



Northwest Wayne County

Sponsored by STMicroelectronics

Inside The Arc

February 2021

Will you join us for the 60th Celebration

From February 20th through February 27th, the Arc NW 60th Celebration will showcase seven days of digital festivities including an amazing online auction, inspiring giving opportunities, and stories of impact. How can you join in the fun?

- You can register on our website to bid and join in the celebration (it's free!). **The deadline is Friday, February 12, 2021.**
- You can sponsor the event and dedicate it to someone special.
- You can make a donation online. Thank you for considering a gift of \$60, \$100 or more so the work at The Arc NW may continue another sixty years!
- You can donate to the auction to showcase your business or another favorite.
-

We would like to thank our **GOLD SPONSORS** for helping to make this event possible: Building Bridges Therapy Center, the DTE Energy Foundation, and Emagine Entertainment.

We would also like to thank our **SILVER SPONSOR**: Fifth Third Bank. We also have some wonderful **BRONZE SPONSORS** that include: AlphaUSA, Community Financial Credit Union, Community Living Services, Dennis and Chris DiPonio, Financial & Portfolio Advisors, IFF, Lasting Impressions, Livonia Kids and Families, Medical Weight Loss, Rock Security, Resource Transportation Group, STEP, Smoler Smiles, Standard Wonder Group, George Humphry & State Farm Insurance, and Wallside Windows. And thanks to our **SUPPORTING SPONSOR**: March and McLennan Agency.

The online auction will have some special items like trips, dining experiences, signed sports memorabilia, designer handbags and more to bid on. Make sure you register soon!

Many thanks to our **IN-KIND DONORS**: Don & Fran O'Connell, Detroit City Distillery, the Detroit Zoo, the Cherry Tree Inn & Suites, Trader Joe's, Brengman Brothers Winery, the Chippewa Hotel, the Grand Hotel Mackinac Island, Detroit River Sports, MAWBY Sparkling Wines, Fleming's Steakhouse, MotorCity Casino and Hotel, the Detroit Lions, Plum Market, Merle Norman, Black Star Farms, Twisted Lotus, Orin Jewelers, Meadowbrook Country Club, the Monaghan Knights of Columbus, the Detroit Historical Society, Green Methody Cleaning and Restoration, Wine Palace, Orange Theory, Cheryl Nolan and Helzberg Diamonds, Chris Sokolowski, Charles Johnson, Janice and Mitchell Radon, Laura Fallat, Nadene White, Deb Viniski, Eugene McKinney, Dan and Gail DiPonio, John and Grace Bidigare, Cynthia Bryant, Dennis and Chris Diponio, Matt & Lindsay DiPonio, Dominic and Barb DiPonio, Vince and Marianne Licari, Marlene DiPonio and Fred Ward, Dave and Mary DiPonio, Luke Contos and Jean Walsh as well as Mike and Erin Ondercin.

And this event wouldn't happen with our hardworking **60TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**. Thank you to Marianne Licari, our event chair, and our committee members: Cynthia Bryant, Luke Contos, David DiPonio, Chris Lerchen, Vince Licari, and Bill Winkler.



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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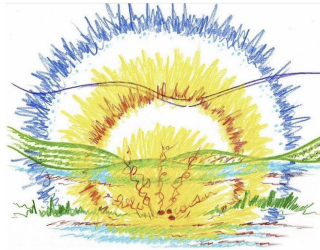
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Achieve with us.



From The Executive Director



Artwork by Sharon Mick McAuley

“The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace.”
 - Carlos Santana

Dear Friends,

These are some challenging times, and hopeful times, as we begin 2021! Many of us, or our loved ones, have been directly impacted by COVID-19. The pandemic is still a threat, but we now have the hope of a vaccine. As we inaugurate a new president, there has been violence, racism, hatred and continued division in our nation. With a new administration comes the hope of unity and valuing all people.

I’m sharing a watercolor painting with you created by my friend Sharon Mick McAuley. She chose these powerful words from Carlos Santana to go with her image. This painting brings up feelings of hope at the dawning of a new day. The words tell us some ways to get to that new day. An open heart means the ability to receive people and ideas different from us. Living peaceably with those around us helps create communities of calm support. These are things we can do here, right now to make a difference in our nation and world.

