

### Arc NW COVID-19 Update

We hope this finds everyone healthy and feeling positive during this time of pandemic. The Arc NW continues to follow CDC guidelines and the recommendations from Governor Whitmer. The state executive order #2020-96 issued this week of May 18-22, 2020 states retail businesses, and auto dealers by appointment, can open starting May 26, 2020. This order lifts the requirement that health care providers delay some nonessential medical, dental, and veterinary procedures beginning May 29. Also, small gatherings of 10 or less people can take place if they practice social distancing. It has been encouraging that manufacturing is slowly reopening which will boost our Michigan economy. Gov. Whitmer also announced that the stay-at-home order is in effect through June 12, 2020.

On June 1, The Arc NW will begin having more staff on site being very careful to practice strict hand washing, cleaning, and social distancing. We will slowly increase staff hours in the office as we are able during the month of June. Please continue to be understanding that, due to health and safety needs or care for loved ones, some staff will choose to continue working remotely for a time. Fortunately, we have been able to complete all our work and serve our members well with a combination of in-office and remote working.

We plan to open the building slowly and cautiously as well. Arc members and the public are still encouraged to call or email, rather than come into the building. In June at least 1-2 staff will be present in the building each weekday as is feasible. As always, you can call Gretchen's extension to leave a message for a return call 313-532-7195 ext. 203.

Beginning June 1, The Arc NW will reopen our Lekotek Toy Lending Library. We will have new requirements of dropping off toys in a bin outside the door for immediate washing. We will lend toys by setting them in a bin outside the door for pick up. We will also ensure that staff coming in contact with the toys have appropriate protective equipment to stay safe. During June we will be contacting families to let them know that the toy lending library is back in action.

Larger gatherings, such as Just Fun Club and athletics will still be on hold until further notice. Please see updates in this newsletter.

Please be cautious, practice physical distance and hand washing, and stay well!



26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, MI 48239  
Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488  
[www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org)

Next Board Meeting  
Via Conference Call

## 2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

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VICE PRESIDENT **Greg Wittrock**  
SECRETARY **Rana Ramouni**  
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United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan

## From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We probably just celebrated the strangest Memorial Day of our lives during this time of pandemic. This holiday has a good message for us as we try to move forward from COVID-19.

Memorial Day began in US Civil War times and was born out of the tradition of women in the South decorating graves to honor soldiers who gave their lives during military service. The first official proclamation of Memorial Day is attributed to General John Logan, the National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. In his General Order #11 in 1868, General Logan declared Memorial Day a time "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." Memorial Day is about figuring out how to move forward together after a sad, scary time when lives were lost and great sacrifices were made. ([www.usmemorialday.org](http://www.usmemorialday.org))

This sounds exactly like what we're doing now in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from terrible stories of loss of lives, jobs, income, and many other things, this pandemic has brought out those "fraternal feelings" and acts that bind us together. People have been generous in giving funds and protective equipment donations. People have shown great kindness and flexibility when things don't go as planned. Health care and essential workers have sacrificed their own wellbeing to serve others. These are the things that will be so important to remember months down the road. We are capable of incredible ingenuity and creativity during trying times. But mostly we show great love and compassion. It is my hope that COVID-19 helps move the world to be gentler and more inclusive. There is no more urgent time than now for The Arc to practice its mission with gusto! Thank you for being part of this mission that helps the whole world move forward as we heal from this pandemic!

Gretchen Sanewsky  
Executive Director



# All Arc NW Membership fees are due in September

Won't you join & support  
The Arc NW as a member?

The Arc NW provides advocacy, support and information on disability-related issues across the lifespan.

We seek - and work - to build a more  
inclusive community.

See the Membership form on the back page of this newsletter or join us online at  
[www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org)

*Achieve with us.*

Hello All Members and Families,

I hope this newsletter finds all of you healthy and safe. Due to the Covid-19 virus our annual hotdog roast that was scheduled for September is CANCELLED.

Currently the schools remain closed and I have not been able to reschedule any dates for our dances this year.

I hope everyone will continue practicing social distancing. Although this is disappointing for everyone, it is our goal to keep you all safe.

Wishing you a fun summer,  
Jackie Norris

## JUST FUN CLUB NEWS



### EARLY BIRDS Bowling League - Vickie Soto

As you know, the ARC morning league bowling season and banquet have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. We are planning to start up again on Saturday September 12th. If anything changes, it will be shown in The Arc NW Newsletter or The Arc NW Facebook page.



### Guys & Dolls Afternoon Bowling League - Jim Gallas

The remainder of the 2019/2020 Bowling Season is cancelled. Social Distancing guidelines and facility availability have also resulted in the end of Season Awards Banquet being delayed until the Fall Bowling Season resumes.

