Save the date
August 15th!

THE ARC NW 2021 GOLF OUTING
Sunday, August 15, 2021
8:35AM Shotgun Start
NEW LOCATION! Whispering Willows Golf Course
20500 Newburgh Rd | Livonia, MI 48152

More outing details at www.thearcnw.org

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 15, 2021 for The Arc NW Golf Outing at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia. If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to the raffle, please contact Wendy Ernzen at wernzen@thearcnw.org. Stay tuned for registration details soon!
From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I attended the 2021 virtual US Disability Policy Seminar. As usual, the sessions contained excellent information. I was particularly interested in information on Direct Support Professionals during COVID-19. As with many situations in our society, the pandemic magnifies that which is lacking. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) were already overworked, undervalued and underpaid. Even though Michigan granted pay increases through September 30, 2021, DSPs still struggle with hard work and little compensation. During the Disability Policy Seminar I learned that on average in the US DSPs make $12/hour. Someone at the seminar said, “DSPs make a minimum wage but those who benefit from their support are NOT minimum wage individuals!” HOW TRUE!

University of Minnesota’s Institute on Community Integration and the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals surveyed over 9,000 DSPs around the nation. They found:

- **34 percent [DSPs] are working more hours since COVID-19 emerged and a quarter say they are more often short-staffed.**
- **Only 24 percent reported receiving extra pay related to the increased risks associated with the virus...Some 42 percent of those surveyed said they knew a [DSP] who had left their job since the pandemic began over worries about becoming infected, due to child care issues, contracting COVID-19 or other reasons.** (disabilityschoop.com/2020/08/14 covid)

This is a frightening time of great personal risk for many DSPs, their families, and their employers. Rep. Debbie Dingell from Michigan shared during the Seminar that she is working on funds to support DSPs and individuals with disabilities to become part of President Biden’s infrastructure plan. Perhaps a COVID-19 silver lining is bringing to light the value of DSPs and the funding needed to support this work.

I want to give a shout out to all the DSPs that are supported through The Arc NW! We see you! We are endlessly grateful for the work you do and the sacrifices you make. Thank you for building a more inclusive world.

Stay well,

Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director
STEP Thrift Stores "stepped" up to help The Arc NW

During the month of March, STEP Thrift Stores partnered with The Arc NW as part of their Double Your Difference Program. This donation program encouraged customers to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar to donate, and then STEP donated a percentage of sales. Thank you to STEP and their customers who contributed!

If you know of a business interested in partnering with The Arc NW, please contact Wendy Ernzen, our Director of Development, at wernzen@thearcnw.org.
Great news for Advocacy and upcoming AIG workshops

The Carls Foundation has given a generous grant to help grow the After I'm Gone Program. This funding will allow more families to access this valuable information. Thank you!

Fifth Third Bank also gave a grant to support the Educational Advocacy Program. Thanks to their generosity and the other foundations who made contributions earlier this year, the advocacy team is hard at work supporting families in schools during COVID.

For families looking for help with future planning, there are a few more After I'm Gone workshops left for the 2020-2021 series. Come learn from experts and advocates who understand how to navigate the systems of services and supports. 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. Email Chesley Giertz, our Advocacy Director, at cgiertz@thearcnw.org to register. Topics and dates are below:

- Supporting People in Decision Making: 4/15/21
- Estate Planning for Your Future: 4/29/21
- Beyond Group Homes: 5/13/21
- Your Rights When Receiving Mental Health Services: 5/27/21
- Financial Planning: 6/3/21

The Margaret Dunning Foundation helps expand The Arc NW's tech capacity

Though the Arc NW has been operating the entire time during COVID, there have been challenges whether that's old computers without cameras, outdated laptops, and other technology issues. The Margaret Dunning Foundation acknowledged these needs and generously funded a technology capacity grant to upgrade our technology and support from Michigan Nonprofit Association Technology Services. Thank you!
Better Money Habits Financial Literacy Series

In partnership with Bank of America, The Arc NW has launched a financial literacy series, Better Money Habits. This series features FREE, 60-minute workshops that help with budgeting, saving, debt reduction, credit cards, and other financial topics tailored for families and people with disabilities.

Financial Literacy Workshop
Topic: Financial Safety
Date: Tuesday, May 25, 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 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
Happy May to everyone! I hope that many of you are enjoying getting outside to feel some sunshine as the weather starts to warm up a bit. Hopefully all of you had a fun Easter with your family or friends. I saw on Facebook many of you decorating eggs, cookies and making spring crafts. It looked like some nice projects being made at many places. It won’t be long before folks will be able to have some outdoor picnics.