I love that this painting is of concentric arcs! What a great reminder that the work of The Arc, to value and include all people, is a world-changing mission! Some specific things for which The Arc advocates nationally are; dedicated Medicaid funding for home and community-based services, personal protective equipment and paid sick leave for direct support professionals, and economic impact checks for ALL people.

Now is the time to ramp up our efforts toward full inclusion in all areas of society. The Arc NW is dedicated to having an open heart and being an instrument of peace, to ensure that those we serve live their best lives.

Here’s to an exciting New Year!

Gretchen Sanewsky
 Executive Director



JUST FUN CLUB NEWS

Happy 2021 New Year to everyone! Here's hoping this newsletter finds our JFC members all doing well. I have seen some great pictures on Facebook of many of our friends.

During the winter months many of you are watching movies, making crafts, cooking or working on puzzles. Hoping many of you are participating in some form of exercise as well.

For the rest of this year (Jan., Feb., March, Apr., May) we will be unable to gather for any JFC dances. This is a disappointment to all of us. Stay positive and it won't be long!

The JFC Committee, J.J. and Company, Trademark Band and Mark and Randy sends their best wishes to everyone! Stay safe!



Happy Winter,

Jackie

Hi Everyone! Happy 2021 & Happy Valentine's Day

The Arc Sports News

No sports yet, but there is some chatter out there from the Area Director, Sue Campbell, that SOMI is discussing a possible start-up of Field & Track along with swimming, but it's only in the talking stages. I have been keeping all the coaches updated when I receive information from SOMI.

One thing has changed with SOMI which has started immediately. They have created a new Health Form which is to be used going forward. The new health form is 6 PAGES LONG which must be completely filled out before returning it to your coach or Lana. To review & see the new form and get a copy for your doctor visit go to: SOMI.org or thearcnw.org websites. I did review the expired or soon to be expiring health form list and sent the list to the coaches. Many forms expired in 2020 or will be expiring in 2021. Please contact Lana, your coach, or myself to find out when your form expires. If you do not have a printer feel free to contact Lana or myself to make arrangements to pick one up or we could email you one, if you can't locate it on the websites. **We want to be ready for when the season finally starts because remember you cannot practice with an expired health form.**

During this time of no sports visit SOMI.org website. They have exercising tips, stories, pictures, lots of good information and the forms you will eventually need to participate in sports.

Keep warm & keep exercising – Janice

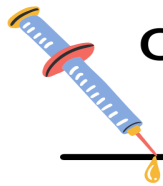
We are looking forward to starting the 2021/2022 Season In early September. We have no plans prior to then.

We will provide updated info about the FALL 2021 Season when available. The Arc NW newsletter will be a good place to reference. We are hoping that COVID vaccinations/conditions will allow restart at that time. Everyone should try to get their vaccination sequence as soon as they are able.

Jim Gallas

Guys & Dolls Bowling League





COVID-19 Vaccine Information

- You can get the vaccine when it is your turn, based on the timeline.
- Someone from your hospital system will call you to schedule your vaccine appointment.
- If you are not part of a hospital system, you can visit Beaumont Health online to schedule your vaccination:
mybeaumontchart.com/mychart/signup
- The vaccine is free. You will be asked for your health insurance information, but you do not need insurance to get a vaccine.
- There are no public vaccine sites yet. When we get close to Phase 2, you can find a public vaccine site by visiting:
michigan.gov/coronavirus

20201 Event Dates

60th Celebration – February 20th through February 27th (online)