The 2020/2021 Fall Bowling Season is scheduled to start Saturday 9/12/2020 at Oak Lanes. The actual date is tentative. We will update this information as soon as we have better guidance.



## Exciting News

We have some great news to share with you. Recently, we were awarded two grants to help make our communities more inclusive. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan awarded a grant to help people with disabilities access Census 2020. The census allows the federal government to allocate resources across the country. It is critical that everyone, including you, complete it so the right resources reach our local communities. This project will be done in partnership with our Wayne County Arc Coalition partners: The Arc Detroit, The Arc of Western Wayne County, and The Arc of Dearborn. Find out how you can complete the census and more on our website.

The Margaret Dunning Foundation awarded a grant to help us evaluate our space. We have been expanding several programs to better serve you, but we are quickly outgrowing our facility. This grant will allow us to conduct a building assessment with a nonprofit facilities expert to help us understand the best way to maximize our space and resources to best serve you without overextending the organization. We look forward to sharing the results with you this fall.

Many thanks to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Margaret Dunning Foundation for investing in projects to help build communities where everyone belongs.



**How can you help children with disabilities support and services in school?  
Complete the Census!**

- Send your completed questionnaire to the U.S. Census Bureau National Processing Center at 1201 E 10th Street, Jeffersonville, IN 47132.
- Take the census by phone at 1-844-330-2020.
- Take the census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

Find out more at [www.thearc.org/census](http://www.thearc.org/census). Information brought to you by The Arc Dearborn, The Arc Detroit, The Arc NW, and The Arc WW through generous funding from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

**Community Foundation**  
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

## The work to build inclusion continues on.

**Advocacy.** Now that schools have resumed education remotely so has advocacy for special education - we have been supporting families including virtual IEP meetings. After I'm Gone sessions, workshops to help families and their loved ones with disabilities plan for their futures, continue online in partnership with The Arc of Western Wayne County. One more is coming up: **Estate Planning for Your Future** on June 9. Planning is also underway for new programs scheduled to launch this fall: a family support group, a sibling support group, and financial coaching for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please email Chesley at [cgiertz@thearcnw.org](mailto:cgiertz@thearcnw.org) if you would like to join the webinars, support groups, or coaching.

**Fiscal Services.** We continue to pay bills and payroll, monitor and maintain benefits, and support direct support professionals who are essential workers helping people with disabilities live their lives. We have also been fielding many new questions during COVID-19 including safety in the home, social security, and unemployment. We are working with several partners to develop creative solutions to address the direct support professional shortage and keep the system and supports in place.

**Lekotek.** We have been checking in with our Lekotek families to make sure they have what they need at this time. We have also recently sent them an annual survey to help refine the program and serve them better. With proper processes in place, we hope to resume toy lending this summer.

### Upcoming Dates

8/27/20 Annual Member Meeting

9/13/20 Golf Outing

9/18/20 Supporter Appreciation Breakfast

10/1/20 Census Day at The Arc NW

10/1/20 - 10/4/20 Millionaire Parties/Texas Hold 'Em

2/27/21 Ball for All, 2021 Dinner Dance, Celebrating 60 Years



## The Arc Sports News

Hi Everyone & Athletes. Nothing new to report, all sports are shut down until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please try to keep active by walking, swimming, bike riding or helping around the house. You can visit [SOMI.org](http://SOMI.org) and visit the Fitness page which will give you different workout ideas and how to stay active. Keep in touch with your friends with a phone call. Stay active and hope to see everyone soon.

Happy Summer & Stay safe

Janice

Mark your calendar...  
**NEW DATE!**  
September 13



## THE ARC NW 2020 GOLF OUTING

**NEW DATE!** Sunday, September 13  
8:35AM Shotgun Start  
Fox Creek Golf Course  
36000 Seven Mile Rd. | Livonia, MI

More outing details at [www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org)

### Will you join us for The Arc NW Golf Outing?

For two decades, the Golf Outing has raised funds to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year, we have moved the outing from its May date to **Sunday, September 13** in response to COVID-19. Sign up early - last year's event SOLD OUT! Check out The Arc NW website to learn more at

[www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org)

#### Arc NW Annual Member Meeting 2020

**\*\*DATE CHANGE\*\***

**NEW MEETING DATE**

**Thursday, August 27, 2020**

**6:00pm - 8:30pm \$17/person**

**Joy Manor 28999 Joy Road**

**Westland, MI 48185-5523**

#### Arc NW Annual Meeting

##### Award Nominations

Please submit nominations to Gretchen by phone call, email, or letter.

It's ideal to have something in writing to fully honor the recipients.

