

## Introducing The Arc Network

The Arc of Indiana is pleased to announce the establishment of a statewide resource for people with developmental disabilities and their families—The Arc Network

The Arc Network is a group of ten family advocates and eleven self-advocates working in each Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) District throughout the state. The Arc Network is a program of The Arc of Indiana, lead by Nanette Whightsel, Director of Family Education and Community Resources, and Betty Williams, Coordinator of Consumer Education and Training. Participants include parents of persons with disabilities of all ages, self-advocates, and siblings of persons with disabilities.

### The Arc Network is a local resource

- Provides information on Supported Living and



**The Arc Network Self-Advocates and Family Advocates**

Medicaid Waivers.

- Provides information to residents of nursing homes on programs and supports available to help them move to a community placement.
- Follows up with individuals who have moved from a state developmental center to ensure they are connected

to local self-advocacy groups.

- Assists in the development and promotion of consumer participation in self-directed care initiatives and FSSA quality assurance outcome measures.

Following is contact information for The Arc Network Advocates. You can also call The Arc of Indiana office at: 317-977-2375 or 1-800-382-9100. Ask for

Nanette Whightsel. She can connect you with The Arc Network advocate in your area.

**BDDS District 1**—Jasper, Lake, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, Starke

Tondelia McVea [tondelia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tondelia@sbcglobal.net)  
Brenda Darrol [bdarrol@verizon.net](mailto:bdarrol@verizon.net)  
Linda Malangoni  
[l.malangoni@hotmail.com](mailto:l.malangoni@hotmail.com)  
Reina Torres  
[reinatorres99@yahoo.com](mailto:reinatorres99@yahoo.com)

Advocates work in each BDDS District throughout the state.

**BDDS District 2**—Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Howard, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Miami, St Joseph, Tipton, Wabash

Brian Replogle  
[breplogle@help-our-kids.org](mailto:breplogle@help-our-kids.org)  
Josh Hyde [hyde300@comcast.net](mailto:hyde300@comcast.net)

**BDDS District 3**—Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, Whitley

Kathy Hisey [kshisey@hotmail.com](mailto:kshisey@hotmail.com)  
Tamara Richey  
[tammyrichey@gmail.com](mailto:tammyrichey@gmail.com)  
Nitaya Lewis [nitayalewis@gmail.com](mailto:nitayalewis@gmail.com)

**BDDS District 4**—Benton, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Fountain, Monroe, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren, White

Renee Petrie  
[rpetrieamadvocate@hotmail.com](mailto:rpetrieamadvocate@hotmail.com)

**BDDS District 5**—Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Shelby

Jennifer Akers  
[arcnet.jennifer@gmail.com](mailto:arcnet.jennifer@gmail.com)  
Jill Ginn [arcnet.jill@gmail.com](mailto:arcnet.jill@gmail.com)  
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Ned Russell-Sullivan  
[nedr-s@indy.rr.com](mailto:nedr-s@indy.rr.com)

**BDDS District 6**—Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Union, Wayne

Maggie Mattingly  
[mmattingly.arcinnet@gmail.com](mailto:mmattingly.arcinnet@gmail.com)  
Shawn Fulton [sfulton24@yahoo.com](mailto:sfulton24@yahoo.com)

**BDDS District 7**—Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, Warrick

Paul Brewster  
[paul.brewster@pcarc.org](mailto:paul.brewster@pcarc.org)  
Angie Ehlers [aehlers@stonebelt.org](mailto:aehlers@stonebelt.org)

**BDDS District 8**—Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Lawrence, Orange, Scott, Washington, Bartholomew, Brown, Dearborn, Decatur, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland

Kerry Bonney [kerrybonney@verizon.net](mailto:kerrybonney@verizon.net)  
Joya Buddo [arcnet.joya@gmail.com](mailto:arcnet.joya@gmail.com)

The Arc Network is made possible through funding from the Family and Social Services Administration. You can learn more about The Arc Network by going to our web site: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org).

## MINORITY OUTREACH PROJECT SEEKS TO CONNECT MINORITIES WITH PROGRAMS, SERVICES

Families and advocates know that it can be difficult for people with disabilities to access programs and services. The difficulty is compounded if you are a minority.

The Arc of Indiana recently completed the first year of an outreach program to people with disabilities who are African-American or Hispanic/Latino. The second year of the project, October 2007 to September 2008, focuses on three outreach and service efforts.