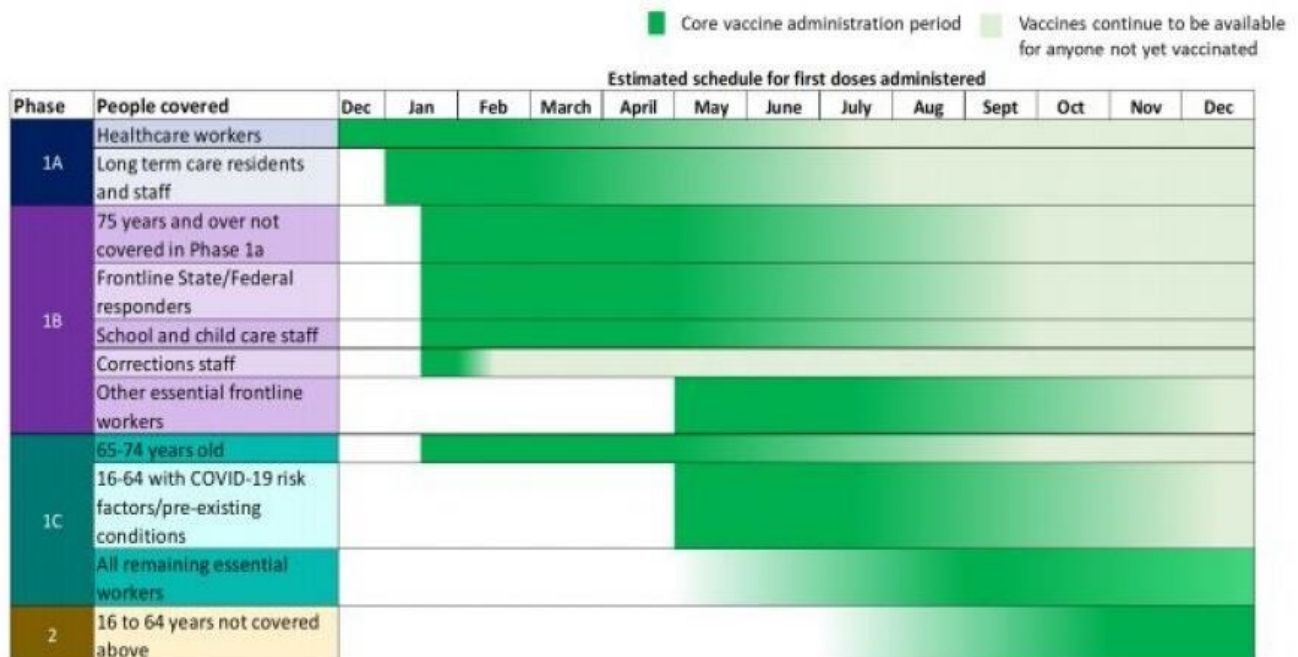
Annual Meeting – May 2021

Golf Outing – August 15, 2021

Sip & Support – October 2021

Preliminary vaccination timeline

(**EXPECTED TO CHANGE BASED ON VACCINE AVAILABILITY**)



STAY-WELL
Michigan.gov/StayWell

Don't blow off the
**WINTER
BLUES**

Call the COVID-19 hotline: 1-888-535-6136, press 8

Could your blues be something more serious? We are still in a pandemic, after all. Take a moment. How are you feeling? Connect with a Stay Well counselor for free, confidential support 24/7. Call the COVID hotline at 1-888-535-6136 and press "8".

HHS Civil Rights Office Tackles Health Care Discrimination Of People With Disabilities



January 15, 2021 5:34 PM ET
By Joseph Shapiro

Civil rights officials at the Department of Health and Human Services issued a series of actions to protect people with disabilities from health care discrimination by medical providers during the pandemic.

The actions, by the Office of Civil Rights, or OCR, at the Department of Health and Human Services, specifically address discrimination related to the denial of treatment for people with disabilities who have COVID-19 or the symptoms of COVID-19. They include:

The start of a process to write regulations that explicitly prohibit medical workers from denying care to people with disabilities based on subjective decisions about the quality of their life or by issuing a Do Not Resuscitate order without the patient's consent or against their stated preference.

A revision to the guidelines of four health care systems, in North Carolina, North Texas, Southwest Texas and the Indian Health System, to assure that people with disabilities and older people are not passed over for scarce care, like drug treatments and ventilators.

"We said during COVID-19, our civil rights are not suspended," HHS OCR director Roger Severino told NPR. "People will not be subject to age or disability discrimination when the going gets tough."

Sarah McSweeney, whose death was the subject of [one of NPR's stories](#) on health care rationing, was a 45-year-old woman with multiple disabilities. She died at an Oregon hospital in May after doctors questioned her quality of life and pressured her guardian and others who cared for her to sign a Do Not Resuscitate order to allow doctors to withdraw care.