**Nominations accepted through July 3, 2020**

## The community comes together to keep people with disabilities safe at home during COVID-19

When two families in the Arc NW Fiscal Program reached out for PPE supplies, we launched the Arc NW SOS Drive. As you may know, our Fiscal Program helps people with disabilities manage their benefits and staff so they can live independently with support. Many people served through this program have limited incomes, and their caregiving staff often perform critical tasks that cannot be done six feet away. They need PPE to help keep them safe.

During April and May, a request for SOS (supplies of safety) like masks, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and gloves was made and the community answered. A total of 125 masks, 50 gallons of hand sanitizer, 350 pairs of gloves, and generous financial gifts were made..

One family shared: "Thank you for all you do, especially during the lockdown. The Arc NW staff have been very responsive and helpful to our daughter. I don't know what she would do without you!"

The Arc NW team has already dropped off sixteen care packages and is ready to do more. If you know someone in need, please contact us at 313-532-7915.

## ARC NW SOS DRIVE

- 125 reusable masks
- 50 gallons of hand sanitizer
- 250 pairs of gloves
- Raised \$2,660 surpassing goal!

### THANK YOU!

- Tracy Allen
- Sam Bagenstos
- Debbie Bartlett
- Janice Bearden
- Brian Bookmeier
- Mary Collins
- Luke Contos and Jean Walsh
- Kris Copeland
- Detroit Boxing Gym
- Chris and Dennis DiPonio
- Kristi and Stan Dolot
- Maureen Dooley
- Michael and Denise Dooley
- Stephen Dooley
- Tess Dooley
- Tom and Katie Dooley
- Michelle Driscoll
- Phil and Florence Erzen
- Bill and Wendy Erzen



**The Arc**

Northwest Wayne County

### THANK YOU!

- Sue Gardynik
- Chesley Giertz
- GREW Detroit
- Marcy Hayosh
- Lee Ann Horton
- Sylvia Kloc
- Sandra Malaniak
- Susan Pennington
- Plymouth Technologies
- Protect Frontline Heroes
- Lana Richardson
- Patty Riggio
- Dionka Saddler
- United Way for Southeastern Michigan
- Sue and Paul Venegas
- Carol and John Zago
- Mask-er-Aiders: Jane Fanta, Heather and Nina Pacheco, Kitty Weaver, and Mary Bajcz

# Essential Workers during COVID19

~Bettie Cunningham~ 4/12/2020~

**Disabilities Advocate, The Arc NW**

One day we awakened from everyday norms

To find in our midst, an enemy has formed;

An enemy called COVID19

Moves to and fro, like none we have seen.

This elusive enemy with its deceptive symptoms,

Masquerading as the flu, it eludes our wisdom.

It has sickened many and stolen too many lives.

In hospital beds a many have died.

Friends and mothers and fathers and sons;

From China to Italy and still not done.

From New York to Michigan and so many others

Lay in hospital beds, our daughters and brothers. Yet, amidst all of this chaos and mass confusion

**Essential workers** fight to combat the illusion.

They are **direct care workers, police, doctors and nurses**

Who risk their lives as they continue to serve us.

They are **restaurant workers and those who stock shelves,**

Who report to work every day, risking themselves.

They are **pharmacists and bankers** still working the clock.

**Amidst COVID19, not all work has stopped!**

There are **so many others working behind the scenes,**

Who work but aren't necessarily seen.

They, too, are at risk of contracting this thing;

This elusive virus, called COVID19.

So, for those of us who are working from home or not working at all,

Let us not forget those who are answering the call;

Those who leave their homes to serve or protect...

Let us not forget to show them some respect.

Be patient as they serve you and kind as they work

For it is us they are called to serve, so please don't be a jerk.

Be sure to mind your manners and it won't hurt to wear a smile.

Be appreciative of **essential workers**, as they go the extra mile.

And if you pray, say a special prayer for every one of them

For their continued work gives us a bit of 'normal' amidst all of this mayhem.

And just remember, any act of kindness will go a very long way

And could be the one thing to make an **essential worker's** day.

Yes, this is a tough time for all of us. It is! It is indeed;

With the **closure of businesses, 'Social Distancing'** and **'Stay at Home'** pleads.

As we wear masks and gloves while remaining 6 feet apart,

Know that this is not the cure, this is just a start.

Remember, we are all links in this fence of life but together we are strong,

As we work together towards the day, when COVID19 is gone.

Yes, we are in this fight together; some up front, some behind the scenes.

**Let's give some elbow shakes, fist daps, thank yous and hand claps**

To **Essential Workers during COVID19.**



## Self-Determination (SD) Corner

The four Wayne County Fiscal Intermediaries met with Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) in May 2020. They will decrease standardized rates for self-determination beginning October 1, 2020 changed from June 1, 2020. There will also be in a \$2.00/hour wage increase for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). The Arc NW will pay this out as back pay in August 2020. The state is considering a \$3.00/hour wage increase for DSPs, but this has not yet been decided.

