

The Arc NW Board

Officers

Kathleen Pfuhrer, President
Greg Wittrock, Vice President
Rana Ramouni, Secretary
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Directors

Ryan Klotz
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Samantha Van Sumeren
Heidi Warren
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Arc NW Staff

Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director
Bettie Cunningham, Advocate
Sandra Dobson, Payroll Specialist
Wendy Erzen, Development Director
Chesley Giertz, Advocacy Director
Katie Perkins, Lekotek Librarian
Amy Pomicter, Accounting and Claims Coordinator
Lana Richardson, Lekotek Play Leader
Latrice Wilborn, Office Manager
Diamond Watkins/Julia He, Accounts Payable Clerk

By the Numbers

Members: 479

Advocacy

- Served over 175 families in 65 schools through 700 consultations
- Provided 13 future planning sessions and 536 follow-up consultations
- Collaborated to change policies and push for COVID vaccines for people with disabilities
- Staff received education on disability policies and special education rules

Financial Management Services

- Served 222 individuals
- Trained on electronic visit verification system

Volunteers

- Over 300 volunteers
- Giving over 4,000 hours of service valued at over \$100,000

Just Fun Club:

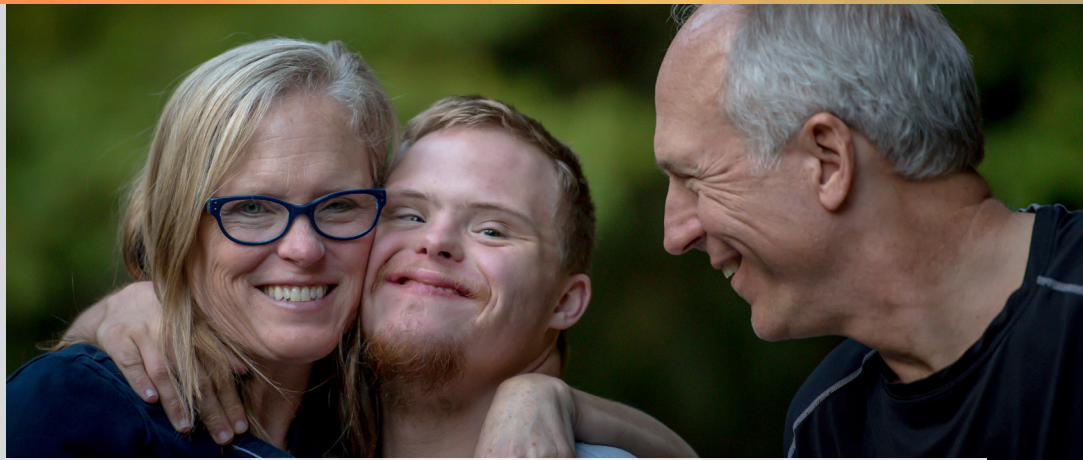
- 223 members

Athletic Programs:

- 195 participants
- 20 volunteer coaches

Lekotek Play and Toy Lending:

- 40 families served



ADVOCACY | EDUCATION | INDEPENDENCE

Building inclusive communities through advocacy, support, and information.

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County Annual Report 2019-2020



Dear Friends,

2020 has been an unprecedented year making The Arc NW's mission even more relevant and essential. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified that people with disabilities do not have equal access to education, jobs and healthcare. People with disabilities were last in line for hospital beds and COVID treatment. Disability rights are human rights and The Arc NW advocated to ensure people with disabilities have the COVID-19 care they need.

The Arc NW is flexible and creative, so we pivoted to meet the needs of those we serve during this pandemic. The office has been fully operational with a full staff, always there for those we serve. The Arc NW has great supporters! Our annual campaign raised almost double last year's amount. Generous donors have gone above and beyond to contribute time, treasure, and talents. We have also secured several grants to sustain and expand programs.

The Arc NW is growing! During 2020 a building feasibility study was completed generating options to increase space. The Arc NW Financial Management Services is serving more people, so we planned to hire more staff. Lekotek Play and toy lending grew to serve more families and we intend to continue expanding. Our advocates supported over 250 people in schools and the mental health system. We're expanding future planning workshops and starting a Financial Literacy program.