The new OCR action makes clear that doctors cannot issue a blanket DNR and cannot substitute their subjective beliefs about the quality of a disabled person's life over the person's own wishes.

Severino says the actions are intended to make clear "that discrimination against persons with disabilities will be absolutely forbidden and stereotypes about their usefulness should never be part of a discussion when we allocate care."

If the OCR action — which takes on a range of issues of discrimination — becomes formalized, it would become a significant expansion of disability civil rights law.

Memorials

In memory of Sarah Elizabeth Sevilla
Kevin and Kathleen Robertson King

In memory of Joe Jones
Patrick and Betsy McRae

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

Additional Food Assistance is on the Way



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

Assistance Press Release

Page 2 of 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan. 21, 2021

CONTACT: Bob Wheaton
517-241-2112
wheatonb@michigan.gov

Gov. Whitmer, MDHHS announce food assistance recipients will see additional benefits by end of January

Fifteen percent increase in payments will help families cope with pandemic

LANSING, Mich. – The more than 1.2 million people in Michigan who are eligible for food assistance benefits will receive an additional payment by the end of January that raises their monthly amount by 15% to help families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits is for six months, ending in June.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) advocated for the increase led by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and were pleased to see it ultimately included in the recently passed Congressional relief bill.

"No Michigander should worry about how they'll put food on the table for themselves and their family, especially during a pandemic," said Gov. Whitmer. "COVID-19 is still a very real threat to our state, and we must continue providing crucial support to families that need it most. I want to thank Sen. Stabenow for her leadership in securing this important increase and for her tireless efforts to expand access to food assistance, which has brought relief to so many Michiganders in need throughout this pandemic."

Michigan food assistance recipients will see the 15% increase added to their Bridge Cards by the end of January that are in addition to benefits they received earlier in the month. Food assistance increases by \$102 per month for a household of four, which will now receive \$782 per month. In subsequent months, the 15% increase will be added to Bridge Cards from Jan. 20-30.

"Helping families put food on the table is our job," said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. "We're glad we can provide more food assistance to Michiganders who are in need as a result of COVID-19."

-MORE-

mer and MDHHS also are announcing continuation in January of an initiative that des additional food assistance to 350,000 Michigan families as a response to the lemic. Through the initiative, anyone receiving food assistance who doesn't already fy for the maximum monthly benefits will see their payment raised to the maximum hly amount for their household size. Eligible clients will see these additional food ance benefits on their Bridge Card by Jan. 30, with payments beginning for some eholds on Jan. 20. Anyone who receives both this payment and the 15 percent ase will receive them on the same day.

w are the new maximum allowable benefits for SNAP customers based on their ctive household size for January through June:

One Person: \$234
Two Persons: \$430
Three Persons: \$616
Four Persons: \$782
Five Persons: \$929
Six Persons: \$1,114
Seven Persons: \$1,232
Eight Persons: \$1,408

le families do not need to re-apply to receive the additional benefits. People who ve food assistance can check their benefits balance on their Michigan Bridge Card ing online to www.michigan.gov/MIbridges or by calling a customer service resentative toll-free at 888-678-8914. They can ask questions about the additional fits by calling or emailing their caseworker.

omer service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Spanish and Arabic ce is available. If you are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing or speech-impaired, he Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1.

mation around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is ble at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

###

Great News for Educational Advocacy

As we shared last month, four foundations recently invested in the Education Advocacy Program and include the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, the Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation, the Helen K. Charitable Trust as well as the Walmart Foundation and the Livonia Walmart Supercenter. This month, the Marshall Mathers Foundation made a generous contribution too.

Thank you! We hope to serve at least fifty families in 2021. If you know of someone who needs advocacy support, please email Chesley Giertz, our Advocacy Director, at cgiertz@thearcnw.org.

Many thanks and much appreciation to two of the Gold Sponsors of Our 60th Anniversary Celebration
DTE Energy Foundation and Emagine Entertainment



DTE
Foundation

**SUCCEEDING
TOGETHER** Strong
communities built
on unique abilities
are the foundation of a thriving Michigan.
We proudly support The Arc of Northwest
Wayne County in its mission to strengthen
communities.



