

# Highlights

In 2021 The Arc NW had over 6,000 contacts through advocacy and programs.

## ADVOCACY

### Educational and Behavioral Health Advocacy

- The Arc NW advocates work with students and families in 65 schools within 8 school districts
- Support provided during virtual learning
- Following school shootings around the nation advocates worked to decrease suspensions and expulsions for students with IDD
- The Arc NW advocates provided support to 493 individuals through 1,450 consultations to uphold rights of people living under self-determination
- Advocates assisted in navigating the behavioral health system so those with IDD get needed services
- NEW work this year on supporting foster families

and students with IDD aging out of foster care

- The Arc NW supports policy advocacy through The Arc MI, The Arc US, and personal contacts with local and state legislators

### After I'm Gone (AIG) and Guardianship Alternatives Information Network (GAIN)

- In partnership with The Arc of Western Wayne County helping families plan a secure future for loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- During COVID-19 23 free online educational workshops were held serving 444 participants
- Advocates held 138 follow-up private consultations
- New topics and panel discussions added this year
- Updated pamphlet and NEW online registration

## NEW! Financial Literacy Workshops

- A monthly series of online financial workshops to assist with personal money management
- In partnership with Bank of America
- Inclusive of all abilities
- 76 participants and families reached

### Financial Management Services

- Supporting 119 individuals with IDD living self-determined lives
- Supporting 170 Direct Support Professionals adding over \$2 million to the local economy
- Partnering with 56 agencies with choice providing staffing
- Supporting 29 independent Supports Coordinators

## Lekotek Play and Toy Lending Library

- Serving 40 families with children with disabilities ages birth to 12 years
- 2,000+ toys and the only program of its kind in the state
- Wellness checks on families during COVID 19

### The Arc NW Athletics

- 130 + athletes ages 16+
- 6 sports with 16 teams
- 20+ volunteer coaches
- Opportunities to compete in Special Olympics

### Just Fun Club

- Over 200 members
- Monthly social events ages 16+ on hold during COVID 19



## How To Get Involved



### Make a Gift

#### Give to Arc NW Endowment

A group of parents started The Arc NW seeking equal education for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Their vision was full inclusion for people with IDD in all aspects of life. Your gift to the Arc NW Endowment Fund ensures this work will continue for generations to come. Thank you!



### Raise Funds

#### Support Our Signature Events

Whether you join a committee, donate, or attend an event, your involvement is critical to the success of our signature events allowing us to provide lifelong support to children and adults with disabilities.

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



### Volunteer

#### Give Your Time

In addition to our signature events, The Arc NW has many volunteer opportunities including:

- Just Fun Club
- Arc Athletics and bowling
- Newsletter and administration
- Fix-it jobs around the building
- Clean-up projects
- Lekotek Toy Drive
- Everyone Belongs Reading Program
- Virtual Volunteering

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# ADVOCACY. EDUCATION. INDEPENDENCE.

Building inclusive communities through advocacy, support, and information.



# Message from Leadership

Dear Friends,

The founders of The Arc NW could never have imagined that 60 years later we would face a global pandemic that would gravely impact individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). They surely never dreamed of the challenges to health and self-determination. The Arc NW was founded on the unwavering love of parents for their children and their staunch fight for inclusion. In 2021, our 60th year, we fully upheld this mission and took some brave new steps to secure a future of full inclusion.

The Arc NW’s priority is those we serve. Our office remained open and fully staffed, even adding a new staff position in our Financial Management Service. We worked not just to continue our usual level of support, but we grew our programs and expanded our mission. In 2021 The Arc NW secured grants totaling \$167,362. These funds provided for staff to work at full capacity, a technology upgrade to support our work, and an expansion of educational advocacy.

Our advocates supported students with disabilities through virtual learning, pressing school systems for necessary supports. We partnered with Michigan Alliance for Families to support students with IDD in Foster Care and their families. Advocates provided strategies when students with IDD were facing expulsions following the fears raised by school shootings. The Arc NW, in partnership with The Arc of Western Wayne County, expanded the After I’m Gone and Guardianship Alternatives programs through online learning. In partnership with Bank of America we offered

successful financial literacy education reaching families online and promoting independence.

Our Lekotek play and toy lending library continues to serve families of children with IDD. Play sessions were temporarily on hold but have resumed with COVID safety precautions in place. Toy lending, in-home play sessions and toy deliveries, and wellness checks on families continued this year. We are thankful to the Radon family and other supporters for providing Lekotek scholarships to families in need. Our other membership-based programs were on hold for a time. Just Fun Club social group is on hold until it is safe to gather and rent space at local schools. Athletics are restarting with some sports practices and competitions already underway.