### The Project staff includes:

**Vanessa Summers**, Project Director  
**Patrick Jamison**, Outreach Coordinator  
**Elizabeth Gedeon**, Employment Mentor  
**Elise McNutt**, Employment Mentor

The goal of the three outreach

programs is to increase employment of minorities with disabilities by increasing referrals to Vocational Rehabilitation and expanding the ability of Vocational Rehabilitation to serve them.

### Outreach Efforts

Family Advocate Outreach Workers from local chapters of The Arc, **Noble of Indiana** and **Janus Developmental Services**, will work with Patrick Jamison, Elizabeth Gedeon, and Elise McNutt from The Arc on outreach and recruitment in central Indiana.

**Achieva Resources Corporation**, a local chapter of The Arc, will focus efforts in

rural areas in Fayette, Franklin, Rush, Union, Jay, Randolph and Wayne Counties.

Two local Arc chapters, **Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana** and **Evansville ARC**, have hired part-time Advocate Outreach Workers to reach minorities in their service areas.

### The project will also:

- Provide technical assistance and training for vocational rehabilitation to local chapters of The Arc, community rehabilitation agencies and community minority organizations.



**Summers**

**Gedeon**



**Jamison**

**McNutt**

- Conduct research and development of career paths in rehabilitation for people with disabilities from diverse cultures.

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# The Arc's Annual Awards Presented

## Education Award

Julie Griffin

Julie Griffin has taught students with special needs in the Lafayette area for several years. During that time she has worked to ensure students with disabilities are integrated into classes, programs, and extra curricular activities.

Her dedication to and interest in her students extends beyond the classroom. She has provided respite care for families and has served on the board, on committees and as an officer of The Arc of Tippecanoe County.

As part of her work with The Arc, Julie was instrumental in forming a social club for middle and high school students with special needs.

## Outstanding Advocate Award

Don, Carol-Anne and Jonathan Hossler

Don, Carol-Anne and Jonathan Hossler began a volunteer project with Stone Belt Arc in the fall of 2004 known as Hand 'n Hand—not only to provide Jonathan with a volunteer opportunity, but also to develop a program to provide regular food donations to the Community Kitchen.

The Hand 'n Hand project has created a great volunteer opportunity for people with disabilities, has significantly increased food donations and has raised public awareness about both hunger and the abilities of people with disabilities.

## Community Living Award

Dawn Crozier

Dawn Crozier's employment with Opportunity Enterprises began through her volunteer visits with residents of Opportunity Enterprises group homes. These visits led her to make a career change and join Opportunity Enterprises as a full-time staff person.

Today, as manager of a group home in Portage, Indiana, Dawn makes an extra effort to assure that clients are active and involved in the community—going to the local water park, movies, dances and picnics in the park; and recruiting advocates to work one-on-one with consumers.

As a CPR/First Aid instructor, Dawn worked with a client who was employed as a program aide to help her earn a CPR/First Aid certification card.

## Public Policy Award

Senator Robert Meeks

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Senator Meeks was instrumental in ensuring that the cost savings realized from the closures of Fort Wayne State Developmental Center and Silvercrest Children's Hospital remained in the funding system for services to people with developmental disabilities in the community. Senator Meeks was also instrumental in ensuring funds were appropriated for the original "317 Plan," a comprehensive plan to move people off of waiting lists and into services.

At the local level Senator Meeks played a key role in securing funding for Arc Opportunities, local chapter of The Arc in LaGrange County, to build a work and day program facility.

## Development of The Arc

Indiana Flower and Patio Show

The Indiana Flower and Patio show, through the generosity and commitment of its owners—Bob Altum, Stan Hirschfeld, and Paul Kaug; and its Executive Director, Donnel Herberer Walton—has made a significant impact on Noble of Indiana.

An annual event known as "Noble Evening in the Garden" has raised nearly \$750,000 and entertained over 6,500 guests. A dollar value cannot be placed on the increased community awareness, potential donor cultivation, stewardship and memories that this event provides each year.

## Cathleen Clark Professional Service Award

Susan Boyer

Susan Boyer came to Arc BRIDGES in Lake County to bring her love of swimming to people with developmental disabilities. As Aquatics Manager, Sue developed the Arc BRIDGES Dolphin swim team. Two of Sue's swimmers have been trained by her to become lifeguards, and one now is her assistant in daily programs. She recently formed a partnership with Crown Point Swim Club that allows her swimmers to practice and compete with the club. Her swimmers are also active in Indiana Special Olympics.

