



Newsletter

March 2025



MARCH is National Disabilities Awareness Month!



Dear Friends,

As we advocate for disability rights, we can take some action on two important issues. The federal government is considering cutting Medicaid funds. Many people with disabilities use these funds to pay for community supports. This is important for full inclusion. You can send a message directly to your legislators. Paste this link into your browser. It will take you to a page to fill out your contact information. The message to fully fund Medicaid will go directly to the legislators in your area. Thanks for taking action!

<https://action.thearc.org/MPAZgOs??p2asource=empower-2025-0218>

Katy Neas, CEO of The Arc US, recently wrote an opinion piece for Newsweek. She shared how important the US Department of Education is to individuals with disabilities. In 1971 The Arc fought in court for students with disabilities to have the right to a public education. Neas writes, "Their victory laid the foundation for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), securing the right to a free, appropriate public education for students with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of their disability." (Published Feb 17, 2025 at 6:00 AM EST, Newsweek.com)

Congress is working to eliminate the Department of Education that oversees IDEA. Without this oversight there would not be many ways to ensure states follow IDEA. The Department of Education's help can impact individuals and families directly. The Arc NW Advocates see firsthand the success students can have when supported by Special Education services.

You can take action by reaching out to your legislator. To find your legislators and their contact information go to: [Find Your Legislators – MichiganVotes](#).

Let's make our voices heard!
Gretchen Sanewsky, Executive Director

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	Elena Samborski
Arin MacFarland	



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



Meet Some Members of The Arc NW Board of Directors



Ryan Klotz

Ryan is an accomplished self-advocate and an advocate for others with disabilities. He works as a Community Transitions Trainer through Wayne State University's DDI. He held various roles in the city of Westland. He is a Public Policy Committee member with the MI Developmental Disabilities Council. Along with being an Arc NW board member, he is one of the panelists for our After I'm Gone education sessions.



Arin MacFarland

Arin has a background in special education as a para-pro in a local school system. She served many years as part of The Arc NW Dinner Dance Committee. She and her husband, Mark own MacFarland Painting and are a top sponsor of the Dinner Dance event. Arin is the mother of 4 busy children/teens bringing a lot of insight and organizational skills to the board.

SAVE THE DATE

The Arc NW Annual Golf Outing

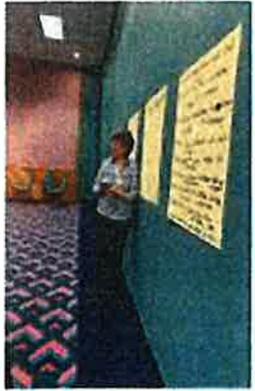
Sunday, August 17, 2025

Whispering Willows Golf Course, Livonia



The Case for Sexuality Education for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Opening the Conversation about Vulnerability, Safety and Responsibility

March 27, 2025 5:30pm-7:30pm



People with disabilities are sexual human beings. This means that like all humans, they have sexual feelings and needs. We believe that people with disabilities have a right to access education. Many people with disabilities get only negative messages about sexuality. MiDDC seeks to dispel myths about people with IDD and their sexuality and replace them with positive messages.

Learning Objectives:

- Sexuality impacts humans from birth to death
- Messages begin early on
- Myths and stereotypes perpetuated
- Separate sex from sexuality

Increase your skill and comfort level when addressing sexuality with people who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Join us for an interactive presentation.

**The presentation will occur in-person on
March 27, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30PM
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
7170 N. Haggerty Rd.
Canton, MI 48187**

What do people with IDD who have attended and become trainers say about this training?

"I have shared topics from the curriculum with people with disabilities and others without disabilities. The message is universal to all because too often people have not had the opportunity for proper Sexuality Education regardless of disability." ~ Bonnie Gonzalez, Peer Educator

FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

To register, please click on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HWD8H37>

If you need assistance filling this out, please contact:

shehanm@michigan.gov

Sponsored by the





The Arc NW 2025 Ball for All is Another Great Success!

On February 1st more than 200 people gathered at Laurel Manor in Livonia for the annual Ball for All. The event featured a raffle and online auction that included Lions tickets and other great prizes. Guests enjoyed great food and lots of dancing to the sounds of the Detroit Soul Review. The new Lekotek promotional video was also premiered.

Congratulations to our Committee Chair, Marianne Licari, and her committee members Cynthia Bryant, Tommy DiPonio, Karen Karibian, Vincent Licari, Arin MacFarland, and Bill Winkler. Special thanks to our Diamond Sponsors Cynthia & Edsel B. Ford II and Emagine Theater, and our Platinum Sponsor MacFarland Painting, as well as all our sponsors and supporters. The event raised \$50,000 to support The Arc NW programs and services.



Marianne Licari and Duane DiPonio



Raffle Table



Dancing!