The Trademark and J.J. And Company Bands along with the Just Fun Club group misses everyone and says ‘hello’ to all of you!

Our wish is for everyone to stay healthy, safe and happy.

Happy Memorial Day,

Just Fun Club News

Saturday Afternoon BOWLING at Oak Lanes

We will be starting Saturday 9/11/2021. After conferring with Parents and COC leadership, we signed the contract for (30) weeks of bowling. Bowling will be from 1:00-3:00pm. Bowling starts at 1:30pm.

The cost will remain at $6, including two games for each bowler, the same as last year!
We assume all will be well so we can start amid COVID concerns at that time. We will go ahead if conditions allow.

ALSO NOTE: We will be asking Bowlers and chaperones/guests/parents, to be vaccinated or show a recent negative COVID test. Seating will separate observers from the bowlers and bowlers will be asked to wear masks. These restrictions will protect all and provide a safer outcome. We will provide further information in each Arc NW newsletter until September. Questions? Contact Jim at 248-318-8856 (cell phone) or jagallas@comcast.net

Best Regards, Jim G.

Hello Everyone! As of this writing all sports with Special Olympic are still shut down. It’s unknown when sports will be reopened. It’s unknown if there will be Softball or Soccer. As soon as I get any updates from the Area Director, I will notify all coaches & The Arc with the news.

In the meantime coaches & volunteers visit the SOMI.org website under Coaches Corner to review your name and see if any of your certificates or forms have expired. This is a good time to update all your qualifications. Also review the NEW ATHLETE HEALTH FORM – 6 pages total. Call me or Lana to find out when your current form is expiring. As of April 2021 SOMI will no longer accept the old 1page form.

For the athletes, families, & staff; go outside walking. To make it more interesting & fun invite a few friends/team mates to meet at a track at any of the high schools to run or walk around it. Go to a batting cage, go play Putt-Putt. Do any type of moving for exercise.

Remember to social distance, wash your hands & wear a mask.
Most of all let’s all get rid of this virus - GET VACCINATED.

Hope to see everyone soon – Janice Bearden

The Arc Sports News
In Memory of John Zago

Anthony Russel and Lacey Evans
Ann and Edward Skowronskski
Arlene and Edwin Russel
Basco Shower Doors & Brett Greene
Brian and Joan Wake

Brian & Mary Burke, John & Linda Burke, and the
Glenn and Carol Osterhart
Chris and Jack Berry
Chris and Kathleen Fennell
Daniel and Barbara Collins
Daniel Merski
Dino & Barbara Bona
Erin Waanders
Fred & Claudia Agemy
Gail and Fred Tyszka
George and Josephine Cirocco
Gina Sieperski
Jerry and Betsy Gwizdz
Jeffrey and Joann Kovan
John & Margo Dempsey
John and Karen Kosniewski
Kristine Kiluk
Lisa Pittrich
Lisa Zahn
Lois McTaggart
Mary Ann Bencivenga
Michaline Chase
Michelle Daguanno
Nancy J. Abramson
New Century Sales, Inc. & Richard Portt
Nino and Irma Cerroni
Patricia Wojciechowski
Pauline Shuryan
Fred and Sharon Daguanno
Shirley Bona
Louie and Shirley Broccardo
Solowjow Family
Wendy Winkler

In Memory of Michael Dooley, Sr.

Barbara DePirro Fishon
Fred Ward and Marlene DiPonio
Rosalind Shankleton
Teresa Dooley
Tracey Breen

In Memory of Nancy Holloway

The McClain Family

In Memory of Annie Bearden and Dedicated to The Arc NW Athletic Program

Diane Smith
Frank and Claudia Mallon
Justin & Adrienne Burkson
Karin Magina
James and Lula Welch
The McClain Family
The Hayosh Family
The Dobson Family
Tom & Loretta Welch
Virginia Guzik Brewington

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
Where It is Needed Most

Fred Ward and Marlene DiPonio
Pat and Michelle Driscoll
Stephen Raymond
John and Arin MacFarland
Dave, Darlene, and Clint Miller
Jean Barber
John Darin
Katherine Savatsky
Lauren Reynolds
Mango Plumbing & Sewer Services
Stephen and Claudia Riedy
Whole Foods Market Community Giving