Sue also developed a Special Olympics track team, the Arc BRIDGES Pacers; a seventy-five person bowling team, The Ten Pin Tigers; and the Arc BRIDGES Ace of Clubs golf team, which has finished in 1st and 3rd place at the Special Olympics State golf tournament. In his nomination, Ron Logsdon said, "I feel Sue deserves the award for professional achievement, and I can attest to the wonderful effort she puts forth training and coaching clients like me. She has always been kind, patient, understanding and caring with me."

## Citizenship Award

Angie Cain



The Arc of Indiana has been lucky to know the recipient of the 2007 Citizenship Award, Angie Cain, for many years—starting from the time she was a little girl, when her mother, Beth Cain, became an active member of The Arc of Indiana's education committee to advocate for a better life for Angie and other children with disabilities.

Today Angie has blossomed into a vibrant young woman who enjoys a busy life through her work and play.

As a volunteer for Best Buddies, Angie has

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## State Senator Marvin Riegsecker and Representative Sheila Klinker Honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards

State Senator Marvin Riegsecker (R-Goshen) and Representative Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette) were recently honored by The Arc of Indiana with the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of their commitment and outstanding service to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Senator Riegsecker** has used his role on the Senate Health Committee to advance legislation beneficial to people with developmental disabilities and their families. He has been a tireless advocate for issues on protecting health insurance benefits, training and support for direct support professionals, screening of newborns for metabolic disorders, early intervention through First Steps and funding for home and community based services.

As a chairman of the Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Senator Riegsecker has been instrumental in securing funding to expand Indiana's Medicaid Waiver program, which allows Medicaid to fund home and community based services that keep people out of institutions.

Early in her legislative career, **Representative Klinker** was appointed to the Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Her interest in the Commission was inspired by her sister, Carol, who was born with Down syndrome. She has been a tireless advocate to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families ever since.

As a leader on the House Ways and Means Committee, Representative Klinker is a tenacious advocate for funding for home and community based services for people with developmental disabilities. As a part of the 317 Commission, she dedicated herself to putting together the 317 Plan. The implementation of this plan has improved the lives of thousands of Hoosiers through the expansion of Medicaid Waivers.

Representative Klinker has pushed legislation for newborn screening testing, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, prenatal substance abuse initiatives, First Steps, guardianship issues and protection and advocacy issues.

Over the years, Senator Riegsecker and Representative Klinker have often partnered on critical bills and funding initiatives.



## Executive Director's Column

## Great strides forward, realizing dreams

As you read our newsletter, I hope you get a view of just how much the organization, which you help support, is doing every day for people with developmental disabilities in your community, your state and across the nation.

We have seen so much change in the 35 years I have been with The Arc...the dreams of parents who founded the organization becoming reality, becoming commonplace.

It was a personal pleasure for me to photograph three people for **The Arc's 2008 Calendar** (pictured here) who were originally featured in the first calendar we produced twenty years ago. They have all made great strides, thanks to the continued help and support of their local Arcs.

I am so proud of the family advocates and self-advocates featured on the cover of the newsletter, who now



John Dickerson

work for **The Arc Network**. There are so many families who are unaware of where to go for help, what their rights are and how The Arc can help. The Arc Network advocates are changing all that, and making an immediate impact on people's lives across Indiana.

The Arc's volunteers and staff who serve on our **Waiting List Committee** have made great strides in working with FSSA to bring people off waiting lists and into services, with over 3,000 people targeted to come off waiting lists. FSSA has also put into place a crisis assistance program, available

24/7, and is implementing a new quality assurance effort tied to outcomes, not just paper compliance.

**The Arc Master Trust** continues to be a tremendous success, with nearly 2,000 enrolled and \$34 million on deposit at The National Bank of Indianapolis for beneficiaries.

We are very pleased that Melissa Justice, a 12-year employee with The Arc, has taken on the role of Trust Director. I recently joined her at a meeting with a grandmother who enrolled her grandson in The Arc Trust, and I saw first hand her natural way of working with families that I know you will find refreshing.

