



The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

Sponsored by STMicroelectronics

Inside The Arc

January 2021

For 2021, the Dinner Dance will be transformed into an online event to help celebrate sixty years of services. From February 20th through February 27th, expect 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 sponsor the event and dedicate it to someone special.

You can donate to the auction to showcase your own business or your favorite local one. Some generous people are donating gift cards to local retailers and restaurants supporting the local economy and The Arc NW – you can too.

You can register online at www.thearcnw.org by Friday, February 12, 2021.

Information about sponsorship, donations, and registration is all online at www.thearcnw.org or email Wendy Erzen at wernzen@thearcnw.org.

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 Community Living Services, Medical Weight Loss, Wallside Windows, Lasting Impressions, STEP, State Farm Insurance and Community Financial Credit Union. And thanks to our **SUPPORTING SPONSOR**: March and McLennan Agency.

Our **IN-KIND SPONSORS** are ramping up the online auction – expect some special items to bid on! Many thanks to: Brengman Brothers Winery, Cherry Tree Inn and Suites, the Chippewa Hotel, the Detroit City Distillery, the Grand Hotel, Charles Johnson, Detroit River Sports, Janice and Mitchell Radon, the Detroit Lions, Don and Fran O’Connell, Trader Joe’s, MAWBY Sparkling, Fleming’s Steakhouse, and the MotorCity Casino Hotel.

And this event wouldn’t happen with our hardworking **60TH ANNIVERSARY 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.



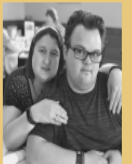
You are invited to join us and celebrate sixty years of service!

Expect seven days of digital festivities including an amazing online auction, inspiring giving opportunities, and stories of impact.

Register to join and bid at www.thearcnw.org by Friday, February 12th.

All proceeds benefit Arc NW Programs

Lekotek Play and Toy Lending	Athletics and Just Fun Club	Advocacy and Future Planning	Financial Management Services
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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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Office Manager:	Latrice Wilborn

Achieve with us.



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I wish you all the blessings of a Happy New Year and a healthy 2021! I expect that many of us are glad to see 2020 put to rest and enter the hope of a new year and fresh start. A lot of blessings get spoken at this time of year. We wish one another Hanukkah and Christmas blessings, blessings for the New Year, blessings for good health during this global pandemic, and blessings of peace among people and nations. As I write this the blessing of a COVID-19 vaccine is rolling out in the US.

To bless someone is very powerful! We often think of it as a gift or nicety to brighten someone's day. Or we think of blessing as a pithy religious sentiment. I recently heard blessing described as recognizing the power and worth of another person. That's EXACTLY the mission of The Arc NW. We exist to give voice, a loud and persistent voice, to the power and worth of individuals with disabilities. We speak that truth to our communities, to one another, to government and policy makers, and to systems that impact the lives of those with disabilities.

Can you recall at time in your life when someone called out the power and worth in you? To be seen and affirmed like that is absolutely life changing. In 2021 The Arc NW will continue to grow our programs to shout that blessing of power and worth to more people who need to hear and need to be more fully included in society. I see the power and worth in all of you and am grateful to be able to lead us forward toward a day when we all know, and contribute, our value to the world. Thank you for being a blessing!

Happy New Year!

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director

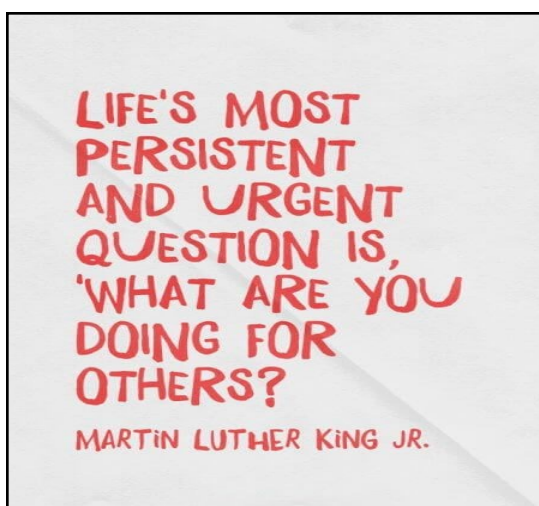


Investment in the Educational Advocacy Program

Parents who have children with special needs want the same thing every parent does – a good life for their child including a great education. However, this is not always easy to achieve because parents may not know what they need nor what is available within their school district to help their child. Our advocates work with parents and their local schools to put together a plan for the best educational experience for their student.

Before COVID, we were at capacity helping families, and that need has only increased during the pandemic. Not only is virtual learning not working for many students with disabilities, but the policies around special education are constantly changing and difficult for parents to keep up with without an advocate.

The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, the Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust, the Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation, Walmart Giving, and the Livonia Walmart Store located on Seven Mile Rd. have all generously invested in the Educational Advocacy Program. This generous funding will allow our advocates to work alongside families each step of the special education process, from evaluation to IEPs and beyond, at no cost to the families. during 2021. Thank you!



20201 Event Dates

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

Annual Meeting – May 2021

Golf Outing – August 15, 2021

Sip & Support – October 2021

Arc NW Partners Sponsor Lekotek Families This Holiday Season

A few wonderful supporters are helping to make the holidays special for a few of our Lekotek families.

Thank you so much to the Comerica Bank Team at the Five Mile location in Redford as well as Janice and Mitchell Radon for their generous donations this holiday season. If you would like to learn more about this program for next year, please contact Lana Richardson, the Lekotek Leader, at lrichardson@thearcnw.org.



TAX TIME



It's December already and I'm sure we're all looking forward to closing out 2020 and ushering in a new year. Hello 2021! Let's hope that 2021 brings an end to COVID19 and restoration of peace, balance and prosperity for the United States as a country and for each of us, individually.

