

Educational and Behavioral Health Advocacy

- The Arc NW Advocates provided advocacy to 66 students and Foster Care students through Michigan Alliance for Families
- The Arc NW Advocates provided 919 educational advocacy sessions to 304 students and families from 13 communities representing 8 school districts.
- The Arc NW Advocates provided support to 354 individuals in living out their Person-Centered Plans
- The Arc NW Advocates provided 1,085 consultations on future planning to families
- Advocates held 10 Lunch & Learn sessions for community education
- 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
 - 270 AIG participants served
 - 161 GAIN participants served
- The Arc NW Advocates provided 654 consultations on AIG topics to families
- The Arc NW Advocates spent 57 hours on educational advocacy outreach to spread the word about the service

Financial Management Services (FMS)

- Supported 283 individuals with disabilities
- Serviced 258 direct care workers
- FMS team trained families on the new

EVV phone app

Lekotek Play and Toy Lending Library

- The only program of its kind in Michigan
- New sensory wall installed
- Began transition to new leadership
- Began working to put toy lending library online

The Arc NW Athletics

- 130+ athletes ages 16+
- 6 sports
- 20 volunteer coaches
- Opportunities to compete with regional Special Olympics
- Coach of the year for Special Olympics MI was Brian Bookmeier from The Arc NW

Just Fun Club

- Over 200 members
- Monthly social events held in the community
- 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

Paula Brown,
Development Director

Latrice Wilborn,
Office Manager

Lakamala (Kay) Williams,
Payroll Clerk

How You Can Get Involved

You Can Make a Donation

- Arrange a monthly donation securely through www.thearcnw.org/Donate
- Ask your employer about their Matching Gift program to double your donation
- Make a gift of stock conveniently through www.thearcnw.org/waystogive
- Donate your car, real estate, or other non-cash items*
- Consider arranging a gift to support future generations through your will*
- Make a donation to The Arc NW endowment*

* Please contact The Arc NW Development Office for assistance

You Can Support our Signature Events

You can support the Arc NW through our annual fundraising events: Join one of the planning committees, become a sponsor, or attend! You'll have fun while you help support our mission

1. **Ball for All Dinner Dance — February 7, 2026**
2. **The Arc NW Golf Outing — August 17, 2025**
3. **Sip & Support (Fall)**
4. **Athletic Program Bowling Fundraiser (Spring)**

Are you interested in hosting your own fundraising activity on behalf of The Arc NW? Contact the Development Office for assistance.

You Can Volunteer

Do you have a special talent or skill you'd like to donate? Contact The Arc NW Executive Director for assistance:

- **Just Fun Club**
- **Arc Athletics and bowling**
- **Newsletter and administration**
- **Fix-it and clean-up jobs around the building**
- **Taking items to be recycled**
- **Yard and garden beautification**
- **Lekotek toy drive**



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CONNECT WITH US
IN CANTON

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

www.thearcnw.org

Message from Leadership

This year was one of elevating and improving the quality of programs, services, and our reach. We are grateful for the team effort of the entire Arc NW family including the board of directors, staff, families we serve, and volunteers. We continue working toward the day when every person who needs our services can engage with them for a lifetime.

Programs: The Arc NW’s Lekotek program worked with a team of students from the University of Michigan’s School of Information. For their senior project the group designed a user interface for our toy lending library to be put online. They won second prize out of 145 group projects at the school’s expo. The project inspired students to carry principles of inclusion into their careers and inspired us to contract with a web-based platform that will host our online toy library. Online access will be completed in 2025.

The Lekotek playroom got a facelift from Occupational Therapists at Building Bridges Therapy Center. The team designed and installed a sensory wall that will promote learning and creativity in the children we serve. Prelude Music Studios provided inclusive Kindermusik classes in the playroom for children ages 0-7 years. We are grateful to generous donors who helped make both efforts a success.

Development: This year Paula Brown joined the staff team as the new Development Director. She brings a wealth of expertise to the role and worked to secure several grants supporting programs, services, and building needs. Her main role is to develop relationships with our members and donors to ensure a vibrant future for the organization. Efforts from 2024 will ensure funding for essential projects around the building.

Outreach Strategy: This year Advocacy and Lekotek staff attended multiple resource fairs and speaking engagements to share our programs. We received grant funds through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to

create program videos for outreach and to implement strategies to increase our social media presence. Our work with Siren Strategy through the grant provided an outreach plan which was implemented this year.

