



Northwest Wayne County

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Inside The Arc

December 2020

This has been a challenging year. But the work at The Arc NW never stopped **because of you.**

When the schools went virtual, Chesley and Bettie continued to advocate for families by zoom, email, and phone monitoring quickly changing policies. One parent said:

"How are parents supposed to keep up with all of this? I'm glad I have someone like you who I know I can get the right information from."

When the state locked down, Sandy, Amy, and Julia continued helping families with budgets, staff, and unemployment. One family shared:

"Thank you for all that you do. The Arc NW staff have been very responsive and helpful to our daughter. I don't know what she would do with you!"

This work continues because of generosity from people like you. **Thank you for being an Arc NW member!**

And it continues because people with disabilities deserve to live their lives fully included like the White family.

From the beginning, David White was very hyperactive with a slowness in speech and some developmental delays. As a preschooler, the family decided to enroll him in the early intervention program to give him a great start. That's when they learned about The Arc NW. They became members and learned about its many services and programs.

When David was eleven, they decided to enroll him in The Arc NW Athletic Program, and he played every year after. Pat said:

"The sports program was a great way for David to meet friends and for us to meet other parents. You're meeting a community that's going to be with you for the rest of your life."

David finished school when he was twenty-three. He continued to play Arc NW sports and was a Just Fun Club member allowing him to stay connected to friends and his community after school ended. Most recently, David has been focused on basketball, baseball, and poly hockey. Pat shared:

"He had things to do, things to look forward to, and people to connect with. Our whole family met many friends over the years."

The White family also looked to The Arc NW for advice. In addition to guidance from her local schools, Pat attended some of the After I'm Gone (AIG) programs where they learned how to advocate for their son's future and received professional recommendations like lawyers. Pat said:

"AIG makes you think about the future, it forces you to."

She and James set up a long-term plan. After many years in the making, David is now moving closer to his sister in Lansing. Though David will no longer be in the Arc NW Athletic Program, he will have plenty of great things to do in his new place because of the great planning Pat and James did. The Arc NW is grateful to have been a part of David's journey.

The Arc NW will continue helping more families like the Whites along their journeys.

Whether their dreams are to get the best education, play sports and compete in Special Olympics, or plan for the future, or all of these things, The Arc NW will walk alongside them every step of the way because of your support.

Will you make a special year-end gift of to help more families like the Whites?

Thank you for making an online donation today on our website at www.thearcnw.org. Your generosity will help more families achieve their dreams in 2021.

Best,

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director



The Arc
Northwest Wayne County
 26049 Five Mile Road
 Redford, MI 48239
 Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488
 www.thearcnw.org

2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

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|---|---------------------------|
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Achieve with us.



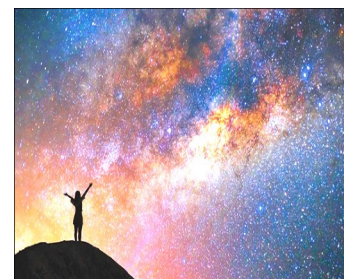
United Way
 for Southeastern Michigan

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,
 As we move into colder months and shorter days, we have less light. Maybe that's why major holidays at this time of year celebrate light. We could use some extra light in these trying days of shutdown and a scary pandemic. I find hope in the uplifting words of Mary Oliver's poem from "House of Light".

"Still, what I want in my life
 is to be willing
 to be dazzled—
 to cast aside the weight of facts

and maybe even
 to float a little
 above this difficult world.
 I want to believe I am looking



into the white fire of a great mystery.
 I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing—
 that the light is everything—that it is more than the sum
 of each flawed blossom rising and falling. And I do."

It's amazing how tiny bits of starlight create a glorious night sky, or how holiday lights on homes transforms neighborhoods into a work of art. Maybe as 2020 comes to a close we can focus on "casting aside the weight of facts" and remember that each bit of hope and love creates a greater pool that covers us all. Maybe we can "look into the white fire of a great mystery" remembering that there is hope beyond our daily circumstances. When combined, tiny sparks create a huge bonfire. Let us set our sights on that hope as we move into 2021 in our personal lives. And let us combine efforts like tiny sparks of fire to create great change toward full inclusion in 2021. May we be a grand, dazzling light to this world!

Wishing you happy holidays and a healthy
 New Year!

Gretchen Sanewsky
 Executive Director





Sip & Support Was a Success!

Sip & Support 2020 was a wonderful event that featured a delicious progression of six appetizers and wine pairings specially prepared by Fleming's Steakhouse. Guests also had a chance to join in the wine pull fun. **THANK YOU to everyone who supported the night - \$13,600 was raised before expenses!**

SPECIAL THANKS to the **PLATINUM SPONSORS**. Geisler Company, Rob and Elizabeth Haar, and Signature Oak Stables for making this event possible.

Thank you to the **BRONZE SPONSORS**: Marlene DiPonio and Fred Ward, one anonymous bronze sponsor, and Florence and Phil Erzen.

Thanks also to the **WINE PULL DONORS**: Steve Dallo & Bloomfield Wine and Spirits, Joe Jaafar & Feinn Tire Company, Kathleen Pfuhler, Bill Winkler, Jim Simon, Heidi Warren, Bill and Wendy Erzen, Fleming's Steakhouse, and Paul and Susan Venegas.

THANK YOU to the **SIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE** for making this event happen: Kathleen Pfuhler, founder of the event and committee chair; Samantha Van Sumeren; Susan Venegas; and Heidi Warren.

Last, if you attended and grabbed one of the gift bags, don't forget to use your gift card to treat yourself to the Fleming's Steakhouse amazing carryout experience.

We hope you join us next year to **CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF SERVICE!**

The Arc Sports News

Happy Holidays!