This is the time of the year when much of our work is tied to the work of the **Indiana State Legislature**. This is

a trying year—property taxes have taken the main stage. As property taxes impact schools and community programs, the impact on people with disabilities and their families is significant. We are fortunate to have Kim Dodson leading the effort to keep our issues in front of legislators and the administration. Her reputation, and that of The Arc, with the legislature is unmatched.

You will be seeing a **new approach to communication** under the direction of Sally Morris, our Director of Communication, and a communication group chaired by Kevin Corcoran, a former award-winning reporter for the *Indianapolis Star*. We are developing an exciting plan to use new technology and our existing tools to reach even more people.

There is much to do, both here and across the country. I am thankful for the many dedicated volunteers and staff that make a difference each day. Thank you for all you do for so many.



## Change at The Arc of the United States Holds Promise

### John Dickerson, Executive Director

It is a time of great change for The Arc of the United States. Already the pre-eminent and most respected voice for people with developmental disabilities and their families in the nation's capital, The Arc has launched efforts to strengthen its connection to state and local chapters, self-advocates and families throughout the country.

A search is underway for a new national executive director. Under the leadership of Mary Jordan, President of The Arc, there is renewed excitement about The Arc's future, as they seek the right leader to move us to the next level of effectiveness in our mission.

The Board's goal is to have a new executive director hired by May. We are fortunate that John Foley, long-time Executive Director of The Arc of New Mexico, has stepped in as Acting Executive Director. His efforts in reorganizing the office are already working to make The Arc US more in touch and responsive to members and chapters.

One visible change he has made is the scrapping of the automated answering service that many leaders and parents found frustrating. He worked with a local chapter to hire a young man with a disability who is doing a marvelous job answering the phone.

In addition to the leadership of John and Mary, The Arc's Governmental Affairs team is representing you on Capitol Hill and with federal agencies on issues ranging from education, to

healthcare, to community services, to housing.

A second major initiative is coming out of a task force that I have participated in since last year. An unprecedented effort is bringing leaders in The Arc together with expert national consultants to address critical issues around outreach, participation and governance at the national level. A study will soon be underway to look at what needs to take place to strengthen The Arc as a movement, and to develop

actions that can be implemented at the national headquarters to make it happen. There was great support for this effort at a recent meeting of The Arc state executive directors.

At that same meeting, with 25 states represented, we went around the room to talk about what each state Arc is doing. I was proud to be part of The Arc and to represent The Arc of Indiana. Without a doubt there is no other state organization doing more to promote self-advocacy and family empower-

ment, doing more to address moving people off waiting lists or doing more to bring significant supports in new and innovative ways to families and people with disabilities.

The Arc is facing challenges, but it remains a strong and vibrant force. With new ideas and new leadership there are great things in our future. Thank you for making this vital national movement possible through your support.

### ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED, from page 2

become friends with an IUPUI college student. She is involved with the Best Buddies community awareness team, attends Best Buddies fundraisers, and participated as an artist in the second annual "Art of Friendship." Angie is also a part-time intern at Best Buddies.

Angie enjoys working at Kohl's and the YMCA, and volunteers at Community North hospital and Westminster nursing home where she offers patients magazines and friendly conversation.

The photo of Angie skydiving says more than a thousand words could say about Angie's spirit of adventure and zest for life.

### Sycamore Award Vergie Gabbard

More than fifty years ago Vergie Gabbard had a vision. Her vision was to establish a place that would serve

the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families in Wayne County, Indiana. With the help of other parents and interested friends, Vergie Gabbard's vision became a reality with the founding of the Wayne County Council for Retarded Children in May, 1956.

The organization's modest beginnings were in Vergie's remodeled garage, serving 18 children with disabilities. Vergie went door to door collecting donations from neighbors, businesses and friends to pay the agency's first staff members.

During the first two years Vergie served as president of the council. During this time membership grew to over 500 people, and the council grew and expanded in the number of people it served—moving beyond the garage to locations at the Nicholson School, Richmond Boys Club, Townsend Cen-

ter, Salvation Army, and the United Fund building.

In the 1960's Vergie worked behind the scenes to raise funds for a major construction project, leading to the opening of Green Acres Training Center. It became the core location for the future development of a comprehensive center to serve children and adults throughout Wayne County.

Throughout the years Vergie has maintained a close relationship with the organization, serving as a community member on the Board of Directors—of what, since 1998, has been known as Achieva Resources Corporation.