The Arc NW Financial Management Services (FMS) assists individuals with IDD in self-directing their community supports and services. We work with a variety of supports coordination agencies and independent supports coordinators to endure that people have the services they need. The number of direct care professionals and individuals we serve continues to grow.

From a solid financial position, rooted in our mission, The Arc NW seeks to expand our reach in the year ahead. We are so thankful for all the volunteers, donors, and members who are the heart of our mission and the reason for our success. Here’s to an amazing future!

**-Gretchen Sanewsky**  
Executive Director

## Our Staff

<b>Gretchen Sanewsky,</b> Executive Director	<b>Amy Pomicter,</b> Claims & Accounting Coordinator
<b>Bettie Cunningham,</b> Advocate	<b>Deanna Reed,</b> Payroll Assistant
<b>Sandra Dobson,</b> Payroll Specialist	<b>Lana Richardson,</b> Lekotek Play Leader
<b>Chesley Giertz,</b> Advocacy Director	<b>Irene Watts,</b> Development Director
<b>Stacy Lewis,</b> Accounts Payable Clerk	<b>Latrice Wilborn,</b> Office Manager
<b>Katie Perkins,</b> Lekotek Librarian	



# Celebrating Success: Henrick



It began with giggles echoing throughout the building, the sounds of a child running towards my office. A little blond hair boy emerged in my doorway, masked and wide eyed, making a beeline for my Mr. Potato Head, shares Irene Watts, The Arc NW Development Director. Erin and her husband Kris have three beautiful children and their youngest son, Henrick, participates in the Arc NW’s Lekotek program (the only toy lending library in the state for children with disabilities.)

“Erin told us, Lekotek has always been a place where Henrick is celebrated for exactly who he is. He’s encouraged to play, without any focus on working toward a goal other than having fun. In the world of special needs children, this is really unique and a special concept, and we’ve loved every bit of it.”

## & The Kinde Family

It has been a tough couple of years for the Kinde family. Deborah Kinde is committed to a self-determined life for her 28-year-old twin sons, Anthony and Benjamin. The young men hope to be housemates in the home of their choosing with staff to support them living fully included in the community. The first thing the family did towards this goal was to renovate their basement creating independent living space. Faulty information led Deborah to believe this arrangement would not allow for community support staff. She sold the home and purchased another home where she hoped her sons could live. Once again, she was told this arrangement wouldn’t allow for support staff. Deborah felt upset and defeated.

It was then that Deborah contacted an Arc NW Advocate. Within two weeks the family was assigned a new Supports Coordinator to set up self-directed services. The family has chosen a staffing agency to provide community supports so Benjamin and Anthony can move toward more independent living. Our Advocate assisted the family in finding an attorney to set up a trust fund that will financially support the brothers in the future. Deborah is grateful to The Arc NW and said, “You were 100% effective in helping me and the boys.”

Thank you to all those who support advocacy work at The Arc NW for making full inclusion possible for children like Henrick and families like the Kinde!



# Board of Directors

<b>Rana Ramouni,</b> President	<b>Susan Gardynik</b>
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	<b>Gregory Wittrock</b>

## The Arc NW Champions for Inclusion / Gifts of \$1,000 or more given during 2021

Adamo Group, Inc.	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network	KPMG	Ric-Man Construction, Inc	Vincent Licari
Anthony Russel	DTE Energy Foundation	Luke Contos	Rob & Elizabeth Haar	Walmart Superstore
Bates Hamburgers	Fifth Third Bank	Margaret Dunning Foundation	Stephen Raymond	Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation
Bidigare Contractors	Glantz Family Charitable Trust	Marlene DiPonio	STMicroelectronics	WFQ, Inc.
Brent Mikulski	James D. Simon	Nagle Paving Company	Susan Venegas	Whole Foods Market Community Giving
Brian Wake	Joann Samuels	Norman MacRitchie	The Carls Foundation	United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Building Bridges Therapy Center	Jonathan Radon	Pulte Family Charitable Trust	The Livonia Moose - Lodge 1317	
Carol Zago	Kathleen McRae	RAM Construction Services of Michigan, Inc.	Tito’s Handmade Vodka	
Centroid Systems, Inc.	Kathleen Pfuhler		Vanessa Fry	
Cynthia Ford				