I wish we could end 2020 with great news that there is a cure for Covid-19 or that 2020 was a bad dream for all of us, but unfortunately NO Cure and NOT a bad dream.

Nothing new to report in the world of Special Olympics; all sports are still on hold.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas along with a Happy Healthy 2021.

Janice



Welcome to the season of winter! Colder temperatures and snow are beginning to come to Michigan. This is a time when we all snuggle in playing board games, cards, drawing, crafts and watch holiday TV shows.

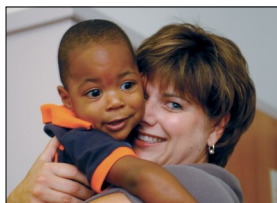
We are sorry that the Just Fun Club can not have any of our dances for the January through May calendar. The Redford and Plymouth Canton Schools are closed for any cafeteria room rentals. No group gatherings are allowed due to the COVID-19 virus. Although this is a big disappointment to all of us we have to remember that we must protect everyone and keep us all healthy and safe.

Our Just Fun Club committee, the J.J. and Company and Trademark band wishes all of you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays,

Jackie

JUST FUN CLUB NEWS



United Nations' International Day of People With Disabilities December 3, 2020

“The 2020 theme is “Not all Disabilities are Visible”. This focus spreads awareness and understanding of disabilities that are not immediately apparent such as mental illness, chronic pain or fatigue, sight or hearing impairments, diabetes, brain injuries, neurological disorders, learning differences and cognitive dysfunctions, among others.”

“According to the WHO World Report on Disability, 15 per cent of the world’s population, or more than 1 billion people, are living with disability. Of this number, it’s estimated 450 million are living with a mental or neurological condition. Another 69 million individuals are estimated to sustain Traumatic Brain Injuries each year worldwide, while one in 160 children are identified as on the autism spectrum.”

“These are just some examples of the millions of people currently living with a disability that is not immediately apparent, and a reminder of the importance of removing barriers for all people living with disability, both visible and invisible.” (<https://idpwd.org/>)

Our work together for full inclusion remains more important than ever! Not only that, basic human kindness and acceptance goes a LONG way to make this world a friendlier place for us all. As we move into the holiday season, let’s keep kindness as our number one priority!

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
turns

60

Save the dates and celebrate

Virtual Celebration

FEBRUARY 20-27, 2021

Expect your invite January 2021

More details to come at www.thearcnw.org

All sessions will be held on Zoom from 6:00pm to 8:00pm with a virtual happy hour before each session to chat and get help with technology. If you'd like to attend please email **Chesley Giertz** at cgiertz@thearcnw.org. Topics and dates are below:

Estate Planning for Your Future: 1/7/21 and 4/29/21

Beyond Group Homes: 1/21/21 and 5/13/21

Your Rights When Receiving Mental Health Services: 2/4/21 and 5/27/21

Getting The Most out of Mental Health Services: 2/18/21

Social Security: 3/4/21

Transition Planning and Turning 18: 3/18/21

The Department of Health and Human Services: 4/1/21

Supporting People in Decision Making: 4/15/21

AIG

After I'm Gone



Memorials

In Memory of Rikki Gans

Michael & Nancy Darga
Martha Preston

In Memory of Kathryn Quinn

University of Toledo Dept. of Pediatrics

In Memory of Lori Henry

The Horner Family
Marlene DiPonio & Fred Ward
Michelle Driscoll

60th Celebration

Chippewa Hotel
The Grand Hotel
Bregman Brothers Winery

General Donation

Knights of Columbus - Edward Cardinal Mooney
Council #3577

Arc NW Office COVID-19 Precautions

Please be aware that Arc NW staff are staggering hours and/or working remotely. There are usually 2 staff in the office at any given time. Please call if you need anything or to make an appointment to come to the office. Only one visitor is allowed in the building at a time and you MUST wear a mask at all times.

You can reach us at: 313-532-1975.

WE'RE STILL HERE FOR YOU!

Achieve More Campaign

Ron, Patti and Roxie Riggio

Folco Communications Corporation
& Mike Follmer




Sip & Support

Michael Nelson
Kathleen Pfuhler
Heidi Warren
Fleming's Steakhouse
Sharon Pawlik

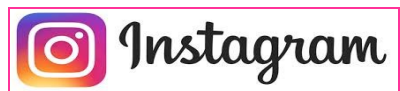
Jim Simon
Paul & Sue Venegas
Dave & Leah DiPonio
Colin & Emily Frost
Centroid systems, Inc.

December 2020

The Arc NW Board Meeting
Will be Via Zoom on Tuesday the 8th.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>After I'm Gone (AIG) via Zoom 6 - 8pm Must RSVP. To get login, email: cgiertz@thearcnw.org See schedule on Pg. 5</p>		<p>1 </p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 </p> <p>Guys & Dolls Bowling League will not meet for the duration of the 2020 - 2021 season. At the time of printing, Michigan Bowling Alleys have been closed once again.</p>
6	7	<p>8 Arc NW board meeting via Zoom 5:00 PM</p>	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	<p>24 </p> <p>The Arc NW Office will be closed Dec. 24th and will re-open on Monday, January 4, 2021.</p>	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<p>All Sports activities of The Arc NW, as well as The Just Fun Club events have been suspended until a later date, yet to be determined.</p>	

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



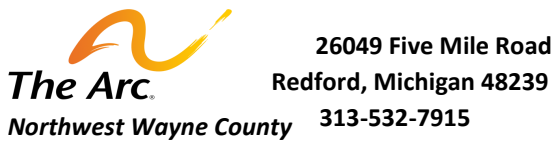
THE ARC NW PRESENTS
MEMBER TAKEOVER
Would you like to share your story on our Instagram? Email Wendy Ernzen at wernzen@thearcnw.org



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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
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

Achieve with us!