



Newsletter
February 2025

Advocate with The Arc NW!



Dear Friends,
Happy New Year! As we begin 2025 chapters of The Arc around the country are strongly advocating for Medicaid funding. The Arc US shares this:

Millions of children and adults with disabilities rely on Medicaid for the support they need to live in their communities and their health care coverage.

In 2025, Congress has to make big decisions about what our nation's priorities should be and how to pay for them. Some policy makers think there is money to spare in the Medicaid program. We know that's not true.

Medicaid is underfunded and does not meet the current needs of people with disabilities and their families. When services are funded, people with disabilities have help to get out of bed in the morning, take their medications, get to work, and participate in their communities. In fact, almost 711,000 people with disabilities nationwide are on waiting lists for services they are eligible to receive. The program must be strengthened, not reduced. (from <https://action.thearc.org/>)

Join The Arc NW in advocating for full funding of Medicaid. Go to The Arc US website at www.thearc.org. On the homepage find the title Disability Care Services at Risk – Act Now. Click on the purple button that reads “Take Action” to sign the petition asking congress to fund Medicaid. We will continue standing together for disability rights in 2025!

Suzanne Janewsky, Executive Director

Training on Using Technology



Do you wish you had more technology skills like searching websites or managing emails? There are some great trainings just for you!

“The Arc and AT&T have joined forces on a nationwide program that is bringing digital skills training to people with disabilities and their families. Digital literacy is critical in today's world to learn, apply for jobs, be socially connected, and more. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, people with disabilities are three times more likely to not go online than people without disabilities.”

“The Arc, The Arc San Francisco, and AT&T have collaborated to create safe and accessible digital skills trainings that accommodate the different learning styles of people with disabilities.” (From www.thearc.org/our-initiatives/digital-literacy/)

To access training modules go to <https://att.digitallearn.org> or to The Arc UW website under the tab “Our initiatives”.

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 just went off the board |
| 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 |
| Programs and Special Projects - Lana Richardson | |
| Lekotek Program Coordinator—Brianna Keller— Fields | Intake Specialist - Lisa King |
| Lekotek Librarian - Katie Perkins | Danielle Zinser - Administrative Assistant |
| Advocate - Khalilah Montgomery | Nichole Mayfield - Accounts Payable |



BIG NEWS!

The Arc.

Northwest Wayne County

FROM THE ARC NW LEKOTEK PROGRAM



Lana Richardson

will be part-time in 2025.

After 30+ years at The Arc NW she plans to retire in early 2026.

She will support Lekotek, Just Fun Club, & athletics & be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays.

Introducing

Brianna Keller-Fields

Our new Lekotek Program Coordinator

Brianna holds Bachelor's & Master's (pending 2025) degrees from Purdue University in ABA.

She brings experience as a preschool teacher, ABA therapist & direct care worker. She joins The Arc NW team January 6, 2025!

The Arc NW is so grateful to Lana for so many years of service!

Lana has run the Lekotek program for 24 years. We're fortunate to have her wisdom for another year to smoothly transition the program to new leadership. We look forward to continuing Lana's legacy.

The Arc NW is excited to welcome Brianna to lead the Lekotek program! She is a transplant from Indiana and has 2 fur babies (cats). When she's not working with children with disabilities, she enjoys hiking, painting, vacationing, and shopping. Our Lekotek families will be in great hands!

LEKOTEK

THE ARC OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

Is your child working on:

- * Emotional Regulation?
- * Fine/Gross Motor Skills?
- * Working in a Group?
- * Problem Solving?

**Schedule a play session at the Arc of NW
Wayne County Lekotek Program!**

We can assist your family to reach these
goals through structured play sessions in
our playroom in Canton, MI!



CONTACT:

**BRIANNA KELLER
-FIELDS,
LEKOTEK
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**

(313) 532-7915, EXT 206

(313) 532-8524

bkellerfields@thearcnw.org



Schedule a free
play session today
to come check out
what we have to
offer your family!

MEMBERSHIP

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Organization



Meet Some Members of The Arc NW Board of Directors



Kathleen Pfuhler

Kathy has served on the board for 10+ years, 3 of which were as the Board President. She is the sister of Lori, one of our Arc NW members. Besides being an avid Arc NW and self-determination supporter, Kathy currently works as the Vice President for Business Development for Geisler Co.



