her family or a group home with multiple residents. Includes additional membership fees for Just Fun Club and Lekotek.

Businesses, non-profits, community groups, or government entities that support people with disabilities.

Achieve with us!