EMAGINE

**TURNING
MOTOWN INTO
MOVIETOWN**



Emagine Congratulates
The Arc of Northwest
Wayne County for **60 YEARS**
of service supporting the
community.

WWW.EMAGINE-ENTERTAINMENT.COM

Thank You for Giving to Achieve More!

WOW! Thanks to generous donors like you, we SURPASSED the Achieve More Goal of \$10,000! We are amazed and humbled by your generosity. Now more families can get the help they need in 2021.

We couldn't do this work without you. A special thanks to Mike Follmer with Folco Communications as well as Jim and Kelly Simon for their inspiring stories and challenge gifts.



*WE met the goal
for Achieve More!*

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Special thanks to Mike Follmer and Jim & Kelly Simon

Thank you, Building Bridges, for being a Gold Sponsor of our 60th Anniversary Celebration!



CONGRATULATIONS
on being a
FORCE FOR GOOD
Advocating for,
and
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
for 60 YEARS!



60th Anniversary Celebration

AlphaUSA
Be Yourself Fitness
Black Star Farms
Charlotte Thibault-Balluff
Cherry Tree Inn and Suites
Community Financial Credit Union
Dan and Gail DiPonio
David and Mary DiPonio
Dennis and Christine DiPonio
Detroit City Distillery
Detroit Historical Society
Detroit Zoo
Dominic and Barb DiPonio
Eugene McKinney
Financial & Portfolio Advisors
Fred Ward and Marlene DiPonio
Gary Spondike
Greener Method Cleaning and Restoration
Helzberg Diamonds
IFF
John and Grace Bidigare
Livonia Kids and Families
Luke Contos and Jean Walsh
Marsh & McLennan Agency
Matthew and Lindsay DiPonio
MAWBY Sparkling Wines
Meadowbrook Country Club
MotorCity Casino Hotel
Mutual Electric Company
Nadene's Virtual Wellness Workouts
Orange Theory
Orin Jewelers
Plum Market
Rana Ramouni
Randy and Donna Smith
Rock Security
Trader Joe's
Twisted Lotus Yoga & Wellness
Vincent and Marianne Licari
Wendy and Bill Erzen

Achieve More Campaign

Amanda Walworth
Carol Nagy
Craig and Lorainne Hearn
Diane Rosone - Dedicated to The Arc NW
Edward Hibner and Barbara Krasiecko
Frank and Lois Palazzolo
Fred Ward and Marlene DiPonio
Gregory and Susan Wittrock
Heidi Warren
Kathleen McRae and Jerry Luttmann
Kathleen Pfuhrer
Martin and Rita Countegan
Melanie Leeson
Mickey Dooley
Nazzareno Troiani
Richard McLain and Lonnie Schultz
Thomas and Emiljana Vella

Educational Advocacy Program






Marshall Mathers Foundation
Pulte Family Charitable Trust
Walmart Superstore

Where It is Needed Most

Randy and Donna Smith
Jonathan and Tiffany Radon
Linda Parsons

February 2021

The Arc NW Board Meeting
Will be Via Zoom on Tuesday the 9th.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 After I'm Gone (AIG) via Zoom 6 - 8pm Must RSVP. To get login, email: cgiertz@thearcnw.org	2 	3	4 	5 After I'm Gone "Your Rights When Receiving Mental Health Services" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP	6	
7	8	9 Arc NW board meeting via Zoom 5:00pm.	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day 	15 PRESIDENT'S DAY 	16	17	18 	19 After I'm Gone "Getting the Most Out of Mental Health Services" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

28

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.

Guys & Dolls Bowling League will not meet for the duration of the 2020 - 2021 season.

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



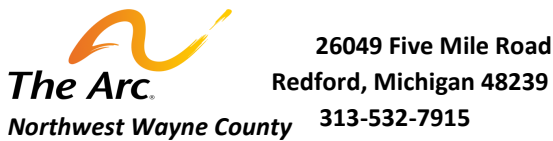
THE ARC NW PRESENTS
**MEMBER
TAKEOVER**
Would you like to share
your story on our
Instagram? Email Wendy
Ernzen at
wernzen@thearcnw.org



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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!