As we enter 2021, we enter tax season. If you plan to file income taxes for this year, you may want to start gathering the documents that you are going to need now. If you pay to file your taxes, you should know that there are agencies that provide the service for free. That's right free! Who doesn't want something for free? Why pay \$100 or more to file your taxes when you can have them filed for free. Usually appointments are in-person but due to COVID19, appointments will more than likely be held virtually.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a program that offers free tax assistance from IRS-certified volunteers. VITA services are open to people who earned \$56,000 or less per year. For a site near you, use the [VITA site locator](#). Accounting Aid Society and Wayne Metro Community Action Agency (WMCAA) are VITA sites and you can file for the previous 3 years as well.

AARP also offers free tax services and you do not have to be a member to receive services. For a site near you, use the [Tax-Aide Site Locator](#).

You may also complete your taxes online yourself for free. **United Way Worldwide's** [MyFreeTaxes.com](#) is the only free, national, online tax filing product offered by a nonprofit and is available to 100 million U.S. tax payers.

The IRS also has free online tools for those interested in preparing their taxes themselves. There are forms available for those who make less than \$69,000 per year and for those who make more than \$69,000. Make sure you are filling out the correct forms for your income range before submitting. You may access the IRS free services at [IRS Free File site](#).

Call United Way at 2-1-1 if you need further assistance in locating a tax site near you.

There are some basic documents that you will need to file your taxes. This is not a complete list so please check with the agency (or agency website) that you schedule an appointment with for a detailed list.

You must have your ID/DL and Social Security card (for everybody you are filing on your taxes). If you don't have the IDs and SS cards, even if you have everything else, the agency may not process your taxes. Other documents include:

- Proof of all income including W2, Social Security, Child Support, Unemployment, DHS assistance
- Gambling or Lottery Winnings (Form W-2G)
- A copy of last year's tax return, if available
- December/January electric bill for Home Heating Credit
- Proof of rent or mortgage with landlord's name and address
- Childcare expenses
- Proof of Health Insurance for 2020/Affordable Care Act Statement
- Summer/Winter Homeowner's property tax bill and Taxable Value of home statement
- Student Loan interest

NOTE: The fastest and safest way to receive your tax return is by direct deposit. If you choose to go this route please have a blank check available or the name of your bank/credit union, your account number and routing number. Stay tuned.... Be safe.... and...Be empowered.

Bettie Cunningham, LBSW
Disabilities Advocate
Certified Financial Coach/Counselor

Achieve More Campaign Donations

Rev. Robert Peterson
The Hayosh Family
The Riggios
Jennifer McArdle
Anthony Baron
Doug and Cathy Stormzand
Michael Thomas
Rebecca Wenglinski
Mark and Judith Enderle
Janice and Mitchell Radon
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Bob Gordon
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Kenneth Chandler
Patrick and Judy Sheehan
Tom and Maria DiPonio
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Shaun Stoker
Donald and Frances O'Connell
Bob Kruse
Barbara Read
Sharon and Doug Visocchi
Frank Supancic

General Donations

Knights of Columbus - St. Edith Council
#13645
Thomas McAuliffe

Arc NW Endowment

Joann Samuels

Memorials

In memory of Maybelle Munn

Robert and Teresa Moore

**In memory of Stanley D. Webley and
John Joseph Webley**

Adrian Giaccaglia and Janet Webley

**In memory of Sean Radon and dedicated to
The Sean Radon Lekotek Scholarship Fund**

Janice and Mitchell Radon

In memory of their daughter, Katie Collins

Daniel and Barbara Collins

**In memory of Marilyn Hewitt and In honor of
Eric McClain**

Robert M. Guard

**In memory of Jeffrey Campbell and dedicated
to The Arc NW Athletic Program**

James Holloway



60th Anniversary Donors and Sponsors

Charles Johnson

Detroit River Sports

Janice and Mitchell Radon

Detroit Lions

Donald and Frances O'Connell

Community Living Services, Inc.

Detroit City Distillery

Cherry Tree Inn and Suites

Trader Joe's

Lasting Impressions

DTE Energy Foundation

STEP (Services To Enhance Potential)







Educational Advocacy Grants

Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust

Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation

January 2021

The Arc NW Board Meeting
Will be Via Zoom on Tuesday the 12th.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>After I'm Gone (AIG) via Zoom 6 - 8pm Must RSVP. To get login, email: cgiertz@thearcnw.org</p>			<p>Arc NW office closed until Monday, January 4.</p> 			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<p>Arc NW Office open at 8:30am</p>			<p>After I'm Gone "Estate Planning for Your Future" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p> 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		<p>Arc NW board meeting via Zoom 5:00pm.</p>				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				 <p>After I'm Gone "Beyond Group Homes" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p>		
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
<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>				<p>Guys & Dolls Bowling League will not meet for the duration of the 2020 - 2021 season. At the time of printing, many Michigan Bowling Alleys have been closed once again.</p>		

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

Friend us on Facebook
The Arc of Northwest Wayne
County



Facebook



Instagram

THE ARC NW PRESENTS

**MEMBER
TAKEOVER**

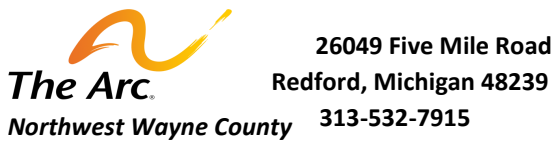
Would you like to share
your story on our
Instagram? Email Wendy
Ernzen at
wernzen@thearcnw.org



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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

DONATIONS \$100

\$25 \$150

\$50 \$ ____ Other **\$100 Organization**

\$75

Achieve with us!

\$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.

\$100 Organization

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