



Northwest Wayne County  
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**Inside The Arc**

**April 2021**



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

**IT'S FREE!**

**The Arc**  
Northwest Wayne County

## **THE ARC NW ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, May 6, 2021 6pm - 7pm online  
Register at [www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org) for zoom invitation

<https://tinyurl.com/n5prtjzy>

Meeting ID: 890 2885 2443

Passcode: 940291

BY PHONE: 1 312 626 6799



26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, MI 48239

Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488

## 2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

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<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Greg Wittrock
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<b>Director of Development</b>	Wendy Erzen
<b>Payroll Specialist</b>	Sandra Dobson
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<b>Lekotek Play Leader</b>	Lana Richardson
<b>Lekotek Librarian</b>	Katie Perkins
<b>Claims Processor</b>	Amy Pomicter
<b>Accounts Payable Clerk</b>	Yuqiong (Julia) He
<b>Office Manager</b>	Latrice Wilborn

**Achieve with us.**

## From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

**Individuals with disabilities MUST be a priority for receiving COVID-19 vaccinations!!!!**

I've heard this cry from Arc NW members, parents, professionals, allies and individuals with disabilities. It doesn't seem that the state of Michigan is taking notice. Fortunately, anyone receiving services through Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network and their staff, who are residents of Detroit, could start receiving vaccines in February. But this is far from being adequate!

The Arc NW is advocating for vaccine priority for those with disabilities along side 33 + other organizations in our area that also support people with disabilities. There has been a letter writing campaign, contact with state and county legislators, and public comment efforts. This group is currently focused on Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties.

Michelle Diament, writer for Disability Scoop, reports that,

*Research shows that people with developmental disabilities face a **three times higher** risk of dying from COVID-19. Accordingly, disability advocates have been pushing for months to ensure that this population receives early access to life-saving vaccines. But, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **failed to specify** those with developmental disabilities in its recommendations for priority groups, advocates were left to plead their case with individual states. (from [Despite High Risk, Access To COVID-19 Vaccines Uneven For Those With IDD - Disability Scoop](#) , Feb. 18, 2021)*

Community Living Services (CLS) shared with us a web tracker to locate available vaccines in our area. To use this Vaccine Spotter Website tool, go to: <https://www.vaccinespotter.org/MI/>

The Arc NW is committed to everyone having the right to health and wellbeing! We will continue to advocate for COVID-19 vaccines for all those we serve!

Stay well,

Gretchen Sanewsky  
Executive Director



# 60TH CELEBRATION

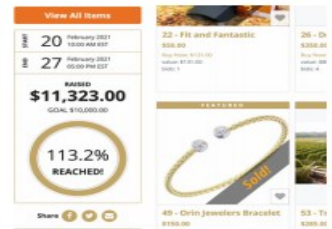
FEBRUARY 20-27, 2021



Thank you for joining us for The Arc of Northwest Wayne County 60th Celebration! More than 230 people registered and engaged in the digital festivities throughout the week.

Because of your generosity, we raised \$54,600 to help people with disabilities. Thank you.

The Dinner Dance date has been set for Saturday, February 26, 2022. We hope you will join us!