60th Celebration Donors & Sponsors

Fred Ward and Marlene DiPonio
Medical Weight Loss Clinic

Just Fun Club

Natalie Freeburn

After I'm Gone

The Carls Foundation

Arc NW Technology Capacity

The Margaret Dunning Foundation

Educational Advocacy

Fifth Third Bank

2021 - 2022 Event Dates

Golf Outing
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Sip & Support
Monday, October 4, 2021

Dinner Dance
Saturday, February 26, 2022
To receive an Eventbrite invitation to any of the presentations in this series, contact:

Diana R. Lazzell  
Outreach & Engagement Coordinator  
O: 317-278-6831 | E: dlazzell@iupui.edu

Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center  
Great Lakes Equity Center  
IU School of Education  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
902 West New York Street, ES3116  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5167  
greatlakesequity.org
We are excited to invite you to the 2021 National SLN Conference! This virtual conference is on **June 18 and 19, 2021** with post-conference sessions offered on June 22, 23, and 24. Conference registration is now open! The conference provides an opportunity for adult siblings of people with disabilities from across the nation and globe to connect with each other. Siblings attending the conference will share stories and network, hear from national experts on sibling services and supports, learn about new research initiatives, and gain insight on sibling experiences. Visit the conference webpage to learn more! --->http://ow.ly/7RkK50EIJy9

Applications are open for a scholarship through the SLN’s Equity and Inclusion Scholarship program to cover the cost of registration. Learn how to apply HERE: http://ow.ly/ohLw50EIJy8

---

**Michigan Family Summit**  
*Planning for a Good Life*

Charting the LifeCourse is a framework that was developed to help individuals and families of all abilities and at any age or stage of life develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live.

Join us to learn about Charting the LifeCourse that can be used at every life stage to enhance a person-centered approach for planning and supporting life experiences that support a person to reach their vision of a “good life.”

This 2-day summit will:
- Highlight the use of Charting the LifeCourse.
- Highlight the significant role families play in their children’s lives across the lifespan.
- Provide real life examples and strategies that can be used to impact the trajectory towards a “good life”.

**LED BY**
Charting the LifeCourse Network at the University Missouri Kansas City, Institute for Human Development

**Workshops Include:**
- Supported Decision Making
- Benefits Planning
- IEP Planning
- Future Planning
- Sexuality Education
- Assistive Technology

**Register Here:**
https://www.mylibraolunge.com/sites/mifamilysummit2021/

*Free for self-advocates and families  
*$25.00 fee for professionals*

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When: May 11-12, 2021</th>
<th>Time: May 11: 10:00am-1:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where: The event will be held virtually</td>
<td>May 12: 10:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# May 2021

**Northwest Wayne County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;6pm - 7pm via Zoom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Happy Mothers Day" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Michigan Family Summit</strong>&lt;br&gt;MAY 11-12&lt;br&gt;See pg. 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Arc NW board mtg</strong>&lt;br&gt;5 PM on Zoom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Financial Literacy" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>After I'm Gone</strong>&lt;br&gt;Your Rights When Receiving Mental Health Services&lt;br&gt;6-8pm&lt;br&gt;MUST RSVP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Memorial Day" /></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHECK IT OUT!**

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County’s Web Site

[thearcnw.org](https://thearcnw.org)

**The Arc NW Office Closed**

6 - 7pm See pg. 5 MUST register

**Arc NW Office Closed**

6 - 7pm See pg. 5 MUST register

**After I’m Gone (AIG) via Zoom**

6 - 8pm Must RSVP. To get login, email: [cgiertz@thearcnw.org](mailto:cgiertz@thearcnw.org)

**Michigan Family Summit**

MAY 11-12

See pg. 10

**Annual Meeting**

6pm - 7pm via Zoom

**After I’m Gone Beyond Group Homes via Zoom**

6 - 8pm MUST RSVP

**Arc NW Office Closed**

6 - 7pm See pg. 5 MUST register

**After I’m Gone**

Your Rights When Receiving Mental Health Services Via Zoom 6-8pm MUST RSVP

**MEMBER TAKEOVER**

Would you like to share your story on our Instagram? Email Wendy Emzen at wemzen@thearcnw.org
Membership Application

Member Name(s)

Address

City

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

☐ $25  ☐ $100

☐ $50  ☐ $150

☐ $75  ☐ $ Other

☐ $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.

Achieve with us!