

Educational and Behavioral Health Advocacy

- The Arc NW Advocates provided advocacy to 391 students and Foster Care students through Michigan Alliance for Families
- The Arc NW provided educational advocacy to 121 students and families in 14 school districts
- Advocates provided support to 117 individuals in living out their person-centered plans
- Arc NW Advocates provided consultations on future planning to 300 families
- Advocates created and implemented a NEW Lunch and Learn program meeting monthly for peer support
- The Arc NW Advocates engaged in outreach to area schools and agencies to increase awareness

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

- In partnership with The Arc of Western Wayne, The Arc NW provided free community education on future planning
 - 299 AIG participants served
 - 238 GAIN participants served
- The Arc NW Advocates provided consultations on AIG topics to 300 families

Financial Management Services (FMS)

- with disabilities
- Serving 220 direct care workers
- New caseload model for Arc NW staff to better serve those who rely on us

Lekotek Play and Toy Lending Library

- The only program of its kind in Michigan
- New larger playroom
- Hosting classroom field trips
- Updated toy library and storage area for 2000+ toys

The Arc NW Athletics

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

Supporting 150 individuals in **Just Fun Club**

- Monthly social events held in the community
- Over 200 members
- Dedicated committee of volunteers

Gretchen Sanewsky,
Executive Director

Bettie Cunningham,
Advocacy Director

Lisa King,
Intake Specialist

Nichole Mayfield,
Accounts Payable Clerk

Khalilah Montgomery,
Advocate

Katie Perkins,
Lekotek Librarian

Amy Pomicter,
Accounting/Claims Coordinator

Deanna Reed,
Payroll Assistant

Lana Richardson,
Lekotek Play Leader

Irene Watts,
Development Director

Latrice Wilborn,
Office Manager

Lakamala (Kay) Williams,
Payroll Clerk



How To Get Involved



Help Support Us



Raise Funds



Volunteer

Make a Gift

- **Make a one-time donation**
- **Give to the Endowment Fund**
- **Establish monthly giving**
- **Give a matching gift**
- **Give stocks**
- **Donate your car**
- **Donate real estate**

For more details visit our website:
thearcnw.org

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**

Give Your Time

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

- **Just Fun Club**
- **Arc Athletics and bowling**
- **Millionaire parties**
- **Newsletter and administration**
- **Fix-it jobs around the building**
- **Clean-up projects**
- **Lekotek Toy Drive**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



COME SEE OUR RENOVATED SPACE!

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
7170 N. Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187
313-532-7915

www.thearcnw.org

Message from Leadership

The Arc NW has a vision of being the premier organization helping people with disabilities in the communities we serve. We're in a growth cycle increasing capacity, supplementing staffing, and transitioning more fully into our new location. Through connection to The Arc NW the lives of individuals and their families are transformed through equity and a future fully supported by the community. The Arc NW's progress toward this vision in 2023 can be described in one word: renovation.

Building: For most of the year the building, formerly a music store, underwent renovations. Large piano showrooms were divided and turned into offices. Small practice rooms and sales offices were expanded to become workable office space. The kitchen was completely redone, and bathrooms are in process. We are very grateful to the Margaret Dunning Foundation for awarding The Arc NW a grant to purchase new flooring in the common areas and new carpet for the Lekotek playroom. The Arc NW plans to use the space to increase partnerships with like-minded organizations, host community events, and increase programming.

Programs: Our Financial Management Services (FMS) staff underwent renovations of job duties and moved to a case management model. This personalized approach allows us the ability to increase the number served by 36%. We saw a 3% increase in the number served in 2023 over 2022 and anticipate similar growth in the future. Our FMS expanded the staff this year, adding an additional part-time position. Our goal is to support self-direction to the fullest through best practices and personal connection.

The newly renovated Lekotek playroom allowed us to host Early On classrooms of children, parents, and teachers. 12 families started attending play sessions and borrowing toys this year. In the coming year we seek to increase participation from schools and increase to 20 more families involved.

Even our advocacy work sometimes undergoes renovations. In this day of increased violence in schools, our Arc NW Advocates must meet new challenges with new strategies. This year our Advocates had great success in preventing students from being expelled, ensuring quality education.

Innovation: The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) was generous to The Arc NW, awarding us grants to work on three projects.

Under MHEF we worked with the Michigan Public Health Institute to pilot an online platform for families to hire direct care workers. Ready for trial in 2024 this should greatly aid in combating the worker shortage.

The Arc NW worked with Siren Strategy to create a unified marketing strategy across our organization. This will assist us with all future marketing including a more robust use of media outlets and social media.

Detroit Philanthropy assisted The Arc NW in creating a donor campaign that will run for two years. Our goal is to engage new and existing donors to support building needs allowing for growth of programs and services.

YOU: None of these wonderful accomplishments would be possible without you. Your generosity in giving made our three major fundraisers a huge success. Your donations of toys, annual gifts, memorial gifts, and endless hours of volunteer time ensure that those we serve live their BEST lives. The Arc NW staff, board, members, and volunteers are one big team supporting and advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for your support in all our renovations this year. We look forward to building on this renewal as we continue the work building inclusive communities where every person is valued, accepted, and invited to live a fulfilling life.

- Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director

Celebrating Success: Roxanne



The mission of The Arc of Northwest Wayne County is advocacy for people with disabilities. "Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others." (taken from Alliance for Justice, www.afj.org)

The Arc NW was founded in the 1960's by parents advocating for their children with disabilities to have equal access to appropriate education in the public schools system. Fast forward to 2023 and The Arc is standing in solidarity with individuals with disabilities who take the lead in advocating for their own rights.

Roxanne Riggio is a great example of a self-advocate. She spoke up for her educational rights as a student and now works with staff she hires to ensure the best support possible. Roxie also advocates for others. Whether it's a training class for direct care workers or speaking to a

group of middle school students, she shares her story and promotes appropriate language. She even spoke at the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network's board meeting and won the right for the skills training of her choice. Roxie loves volunteering with Miracle League baseball and jumps at any chance to care for animals.

Roxie says, "I have worked with The ARC NW for 20 years and they always have my back. And look where I'm at today, I'm on the Board". The Arc NW Board of Directors greatly benefits from Roxie's insights, lived experience, and especially her sense of humor.

It doesn't take a degree or special training to be an advocate for someone in your life. It just takes compassion, the drive for a more just world, and the ability to be a friend. Join Roxie and The Arc NW and be an advocate!

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Vice President

Samantha Van Sumeren,
Secretary

James Simon,
Treasurer

Kathy Pfuhler,
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Nadia Khalyleh

Ryan Klotz

Arin MacFarland

Ursula Price

Roxanne Riggio

Dionka Saddler

William Winkler

The Arc NW Champions for Inclusion / Gifts of \$1,000 or more given during 2023

ABM Corporation

Adamo Group, Inc.

Alta Equipment Company

Ashley Capital

Audrey Larese

Beth Wilder

Brent Mikulski

Brian Wake

Building Bridges Therapy Center

Centroid Systems, Inc.

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Johnson & Johnson

Karl Kostrzewa

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Michigan Health Endowment Fund

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Wallside Windows

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