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## BRONZE SPONSORS



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## SUPPORTER SPONSORS



# 60th Celebration Donors

Susan Ahern • Kathy Anderson • Jean Barber • Brian and Monica Barnes • Ali Barringer • The Bearden Family • Thomas & Karen Bellhouse • Christopher Bidigare • John and Grace Bidigare • Black Star Farms • Justin and Kelley Bojan • The Bookmeier Family • Sumaya Boomgaard • Michelle Braun • Brengman Brothers Winery • Wilfred and Debra Brunk • Amy Brunner • Cynthia Bryant • Colleen Burton • Chrisa Butcher • Cherry Tree Inn and Suites • Chippewa Hotel • Allison Churchfield • Ryan and Danielle Churella • CJ Graphic Design • Katherine Clark • Clif Family Winery • Daniel and Barbara Collins • Marc Collins • Mary Beth Connolly • Luke Contos and Jean Walsh • ClvrKds Agency • Mark and Barbara Dabiero • Detroit City Distillery • The Detroit Garage • Detroit Historical Society • The Detroit Lions • Detroit River Sports • The Detroit Zoo • Ed and Kathleen Diegel • Catherine DiPonio • Dan and Gail DiPonio • David and Mary DiPonio • Dennis and Christine DiPonio • Dominic and Barb DiPonio • Jenna DiPonio • Mario and Beth DiPonio • Matthew and Lindsay DiPonio • Thomas DiPonio • Dimes Into Dreams Events • Paul and Anne Doulette • Pat and Michelle Driscoll • Michael and Carla Dunn • Mark and Judith Enderle • Bill and Wendy Ernzen • Phil and Florence Ernzen • Mike and Laura Fallat • Christopher and Patricia Faris • William and Adele Farmer • Financial and Portfolio Advisors • Joanie and Todd Forfinski • Dr. Jennifer Francis • Travis and Vanessa Fry • Susan Gardynik • Robert and Katy Gariepy • Roger and Amy Gassman • Grainger • The Grand Hotel • Greener Method Cleaning and Restoration • Thomas and Mary Hollman • Yuqiong He • Helzberg Diamonds and Cheryl Nolan • The Henry Family • Kathy Hoen • Charles Johnson • Donna and Charles Justice • Ken Kelsey • Sylvia Kloc • Joe and Diane Kruliski • Michael and Marisa Lazich • Tom and Chris Lerchen • Vince and Marianne Licari • Dr. Lori Lundblad

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# Special Thanks

## 60th Celebration Committee

- Marianne Licari, Committee Chair
- Cynthia Bryant
- Luke Contos
- Dave DiPonio
- Chris Lerchen
- Vince Licari
- Bill Winkler

## Special People and Businesses

- Holly Balaka
- Janice Bearden
- Kris Copeland
- Dennis and Chris DiPonio
- Duane DiPonio
- Michelle Driscoll
- Craig Hearn
- Sylvia Kloc
- Janice Radon
- Jean Walsh
- M-1 Studios
- Dimes into Dreams Events
- ClvrKds Marketing Agency
- Bill Joyner, Friday's Musings
- Livonia Chamber of Commerce
- Redford Chamber of Commerce

## Arc NW Staff

- Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director
- Bettie Cunningham
- Sandy Dobson
- Wendy Ernzen
- Chesley Giertz
- Julia He
- Katie Perkins
- Amy Pomicter
- Deanna Reed
- Lana Richardson
- Latrice Wilborn

## Arc NW Board

- Kathy Pfuhler, President
- Greg Wittrock, Vice President
- Rana Ramouni, Secretary
- Susan Gardynik, Treasurer
- Ryan Klotz
- Roxanne Riggio
- James Simon
- Samantha Van Sumeren
- Heidi Warren
- Bill Winkler



## Financial Literacy Workshop

Topic: Money and Banking Basics

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Place: WebEx virtual meeting platform  
Meeting ID provided following registration.

Registration required: Please contact Bettie Cunningham at [bcunningham@thearcnw.org](mailto:bcunningham@thearcnw.org) or (313) 532-7915, ext .204



**Please refer a friend to Lekotek!**

**Scholarships are available through the Sean Radon Scholarship Fund.**

**Stay tuned for Lekotek summer events!**



## *The Arc of NW Wayne County* **Lekotek Play Sessions** restart April 5, 2021

- GUIDED PLAY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BIRTH TO 12 YEARS
- TOY LENDING LIBRARY OPEN

### COVID PRECAUTIONS

- PLAY SESSIONS-ONE CHILD AND ONE ADULT PLUS PLAY LEADER
- WHEN POSSIBLE VISITORS MUST WEAR FACE COVERINGS
- EXTRA TOY AND PLAYROOM SANITATION

To schedule a play session contact Play Leader, Lana Richardson  
**313-532-8524**

*The Arc of NW Wayne County* 26049 5 Mile Rd., Redford, MI 48239  
[www.thearcnw.org](http://www.thearcnw.org)

Happy 'Spring' to everyone! April is the month when we start to get warmer weather and sunshine. Time to get out our lighter jackets and go for walks to get some fresh air.