Roxanne Riggio

Roxie is a self-advocate and has served on The Arc NW board for 4 years. She volunteers with the Miracle League, is a speaker and trainer on disability rights issues, and an avid animal lover! She provides great insights to the board and is known for her keen sense of humor.

Friends in the Kitchen Breakfast for Dinner



Scrambled Eggs



Pancakes



Bacon

www.bit.ly/fitkfeb

About Friends in the Kitchen

Friends in the Kitchen is the first cooking class crafted for members of our special needs community. Every month, our class teaches critical independence skills and leaves our chefs with a deeper understanding of cooking and food safety.

We're always looking for new class members, and we're appreciative to have everyone!

About The Share Kindness Project

The Share Kindness Project was founded in September 2023 with the mission of creating a kinder world for all. With the hopes of providing inclusion opportunities, we believe that **everyone** can be a part of this kinder world that we're building.

Hayden Hahn

Project Director
hayden.hahn@sharekindnessproject.org

Lauryn Hahn

Events Director | Inclusion Opportunities
Coordinator hayden.hahn@sharekindnessproject.org

After I'm Gone

Future Planning Sessions



Future Planning Sessions

AIG: February 6, 2025 Letter of Intent

February 20, 2025 Estate Planning

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: February 19, 2025

✦ Time: 12:00Pm—1:00pm

✦ Where : The Arc of Northwest

✦ 7170 N.Haggerty Rd Canton MI 48187

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

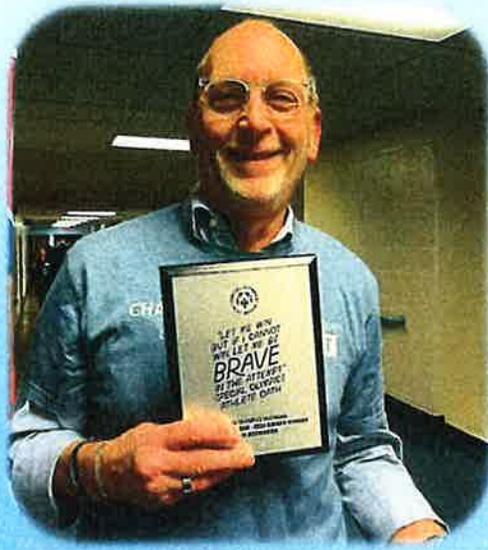
Office: (313) 532-7915, ext. 204

Fax: (313) 532-7488

www.thearcnw.org



CONGRATULATIONS to The Arc NW Athletics Coach Brian Bookmeier!!



Brian won the Special Olympics of Michigan 2024 Coach of the Year award at the Hall of Fame Banquet in Grand Rapids Friday Dec. 6th, 2024. He coaches basketball, baseball & floor hockey through The Arc NW and has been dedicated to the athletes for many years. Such a well deserved award!

Thank you for all you do, Coach Brian!

ONLINE TOOLS TO LEARN A NEW SKILL

Go to **Mittin.org** to find videos that teach helpful skills. When you go to the website you will see the page on the left below. Click on Digital Modules circled in red below. Scroll down the Digital Modules page, on the right below, to find the links to videos in blue. The links are circled in red. There are several videos to learn skills for safety and independence in the home and in the community.

MITTIN
MI TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE
INNOVATIVE CURRICULAR RESOURCES

Download Information - Google Play
Download Information - STEAM
Download Zip Files

About MITTIN **Digital Modules** Curricular Resources Media & Communication How to get Involved

MITTIN currently has 15 topics which focus on strengthening skills which promote safety and independence. When you click on a module topic below you will find:

- Overview of the task
- Story of the Module
- Steps it takes for completion
- How to Play directions
- Guided Mode Play-through
- Independent Mode Play-through
- Supplemental materials
- Downloading Links for the module

Welcome to MITTIN! We are excited to launch our new MITTIN website as a resource and share updated information regarding Michigan Transition To Independence. You will find our online modules, guides, supplemental materials, lesson plans, and resources. You can also learn about MITTIN partners, its Strategic Planning Goals and its comprehensive research and evaluation plan.