Lekotek Parents Mandee and Arturo Ordaz



Arc NW Staff and Friends



The Arc NW Annual Awards Nominations-4 Categories

Please submit nominations to Gretchen by phone 313-532-7915 ext 203 or email gsanewsky@thearcnw.org. It's ideal to have something in writing to fully honor the recipients.

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH APRIL 11, 2025

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year award is given to someone who has voluntarily (without pay or remuneration) assisted The Arc NW and its members. The volunteer may or may not be an Arc NW member.

Member of the Year

The member of the Year award is given to a member of The Arc NW who exemplifies their membership through activities that support the organization. This award may be combined with the Volunteer of the Year award.

Achiever of the Year

The Achiever of the Year award goes to an individual with developmental disabilities who strives to be the best they can be. This is someone who has made significant achievements in their efforts to gain independence and control of their life. Arc NW membership is desired but not required for the award.

Teacher/Education Team of the Year

All children deserve the benefits from the opportunity to learn among their peers. This award is for a teacher or an educational team that has supported inclusive educational goals and/or experiences for students.

After I'm Gone

Future Planning Sessions



Future Planning Sessions

AIG: March 6, 2025 Social Security Programs

March 20, 2025 – Person Center Planning and Self Determination

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**

- **Next Lunch & Learn Session**

- ✦ **When: March 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



The Arc NW's 2025

ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING



THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

7170 N. Haggerty Rd., Canton, MI 48187

DINNER \$18 per person

Grilled Chicken * Roasted potatoes

California vegetables

Dessert & Beverages

ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATES

AWARDS PRESENTATION

CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Register and Pay:

Use QR code or go directly to

www.thearcnw.org OR



Fill out this form and mail or bring it to The Arc NW

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

attending: _____ X \$18= _____

MORE INFO CALL 313-532-7915

JFC News

There will be no JFC article this month But here is a picture from The Valentines Day Dance. Jackie is vacationing in Florida and will be back March 8,2025



Sports News

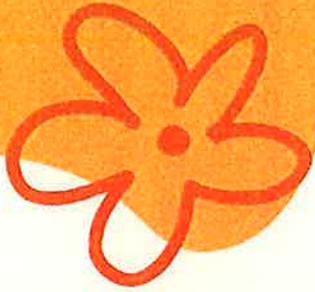
Field & Track – Started Monday, Feb. 24th 6:30 to 8pm at Franklin Field House.

Swimming – Started Sunday, March 2nd at Schoolcraft College. 4-5pm for beginners. 5-6pm for advanced swimmers.

Spring games for Swimming, Field & Track will take place at new location this year!! Northville High School, Saturday May 3rd. State tournament will be at CMU May 29th – May 30th. Remember athletes, your health form must be current during practice and until May 31, 2025 even if not attending State tournament.

Basketball – Regional Tournament for Men only is Sunday March 2nd in Brighton. State basketball Tournament for Ladies & winners of Regional Tournament; Calvin University, Grand Rapids Saturday March 22nd.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & Get your Teams together
ANNUAL SPORT BOWLING FUNDRAISER & BAKE SALE
FRIDAY MAY 9TH at WESTLAND BOWL... more info to follow



The Arc of Northwest Wayne County



LEKOTEK PLAY PROGRAM & TOY LENDING LIBRARY

- HELP YOUR CHILD GROW THROUGH PLAY
- LEAD A MEANINGFUL, SELF-DETERMINED & INCLUSIVE LIFESTYLE
- MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS THROUGH PLAY
- BORROW OUR ADAPTIVE TOYS TO TAKE HOME!
 - 2,000+ TOYS TO CHOSE FROM
- SUPPLEMENT ACADEMICS & THERAPY SERVICES
- PROMOTE FUNCTIONAL PLAY & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

**WE SERVE
CANTON, GARDEN
CITY, LIVONIA,
NORTHVILLE,
PLYMOUTH &
REDFORD!**

VERY CHILD DESERVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, GROW &
BE INCLUDED!

7170 N. HAGGERTY RD. CANTON, MI
(313)532-7915
BKELLERFIELDS@THEARCNW.ORG



BRIANNA KELLER-FIELD
LEKOTEK PROGRAM
COORDINATOR





March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Regional Basketball Tournament</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>AIG</i>	7	8
9	10	11 <i>Board Meeting 5:30Pm</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17 	18	19 <i>Lunch and Learn 12:00 - 1:00</i>	20 <i>AIG</i>	21 <i>JFC St Patricks' Day Dance Thurston High School 6:30 - 9:30</i>	22 <i>State Basketball Tournament</i>
23	24 <i>Track and Field 6:30 - 8:00 pm Franklin HS</i>	25	26	27	28	





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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
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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

Achieve with us!

Friend us on Facebook
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County