I see many of you have been celebrating birthdays and St. Patrick's Day on Facebook. So many green shirts, beads, hats and food to celebrate a fun party! I have also seen some art projects that many of you have made. Keep active and enjoy time with family and friends.

We are unable to have any JFC events the rest of this season. I hope mostly everyone has been able to get vaccinated by this time. Remember to wear your mask in public places, wash your hands and social distance from others. This will help to keep everyone safe and healthy. We MISS all of you so much!!!

Happy Easter,

Jackie Norris

# Just Fun Club News



## **Arc NW Annual Award Nominations (4)Categories**

Please submit nominations to Gretchen by phone 313-532-7915 ext 203 or email [gsanewsky@thearcnw.org](mailto:gsanewsky@thearcnw.org).

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

**Nominations accepted through April 23, 2021**

### **Volunteer of the Year**

The Volunteer of the Year award is given to someone who has voluntarily (without pay or remuneration) assisted The Arc of Northwest Wayne County and its members. The volunteer may or may not be an Arc member.

### **Member of the Year**

The Member of the Year award is given to a member of The Arc of Northwest Wayne County who exemplifies their membership through activities that support the organization. This award may be combined with the Volunteer of the Year award.

### **Achiever of the Year**

The Achiever of the Year award goes to an individual with developmental disabilities who strives to be the best they can be. This is someone who has made significant achievements in their efforts to gain independence and control of their life. Arc membership is desired but not required for the award.

### **Teacher/Education Team of the Year**

All children deserve the benefits from the opportunity to learn among their peers. This award is for a teacher or an educational team that has supported inclusive educational goals and/or experiences for students.

# 60th Celebration Donors & Sponsors

Susan Gardynik  
Michael and Patricia Melvin  
Katherine Clark  
Rick and Audrey Larese  
The Bearden Family  
Lisa Pardington  
Travis & Vanessa Fry  
Joe and Diane Kruliski  
Deanna Reed  
Michelle Swartzendruber  
Frank and Lois Palazzolo  
Doug Ziemnick  
Anthony and Joanne Cabrera  
Heidi Warren  
Lana Richardson  
Thomas and Mary Hollman  
Vincent and Marianne Licari  
John and Arin MacFarland  
Thomas and Emiljana Vella  
Michael and Patricia Melvin  
Jenna DiPonio  
Howey Insurance  
Bruce A. Smoler DDS PLLC  
Emagine Entertainment  
Fifth Third Bank  
Suburban Imports of Farmington Hills

## Golf Outing Donations & Sponsorships

Johnson & Johnson

## After I'm Gone Grant

The Carls Foundation

## Memorial Donations

Mark Dykstra

## Just Fun Club

Natalie Freeburn

## Where It is Needed Most

Carol Roble  
John and Kathy Vial  
The McClain Family





# The Arc Sports News

Happy Easter & Happy Spring Everyone!

As of writing this article on March 24<sup>th</sup> I am still awaiting word if Field & Track will start up and if Summer Games at CMU are on in June. I'm waiting on information on whether or not ANY outdoor sports (Baseball & Soccer) are a go for 2021.

Coaches & Volunteers can visit the SOMI website to review/complete the RETURN TO PLAY requirements which are located at "Coaches Corner". You can also locate the information from prior emails forwarded to the coaches from Sue Campbell that contain a link to the website.

This is from SOMI – COACHES CORNER: *For the Return to Play requirements follow the [checklist](#) to determine what is required and to track what has been completed. Requirements must be emailed to your region's forms email prior to being approved to begin practices. All coaches must attend an online Webinar hosted by SOMI staff via Zoom. Once you have completed the webinar, it carries over for the next season. Chaperones and practice/event volunteers do not need to attend the webinar but are more than welcome to.*

Another jump to get you ahead of the game is to check for any expiring health forms for sports of: baseball, soccer, & basketball (Positive thinking for these 2021 sports). SOMI already announced that there will be NO Floor Hockey in 2021.