As more topics and resources are developed and enhanced, the MITTIN website will be updated, along with upcoming presentations, trainings and ways to get involved.

We look forward to sharing with you this exciting work as we, 'Strive to strengthen transition to Independence.'

Best regards,
Dr. Derek Cooley
MITTIN Committee Chair

Safety and Independence at Home

- Change Light Bulb
- Choose Appropriate Clothing
- Clean Flat Surfaces
- Clean Bedroom
- Mopping
- Put Away Groceries
- Sorting Recycling
- Sweeping
- Take Out Trash
- Use a Microwave
- Use an Oven

JFC News

Our Just Fun Club Christmas dinner dance was held on Sunday, December 15, 2024.

We had 234 members and family in attendance. The food, Trademark band, Photo Booth and Santa's Visit Made for a Great Christmas party.

Hoping to see all of you in January for our country western dance, which we will be serving cookies and pop. It is a three dollar entry at the door.

Happy 2025,
Jackie Norris



Sports News

Basketball –

SE Regional Tournament was held Jan. 18th Pistons took 4th place in Div. 8; Lightning took 3rd place in Div. 4. Lady Hot Shots took 3rd place in Div. 1. District Tournament for 2 Men's team will be Sunday March 2nd in Brighton. If the teams win their division they'll advance to State Tournament in Grand Rapids along with Lady Hot Shots March 22nd. Good Luck to all.

Field & Track – Practice will start Monday Feb. 24th 6:30 -8:00pm at Franklin HS Fieldhouse. Make sure your health form is current until May 31. Any inquiries should be directed to Coach Kim Hahn 248-345-2934.

Email: realtorkimhahn@gmail.com

Swimming – Will be start around first week of March more info to follow.

A Big THANK YOU to Principal, Staff, & Students at Beech Elementary School in Redford where Lady Hot Shots & Lightning basketball teams practice on Wednesday night. We wanted to show our appreciation for the use of their gym at only \$1 a year. Yes, you heard right \$1.00. Recently Channel 7 news had a story on the school regarding its Food Pantry and recently the staff purchased a washer & dryer for families to use. We knew immediately this is how the Coaches, athletes & families could pay them back. On Wednesday Jan. 15th at practice donations of Food, Clothing, Hygiene products, etc. were collected & delivered to the office (see photo of Coach Brian making delivery) The Principal was overjoyed when she seen all the donations. *We'll be doing another collection in March.*

Thanks

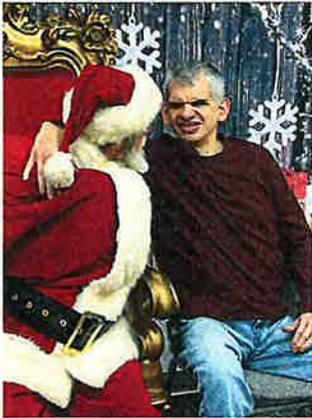
Janice





The Arc NW Holiday Hoopla 2024

Thanks to all who attended and helped!



*Thanks for
visiting us,
Santa!*



PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE EXPO



THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Please join us for our annual
Special Education resource
expo!**

**Companies and agencies
from the city, county and
state will be present to
share with your their
available supports and
services!**

SALEM HIGH
SCHOOL CAFETERIA
46181 Joy Rd, Canton

COME AT ANY TIME TO TAKE A
WALK AROUND THE
CAFETERIA AND VISIT ALL OF
OUR VENDORS.

**All families and students
are welcome to attend!**

PCCSK12.COM

PLYMOUTH-CANTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Ball for All Laurel Manor 6:30pm - 11:30Pm
2	3	4	5	6 AIG	7	8
9	10	11 Board Meeting 5:30Pm	12	13	14 JFC Valentines Day Dance Thurston High School 6:30 - 9:00	15
16	17	18	19 Lunch and Learn - The Arc	20 AIG	21	22
23	24 Track and Field 6:30 - 8:00	25	26	27	28	





The Arc
Northwest Wayne County
7170 N . Haggerty Rd
Canton, Michigan 48187

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Westland, MI
Permit No. 2082



7170 N. Haggerty Rd
 Canton, Michigan 48187
 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 _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Phone _____

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