The Arc NW's dream for the future is fully inclusive communities where people with disabilities have full human rights. We want to be the first place people call for an ally to help secure those rights. We want to be the first place people call to find support for a fully included life. The Arc NW wants to realize the dreams of all people, of all abilities, living together as fully contributing members of our communities. Thank you to all our members, volunteers, board and staff who help make this dream come true.

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director

Celebrating Success: Duane DiPonio

Duane DiPonio and his family started as members when he was about ten years old. He said, "I didn't know about The Arc NW. I went to Harrison School, and my friend and their family introduced us to the Arc."

Duane joined the Arc NW Athletic Program and later the Just Fun Club. He shared, "I made many friends. I also love swimming!"

As Duane got older, what he wanted most was a job. The Arc NW helped him find one at Joe's Produce where

he worked for several years. Duane now lives with brother, Dan and his wife, Duane's sister-in-law, Gail. He loves bowling, watching his favorite television programs like The Price is Right, and going for walks. He's also a big fan of Michigan sports. The Red Wings, the Pistons, the Tigers, and University of Michigan Games - he watches it all.

He also has a full schedule and a great life with his family, "On Tuesdays, I have dinner with my brother, Dennis and his wife, Chris.



On Wednesdays, I spend time with my sister, Marianne and her husband, Vince. I have a big family with lots of nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews."

Thank you for being a great Arc NW member, Duane!

Educational Excellence During COVID: Troy Hatter and Family

Mrs. Hatter had worked with an Arc NW advocate in the past to understand her child's special education services, but the pandemic brought new challenges. When Mrs. Hatter contacted an Arc NW advocate for help this school year, her family was in crisis.

Her son Troy, who has an anxiety disorder, learning disability, and severe ADHD, was extremely overwhelmed, and as she described it, "Remote learning for him is a time of daily crisis in our home." Her son was anxious every day, crying, screaming, and self-injuring.

Mrs. Hatter, who is the Executive Director of a nonprofit, had to sit with her son all day, every day, to help him complete what little work he could. Troy's dad, who works a midnight shift, could not sleep during the day because of the disruptions. Troy's difficulties were affecting their entire family. Mrs. Hatter said, "At this time, learning is not happening and we as a family feel defeated and hopeless."

With the guidance of an Arc NW advocate, Mrs. Hatter was able to get assistive technology provided in-home that could aid her son in completing his work. Communication between the school and family improved. Schoolwork was provided in a format that Troy could understand, and other forms of support were implemented to help him access the curriculum. As a result, Troy's teacher said that he is completing more assignments now than the entire first part of the year.



Troy's mother shared, "I can't believe the house is so peaceful. Troy's dad can have uninterrupted sleep after getting home at 4 AM, my daughter can do her schoolwork without texting me all day about Troy's disruptions, and I can have Zoom meetings and take calls without having to first apologize for a frustrated remote learner in the background. **Most importantly, Troy is confident and in a good space to learn.** Thank you so much for supporting me and giving me information and strategies to help me serve as an empowered advocate for Troy. I truly appreciate all that you have done to support this experience. **I can't imagine how parents are getting appropriate services for their children without an advocate."**

How to Get Involved

Give to The Arc NW Endowment Fund

Support Our Signature Events

- Sip & Support
- Millionaire Parties 4 times/year
- Golf Outing
- Ball for All Dinner Dance
- Athletics Program Bowling Fundraiser

Volunteer

- Just Fun Club
- Arc Athletics and Bowling
- Newsletter and mailings
- Fix-it jobs around the building
- Clean-up projects
- Lekotek Toy Drive
- Everyone Belongs Reading Program
- Committees

Community Support - Thank You!

Foundation Support Total

• Margaret Dunning Foundation (building)	\$42,000
• Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan (census)	\$ 20,000
• Edward and Evelyn Dik Family Foundation (Just Fun Club)	\$ 10,000
• The Walters' Family Foundation (Lekotek)	\$ 6,000
• Comerica Bank (Financial Management Services)	\$ 4,000
	\$ 2,000