I am in the thinking stages of a smaller scale bowling fundraiser in August, before the bowling leagues start. I'm thinking many will have the vaccine by then and will feel safer in a building with 50% occupancy. I'm holding off to July for a final decision.

Well everyone, continue to stay safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, & social distance and think positive for Sports to start back up.

HAPPY EASTER ~ Janice.



## Pandemic EBT

**MORE THAN 800,000 MICHIGAN CHILDREN WHO ATTEND SCHOOL VIRTUALLY BEGIN RECEIVING FOOD ASSISTANCE THIS MONTH; MDHHS PROGRAM ONE OF MANY DURING PANDEMIC TO ENSURE FAMILIES CAN PUT FOOD ON TABLE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2021

Bob Wheaton, 517-241-2112

LANSING, Mich. - Approximately 810,000 Michigan children whose access to school meals has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have begun to receive food assistance benefits.

**The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is automatically issuing the additional benefits now through the end of March. Monthly payments will continue through June.**

Families can find a list of SNAP retailers on the [SNAP Retailers website](#). They also can use their benefits online to purchase food from Amazon, Walmart or Aldi. More information can be found [on the MDHHS Pandemic-EBT webpage](#). Families that have questions can email [MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov).

Information around coronavirus outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

## NEW GRANTS FOR THE ARC NW

We would like to thank The Carls Foundation, the Whole Foods Foundation, and Fifth Third Bank for their recent generous donations to our programs.

The Carls Foundation is funding an expansion of the After I'm Gone Program so we can reach more families.

Fifth Third Bank made a gift to the Educational Advocacy Program so we provide more support to families in schools.

The Whole Foods Foundation invested in our operations. We are so grateful to have this support.

## 2021 - 22 Event Dates

**Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 6, 2021**

**Golf Outing**  
**Sunday, August 15, 2021**

**Sip & Support**  
**Monday, October 4, 2021**

**Dinner Dance**  
**Saturday, February 26, 2022**



## After I'm Gone

# AIG

**April 1, 2021**

Dept. of Health and Human Services

**April 15, 2021**

Supporting People in Decision Making

**April 29, 2021**

Estate Planning for Your Future

**After I'm Gone (AIG) via Zoom**

**6 - 8pm**

**Must RSVP. To get login, email:**

[cgiertz@thearcnw.org](mailto:cgiertz@thearcnw.org)



The Arc

# April 2021

Northwest Wayne County

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>After I'm Gone (AIG) via Zoom 6 - 8pm Must RSVP. To get login, email: <a href="mailto:cgiertz@thearcnw.org">cgiertz@thearcnw.org</a></p>				<p>1 After I'm Gone "Dept. of Health &amp; Human Services" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 EASTER </p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Arc NW board meeting via Zoom 5:00 PM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 After I'm Gone "Supporting People in Decision Making" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 US Disability Policy Seminar virtual</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Annual Award nominations due to Gretchen</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 After I'm Gone "Estate Planning for Your Future" via Zoom 6 - 8pm MUST RSVP</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>Financial Literacy Workshop Online Topic: Money and Banking Basics Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Place: WebEx virtual meeting platform (Meeting ID provided following registration) Registration required: Please contact Bettie Cunningham at <a href="mailto:bcunningham@thearcnw.org">bcunningham@thearcnw.org</a> or (313) 532-7915, ext .204</p>						

**CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's Web Site

Friend us on Facebook  
The Arc of Northwest Wayne  
 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](mailto:wernzen@thearcnw.org)



**Northwest Wayne County**

**26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, MI 48239**

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**Northwest Wayne County**

**26049 Five Mile Road  
Redford, MI 48239  
313-532-7915**

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

**DONATIONS**  \$100

- \$25       \$150
- \$50       Other
- \$75

- \$25 Individual Membership**

- \$50 Family Membership**

- \$100 Organization**

Additional Membership Fees: \$5 to join Just Fun Club  
\$15 to join Lekotek

An individual and his/her family or a group home with multiple residents. Includes additional membership fees for Just fun club and Lekotek.

Businesses, non-profits, community groups, or government

**Achieve with us!**