



WHAT'S NEW?

AT THE ARC NW FOR 2025

HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Raising funds for continued building upgrades
- Partnering with organizations that share our mission
- Sharing in RISE (recreation, inclusion, social, exercise) events with Livonia Parks & Rec and Canton Therapeutic Rec
- Growing the Lekotek Play & Toy Lending program with hopes of putting the toy library online
- Offering Kindermusik inclusive music classes in partnership with Prelude Music Studio in Plymouth
- Increased engagement in community outreach to promote The Arc NW programs

And we, of course, continue to support our athletes, Just Fun Club events, advocacy efforts, and financial management services. Stay tuned for more exciting things to come! Our work together as a chapter of The Arc is more important than ever!



HAPPY KWANZAA!

Merry
Christmas

Happy
Hanukkah

Happy Holidays

From The Arc NW

Team Arc

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Officers

President – Jim Simon

Vice President – Samantha Van Sumeran

Treasurer - Nadia Khalyleh

Secretary– Dionka Saddler

Past President - Rana Ramouni



Directors

Veronica Eades	Roxanne Riggio
Monica Hubahib	Kathy Pfuhler
Ryan Klotz	Ursula Price
Arin MacFarland	Elena Samborski

The Arc Staff

Executive Director - Gretchen Sanewsky	Payroll Clerk—Lakamala Williams
Development Director— Paula Brown	Payroll Assistant—Deanna Reed
Office Manager -Latrice Wilborn	Accounting /Claims Coordinator - Amy Pomicter
Lekotek Play Leader - Lana Richardson	Intake Specialist - Lisa King
Lekotek Librarian - Katie Perkins	Danielle Zinser - Administrative Assistant
Advocate –Khalilah Montgomery	Nichole Mayfield - Accounts Payable
Advocacy Director - Bettie Cunningham	



Meet the Executive Committee of The Arc NW's Board of Directors

Each year at the annual member meeting, the gathered members of The Arc NW elect people to serve on the board of directors. The board consists of a 5-member executive committee and 7-10 directors. Currently, there are 13 total members serving on the board. The board would like to stay in touch with Arc NW members through the newsletter. You will hear more in the coming months!

Please meet the Executive Committee for 2024-2025



James (Jim) Simon
Board President
Audit Partner, KPMG



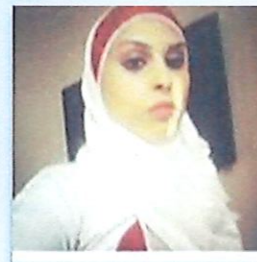
Samantha (Sam) Van Sumeren
Board Vice President
Employee Benefits Attorney



Dionka Saddler
Board Secretary
VP Banking Center Manager,
Comerica



Nadia Khalyleh
Board Treasurer
CFO Ansara Restaurant Group



Rana Ramouni
Past Board President
School Psychologist,
Dearborn Public Schools

The Arc NW is so grateful to these accomplished professionals who have a passion for serving individuals with disabilities and their families. The Board meets monthly to provide guidance to the organization and to the Executive Director. We thank them for their time, talent, and service!

Development News

Ball for All Dinner Dance on February 1st at Laurel Manor

The 2025 Ball for All is just around the corner! Tickets and sponsorships are available now, visit www.thearcnw.org for more information. Big thanks to our Diamond Sponsors **Cynthia and Edsel B. Ford II and Emagine Entertainment**; Platinum Sponsor **MacFarland Printing**; and our anonymous Gold Sponsor. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Carol Zago Lekotek Playhouse Campaign

The Zago family is celebrating the life of Carol Zago through a campaign during her birth month of November to raise funds for our Lekotek Play Program. Carol was a lifelong supporter of the Arc NW, and before she passed in 2023, **she arranged a bequest** be made to support our Lekotek Play Program. We are so thankful to Carol and her family for this very special ongoing support and will be naming our Lekotek Playhouse in her memory. Gifts in memory of Carol may be made through the donation page at www.thearcnw.org.

Advocacy Receives Grant

The Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust has approved a grant of \$5,000 to support a new Advocacy outreach education program for those who work with students with disabilities. This program will strengthen the collaboration between the Arc NW, school staff, and students and their families to assure all students receive the full educational services to which they're entitled. Congratulations to the Advocacy Team!



Carol Zago



Dear Friends,

I had the privilege of attending The Arc National Convention in Columbus, OH from November 1-3, 2024. It was exciting to see self-advocates and representatives of chapters of The Arc from all over the country, even Hawaii! Ms. Katy Neas, the new CEO of The Arc US, addressed the convention days before the presidential election. I appreciated her words when she said that “No matter the election outcome, The Arc is ready!” She stated that The Arc is a powerful force in advocating for people with disabilities and that we will work together to do just that. Nothing will stand in our way!

After the presidential election The Arc US put out a statement that says,

With the election of President Trump and a new Congress, The Arc of the United States will continue to partner with all elected officials, advocating and educating that disability is a part of our shared human experience—one that touches every family, every community, and every generation regardless of political party. When people with disabilities have the support they need to live, learn, work, and participate fully in their communities, all Americans benefit...

We have work to do—and The Arc will never stop advocating for the policies that people with disabilities need to thrive. (November 6, 2024/in [News](#)/by The Arc, www.thearc.org)

As we have just celebrated Thanksgiving, The Arc NW is reminded how grateful we are to be part of the larger Arc family in Michigan and across the US. We're thankful for people who make a positive difference in our communities and our world. We are touched and encouraged by joining together to ensure policies and practices that allow individuals with disabilities to thrive.

