In 2019 The Arc NW had over 6,000 contacts through advocacy and programs.

After I’ve Gone (AIG)
• Helping families plan for the future of loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities
• Partnership with The Arc of Western Wayne County
• New webinars to reach more families
• The Arc NW provided 1,224 contacts with families in fiscal year 2018-19, a 45% increase over last fiscal year

Guardianship Alternatives Information Network (GAIN)
• Helping families consider decision-making that supports a self-determined life
• Partnership with The Arc of Western Wayne County
• The Arc NW provided 472 contacts with families in fiscal year 2018-19

Lekotek
• Grant funding of $42,500 to expand program to more families and to provide community based play sessions
• Increased outreach efforts to raise awareness of the program

Volunteers and Members
• New partnerships with agencies serving children with disabilities
• First toy drive and toy donation from JAAKS Cares adding to 2000+ toy lending library
• 537 contacts with children and families through play sessions, home visits, groups sessions, and presentations a 16% increase over last fiscal year.

Fiscal Intermediary Services
• In fiscal year 2018-19 The Arc NW provided payroll services to 778 direct care professionals and 21 staffing agencies
• Direct Hire Professionals supported by The Arc NW earned a total of $1850,593 adding value to the economy
• The Arc NW supported about 100 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live self-determined lives
• New staff in Accounting/Claims Coordinator and Accounts Payable Clerk positions

Arc NW Athletic Programs
• In 2019 165 members participated on teams and in regional competitions
• 20 volunteer coaches held over 100 practices and games in 2019
• Arc NW athletes participated in Special Olympics competitions
• Bowling Fundraiser and millionaire parties raised funds for Arc NW athletic programs

Arc NW Advocacy
• The Arc NW advocates have relationships with 65 schools and participated in 252 special education meetings in 2019
• The Arc NW advocates provided 1,787 consultations to support the rights of people living under self-determination
• The Arc NW Executive Director is involved with The Arc Mi to stay current with issues impacting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
• The Arc NW Board members and Executive Director advocated for policy changes at the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington D.C.
• The Arc NW Executive Director and staff members attended The Michigan Disability Policy Seminar
• The Arc NW board met with local legislators to support human/disability rights
Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

Have you ever had a big dream? What makes it big? Is it because the dream is spectacular, nearly impossible to achieve, or has never been done before? In 1961 the founders of The Arc NW had the big dream of equal education for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

In the fiscal year 2018-2019 The Arc NW expanded these big dreams. Our Lekotek program touched children with I/DD through 537 play sessions, strengthening their social skills and building on developmental goals. At the end of 2019 The Arc NW received grant funding to expand the number of play sessions, bring the program into the community, and develop evaluation tools for continuous improvements. Dedicated staff developed outreach materials, a membership for professionals. These efforts deepened partnerships and increased Lekotek member families.

This fiscal year we realized the dream of improving The Arc NW fiscal intermediary services. We hired new staff and the fiscal team streamlined workflow, and finalized best practices in daily accounting procedures. We serve individuals with I/DD and families more efficiently, support direct hire professionals, and are prepared for the influx of new people as Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIH) opens self-determination to their entire network.

We support 178 direct care professionals serving 100 homes, and 21 staffing agencies, which serve individual with I/DD.

The heart of The Arc NW’s dream is advocacy. In 2019 staff and board members attended the National Disability Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. participating in conversations with legislators to impact policy changes on Capitol Hill. Staff participated in the Michigan Disability Policy Seminar and the National Arc Conference to increase our awareness of disability rights efforts at state and national levels. As the number of people with I/DD grows and the population lives longer, the need for advocacy services is rapidly expanding. The dream continues as we grow the advocacy team in 2020 to help meet increasing needs.

The Arc NW was fortunate to have two interns from the Wayne State University School of Social Work this year supporting advocacy and Lekotek expansion. With interns and staff we are outgrowing the current building. We applied for a grant to fund a feasibility study to provide a strategy for obtaining a different space that will best meet staff and member needs.

The Arc NW keeps our big dreams alive due to over 200 volunteers who gave more than 2,700 hours in 2019. This represents a $67,000 value to the organization and a priceless value to communities we serve. Volunteers work tirelessly on fundraisers supplying almost 20% of revenue in 2019. Volunteers supported Arc NW athletic programs, bowling, and The Just Fun Club providing rewarding health and social opportunities for participants.

In 2020 The Arc NW will continue to fulfill amazing dreams to ensure that everyone is fully included! Let us gear up for 2021, The Arc NW’s 60th anniversary year!

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director

Our Staff

Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director
Katie Perkins, Lekotek Librarian
Sandra Dobson, Program Assistant
Shelley Driscoll, Advocacy and Community Relations Director
Amy Pomicter, Claims & Accounting Assistant
Wendy Enzen, Director of Development
Lana Richardson, Lekotek Play Leader
Chesley Giertz, Advocate
Diamond Watkins, Accounts Payable Clerk
Latrice Wilborn, Office Manager

The Arc NW Champions for Inclusion

Gifts of $1,000 or more given between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019

Bidigare Contractors
Naple Paving Company
Bunding Bridges Therapy Center
Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA) Charitable Foundation
Community Living Services, Inc.
Tom Dickinson and Gayle Vorpagel
Community Living Services, Inc.
The Grainger Foundation
The Halle Family
The Karak Foundation
Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center
Tom and Chris Lechen
Vincent and Marianne Licari
Kathleen Pfuhrer
RAM Construction Services
Services To Enhance Potential
Paul G. Sharrow, C.P.A., P.C.
STMicroelectronics
Wallside Windows
Wendy Ernzen, Community Director of Work
Michelle Driscoll, Program Assistant
Wendy Ernzen, Community Director of Work
Michelle Driscoll, Program Assistant

Celebrating Success: Sean Radon & Family

The Radons welcomed Sean (pictured left) 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. “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.

“It was such a blessing. It made therapy fun! We learned to play as a family.” They could try out toys, 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.”

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,” Lekotek is truly a dream launcher!

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.” Thank you to the Radons for establishing the Sean Radon Scholarship Fund for Lekotek. This will launch many big dreams for other children like Sean.

Kathleen Pfuhrer, President
Greg Wittrock, Vice President
Rana Ramouni, Secretary
Susan Gardynik, Treasurer
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