Staffing agencies and fiscal intermediaries in Wayne County met with Community Living Services (CLS) in May 2020 around updates.

- The CLS building will begin reopening in June 2020
- CLS emphasizes the need for individuals/families to apply for Home Help and will have a training for staffing agencies and fiscals on Home Help
- The Medicaid payment code H0043 is being eliminated so community supports must now be documented in 15 minute increments by DSPs
- CLS has many new Supports Coordinators so caseloads are smaller for better service
- CLS seeks to contract with partner agencies and master's level Social Workers for additional supports coordination

Annette Downey, new CLS CEO has five priorities in her work:

- ▶ A warm welcome and solid intake process for new individuals
- ▶ Good partnerships with contracted agencies
- ▶ Increase the number of individuals electing self-determination in the county
- ▶ Increase the number and efficacy of supports coordinators
- ▶ Getting resources to provide affordable housing for individuals with disabilities



  
**The Arc**<sup>™</sup>

Northwest Wayne County

**BALL FOR ALL**  
Celebrating 60 Years of Service

February 27, 2021 | 6:30PM

Laurel Manor | Livonia

Open Bar | Dinner | Raffles | Live Band | Dancing

# Donations and Memorials

## Arc NW SOS Drive Donations

Paul and Sue Venegas  
 Phil and Florence Ernzen  
 Susan Gardynik  
 Dennis and Christine DiPonio  
 Luke Contos and Jean Walsh  
 The Dolot Family  
 Lana Richardson  
 Teresa Dooley  
 Dionka Saddler  
 Tracy Allen  
 Michael and Denise Dooley  
 Tom and Katie Dooley  
 Maureen Dooley  
 Michael and Denise Dooley  
 Stephen and Tricia Dooley

## Donations

The Ferrari Family  
 Johnson & Johnson

## Golf Outing Sponsors and Golfers

Low Construction

## Grants

Community Foundation for  
 Southeast Michigan  
 Margaret Dunning Foundation

## Memorials

### In Honor of Kathryn Quinn

Karen Stemberger  
 Kirsten and Marc Hewitt  
 Sanford Pastroff  
 Kathryn Belevitch  
 William & Joan Weaver

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services &  
 The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan Present:

**SELF-DETERMINATION  
 CONFERENCE:**  
**September 11, 2020 | 8am – 5pm**





**Conference Objective:**  
 This conference will broaden and deepen your understanding of the crucial elements of Self-Direction and the Importance of Self-Determination in Behavioral Health. It will provide training and technical assistance on the topics of Effective Person-Centered Planning, Independent Facilitation, Supported Decision-Making, Fiscal Intermediaries, How to Structure Self-Directed Service Arrangements, Budget Development, and more. Dynamic presenters and speakers will reenergize your commitment to the principles and practice of Self-Determination!

**Location:**  
 Lansing Center  
 333 E Michigan Ave  
 Lansing, MI 48933

**Who Should Attend:**  
 This conference contains content tracks appropriate for all individuals who receive services, family members, case managers, supports coordinators, clinicians, CMH administrative and clinical staff, providers, HCBS and waiver coordinators, fiscal intermediaries and independent facilitators.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, through the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan has provided funding for this initiative through a Federal Community Mental Health Block Grant.

The Arc NW Board Meeting  
Via Conference Call

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	<b>9</b> June 9 Arc NW Board 5 PM via Zoom  AIG via ZOOM June 9 Estate Planning for Your Future2 - 4pm Must rsvp. To get login, email: info@thearcnw.org	10	11	12	13
<b>14</b>  Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19	<b>20</b>  First Day of Summer
<b>21</b>  Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	All Sports activities of The Arc NW, as well as The Just Fun Club events previously scheduled have been cancelled until a later date, yet to be determined. <u>After I'm Gone</u> has also been cancelled EXCEPT for the Zoom session noted above.			

**CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's  
Web Site  
[thearcnw.org](http://thearcnw.org)

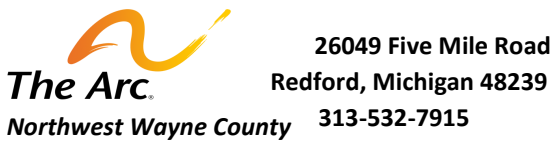




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Redford, MI 48239

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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](http://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**

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- \$25 Individual Membership** Additional Membership Fees: \$5 to join Just Fun Club \$15 to join Lekotek
- \$50 Family Membership** An individual and his/her family or a group home with multiple residents. Includes additional membership fees for Just Fun Club and Lekotek.
- DONATIONS**  \$100
- \$25  \$150
- \$50  \$ \_\_\_ Other  **\$100 Organization** Businesses, non-profits, community groups, or government entities that support people with disabilities.
- \$75

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