Building: The installation of new flooring in common areas and new carpet in offices was completed. The board prioritized needed projects including a new heating/cooling system, automatic door openers, and furniture. We are glad to have hosted other groups who serve people with disabilities in the space this year.

Innovation: The Direct Care Worker (DCW) shortage is dire across the state. We are committed to thinking outside the box to help solve this issue. The Arc NW hosted two Meet & Greet events for families and potential DCWs to meet.

This year The Arc NW began a partnership with Livonia Parks & Recreation and Canton Therapeutic Recreation to form RISE (Recreation, Inclusion, Social Exercise). We developed and hosted inclusive fitness activities that included social time such as Yoga & Yogurt and Weights & Watermelon. This meets the needs of those who prefer low impact fitness activities and wish to make new friends.

YOU: No matter how you connect with The Arc NW, you are part of this team that creates full inclusion in our communities. We are thankful for all our donors, for those who attended our fundraising events, and for everyone who gives their time and talent. Without you the successes of 2024 would not have been possible. We look forward to 2025 as we re-imagine programs, grow the quality of our services, use our building to the greatest extent possible and make our mission more fully known. We invite you to become more involved in the coming year! Thank you for being part of Team Arc NW!

- Gretchen Sanewsky
Executive Director



Lana Richardson and Armando Ordaz



Aerilyn Bunnell and Lana Richardson



Emily and Maxwell Yandura

Celebrating Success: The Ordaz Family

Armando Ordaz has been coming to The Arc NW’s Lekotek program since age 3. Now at age 15 he still enjoys the guided free-play sessions. Lana Richardson, Lekotek Play Leader, is the only consistent professional who has journeyed with Armando and his family for all these years. “Lekotek is the one place that my son can just be himself,” states Amanda Ordaz, Armando’s mother.

Lekotek’s mission is to help children with disabilities be fully integrated into their families, schools, and communities through the power of accessible play. Lekotek provides families with more than 2,000 toys designed to support learning, development, and the building of essential skills. “...my favorite part [of Lekotek] is that no matter what [my daughter] needs they always have it here!” shares Jackie Bunnell mother of Aerilyn.

Amanda expressed, “My other children spent their childhoods going to birthday parties and play dates. Armando spent so much time going to doctors’ appointments and therapies. Lekotek was his time for play dates! ...Lekotek is such a gift, such a blessing!”

After 24 years of running Lekotek, Lana Richardson is moving toward retirement. 2024 was a year of reimagining the program! At the end of the year, we hired Brianna Keller-Fields as the new Lekotek Program Coordinator. She is working on plans to move the toy lending library online, bring in new families & school groups, and incorporate more adaptive technology.

Lekotek is a one-of-a-kind program in Michigan, serving children with disabilities from birth to age 12 in Wayne County. Lekotek is here to help children thrive through play—because every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and be included.



Brianna Keller-Fields,
Lekotek Program
Coordinator



Board of Directors

James Simon, President	Veronica Eades
Samantha Van Sumeren, Vice President	Monica Hubahib
Dionka Saddler, Secretary	Ryan Klotz
Nadia Khalyleh, Treasurer	Arin MacFarland
Rana Ramouni, Past President	Kathleen Pfuhler
	Ursula Price
	Roxanne Riggio
	Elena Samborski

The Arc NW Champions for Inclusion / Gifts of \$1,000 or more given during 2024

ABM	Cynthia and Edsel B. Ford II	Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust	Livonia Spree	Norman MacRitchie	Tino Zago
Adamo Group, Inc.	D’Angelo Bros., Inc	IUOE Local 30	Lowe Construction	Precision Baseball LLC	Tito’s Handmade Vodka
Alta Equipment Company	Dennis DiPonio	James D. Simon	MacFarland Painting, Inc	RAM Construction Services	United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Anonymous (multiple donors)	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network	Jay Dee Contractors	Margaret Dunning Foundation	RBC Capital	Wallside Windows
Bidigare Contractors, Inc.	DTE Energy Foundation	Joann Samuels	Martha Diakow	Rene Jacobsen	Wendell and Doris Rogers Foundation
Building Bridges Therapy Center	Edward Zarend	Karen Beck	Michael Marihugh	Richard Larese	WFQ, Inc.
Centroid Systems, Inc.	Gold Star Commercial Inc.	Kate & Mark Van Sumeren	Michael Zago	Signature Oak Stables	
Comerica Charitable Foundation	Google	Kathleen Pfuhler	Mrs. Laurie Johnston	Solé Construction, Inc.	
		Kelly Barnes	New Century Sales, Inc.	Susan Gardynik	
		KPMG		The Wake Family Fund	