This is not a political agenda, but a human agenda. Disability rights are human rights. As we enter a new political era in 2025 we will continue to fight for those rights together. Chapters of The Arc around the state and country make a significant difference for self-determination. I encourage you to reach out to leaders in your community, the state and nation to make your voice heard for inclusion. Your stories are more powerful than you know! Let's continue to strongly advocate together!

With Hope for the New Year!

Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director, The Arc NW



After I'm Gone

Future Planning Sessions



Future Planning Sessions

AIG: December 5, 2024 Supported Decision Making

December 19, 2024 Transition Planning

January 9, 2025 Your rights when receiving Mental Health Services

January 23, 2025 - Housing Options

Please register at The Arc WW website : <https://thearcww.org/aig/> or contact Tequila Smith of The Arc WW at (734) 729-9100 X 206 .

• Lunch and Learn Series

o Next Lunch & Learn Session

✦ When: **No Session Schedule for December 2024**

✦ Next Session schedule for Wednesday January 15, 2025

✦ Time: 12:00Pm—1:00pm

For more information, please contact: **Bettie Cunningham** at (313) 532-7915, ext. 204/bcunningham@thearcnw.org or **Khalilah Montgomery** at (313) 532-7915, ext. 200/kmontgomery@thearcnw.org

For those interested in financial literacy classes in the future, they are now held in Michigan public schools and at area agencies such as Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, Focus Hope and Southwest Solutions.

We wish each of you good health, happiness and prosperity in the days ahead.

Thank you!

Bettie Cunningham

Advocacy Director

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County

7170 N. Haggerty Rd.

Canton, MI 48187

Office: (313) 532-7915, ext. 204

Fax: (313) 532-7488

www.thearcnw.org



JFC News

The Just Fun Club pizza luau was held at Thurston high school on November 15.

We had 195 members in attendance.

Everyone was dressed in colorful, flowered shirts and dresses. Trademark band played great songs and the dance floor was filled with so many happy people!

We served cheese, pepperoni and vegetarian pizzas, salty snacks, chocolate chip cookies, pop, and water.

Our Christmas dinner dance will be held at The Hellenic Center on Sunday, December 15 2:00pm—5:30 pm. This is a pre-pay event The \$15 fee Must be Paid two weeks in advance at the Arc. Please see Lana.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at The Christmas Dinner Dance.

🦃 Happy Thanksgiving,
Jackie Norris



Sports News

Happy Holidays Sport Fans – Floor Hockey ended with Wolverine II team taking the Gold in Division 3. The Wings received a ribbon in Division 3.

BASKETBALL – Lady Hot Shots & Lightning start practice Wednesday, December 4th at Hilbert Elementary, Redford. 6:30 for Ladies. 7:30 for Men team. Piston team starts Thursday, December 5, 6:30pm. Tournament dates are still unknown.

Athletes, Families, Staff – Do not be late for practice; arrive on time, dressed/ready to practice. Gym time is one hour. You are expected to be at all tournaments & scrimmages. Once dates & locations of tournaments are known you will be notified by your coach. If the date conflicts w/your schedule let the coach know ASAP. The coach will move you to an alternate. If the roster is open to add new players, the coach will ask a person waiting to join the team. For Basketball, Jan. 8th is deadline to add new player. Remember we only have 2 or 3 practices in December before the schools close for Christmas Holidays.

We have many new athletes wanting to join the NW Arc Sport program but the rosters are full. So please, if you cannot make the commitment to join the sport for program (games scrimmages, tournaments) please do not join at this time. Come cheer us on & allow another young man or lady who's waiting come join the team. This is for all our sports athletes are waiting for all of the sports that is offered.

More coaches / volunteers are needed. we need more coaches, so we can have more teams for all who want to play sports
If you know anyone interested in becoming a coach or volunteer give them my contact information.

Track & Field will be starting late February. **Swimming** will start first weekend of March. More info on these sports will be in February newsletter.

Merry Christmas & Happy Healthy 2025 – Janice Bearden

JFC Halloween Pictures





Holiday Hoopla

AT THE ARC NW

FUN FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

VISIT SANTA IN A SENSORY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT!

❄️ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 ❄️

4:00-6:00 PM

7170 N. HAGGERTY RD., CANTON, MI 48187

PLEASE RSVP TO LANA

313-532-8524 Irichardson@thearcnw.org

WWW.THEARCNW.ORG



December 2024/January 2025



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 Rise Holiday Fitness Fun - The Arc 6:00Pm - 8Pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Arc Board Meeting 5:30Pm	11	12 Holiday Hoopla The Arc - 4:00 - 6:00Pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Arc Closed	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 Arc Closed	2 Arc reopens	3	4





January 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<i>1 Arc Closed New Years Day</i>	<i>2 Arc Reopens</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9 AIG</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14 Board Meeting 5:30Pm</i>	<i>15 Lunch and Learn 12:00pm - 1:00pm The Arc</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20 Martin Luther King Day. The Arc Closed</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23 AIG</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	





The Arc
Northwest Wayne County
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Canton, Michigan 48187

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 313-532-7915

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 _____

Daytime Phone _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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
 entities that support people with disabilities.

Achieve with us!

Friend us on Facebook

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County