In 2007 Achieva Resources Corporation honored Vergie by naming a new one-million-dollar developmental center The Vergie Gabbard Building. Governor Mitch Daniels honored Vergie with the Distinguished Hoosier Award at the dedication ceremony.



# GUIDE TO MEDICAID WAIVERS

## What are Medicaid waivers?

Medicaid waivers allow Medicaid to fund supports and services for children and adults with disabilities in their own homes or residential neighborhoods instead of institutions.

## What services are covered?

Different services are available from different Medicaid waivers. Following are *some* of the services covered under the Developmental Disabilities, Support Services, and Autism waivers.

- Respite Care
- Therapies, including behavior, music, physical, occupational, speech, psychological, and recreational
- Pre-Vocational Services
- Employment supports following job placement and training through vocational rehabilitation services (Supported Employment Follow-Along)
- Adult Day Services
- Behavior Support Services

- Services to help people participate in the community (community habilitation)
- Services to support people to live in their home (residential habilitation)
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Home Modifications (not available under Support Services Waiver)
- Family and Caregiver Training
- Transportation



The new priority category to receive a Support Services Medicaid waiver if you are leaving or have recently left special education services will help young adults, like Brandie Wilhelm of Fort Wayne, make a smooth transition to adult life when they leave school.

- Applied Behavior Analysis (Autism waiver only)

## How do you qualify?

You must meet Indiana Medicaid's disability and financial eligibility requirements.

Your family income and assets are NOT counted to determine eligibility for children under 18. For those older than 18, only individual income and assets are counted.

You must require the type of care that ordinarily would be provided in a Medicaid-funded facility, such as a nursing home, large residential facility or group home.

You can apply—and qualify for—more than one waiver. For example, if you are eligible for the Autism or Developmental Disabilities waivers, you will be eligible for Support Services, too.

## Where do you apply?

### Aged and Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury

Obtain the number for your local Area Agency on Aging by calling (800) 986-3505.

### Autism, Developmental Disabilities and Support Services

Obtain the number for your local Bureau of Developmental Disability Services office by calling (800) 545-7763.

## How long will you have to wait for services?

The Aged and Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury waits are less than a year. The Autism, Developmental Disabilities and Support Services waiting lists are several years long.

## If you are eligible, should you apply now?

Yes! Even if you do not need services right away, you may need them by the time your number comes up on the waiting list.

## Are there any exceptions to the waiting list?

### Priority waivers are available:

- Support Services waivers are available to special-education students, or former students, between

the ages of 18 and 24 who are leaving or have left high school.

- Developmental Disability waivers are available to those whose Caregivers are age 80 or older.



The new priority category to receive a Developmental Disabilities Medicaid waiver, if you are caregiver age 80 or older, will help elderly parents still caring for an adult child at home.

## Emergency or Crisis Waivers are available when:

- a primary caregiver dies, is placed in a nursing home or otherwise incapacitated and no other caregiver is available.
- the Indiana State Department of Health requires the person who's disabled to move out of a Medicaid-funded group home.
- Young adults outgrow residential facilities or group homes for children.

## Medicaid Financial Eligibility and the Medicaid Waiver

If you have recently been notified that you or your loved one has been *targeted* to receive a Medicaid waiver, here are some important things to know.

### Determination for Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver Eligibility

Once you are targeted to receive a Medicaid waiver, the process will begin to determine that you are in fact still eligible to receive a Medicaid waiver.

A case manager from the company contracted with the state, IPMG, and Indiana's Medicaid Waiver Central Eligibility Unit will coordinate efforts to determine eligibility.

If you do not already have Medicaid, you will need to be qualified to receive Medicaid under Medicaid's disability and financial eligibility rules.

You can have no more than \$1,500 in resources, and there are limits on the amount of monthly income you can have

to meet Medicaid's financial eligibility rules.

You will need to be qualified as needing the type of care provided by a Medicaid waiver.

### If you are under the age of 18

- Parental income and resources are not counted in determining if a minor meets Medicaid's financial eligibility rules. Families should only have to provide financial information about the child.
- Financial resources or income of the child are counted to determine if the child meets Medicaid's financial eligibility rules. This could include money in a bank account, savings bonds, a life insurance policy in the child's name that has a cash value, or other resources.

If your or your child's income or resources are too high to meet Medicaid's financial eligibility rules, there

are steps you can take so that you can become eligible.

If you are just over the \$1,500 limit, you may be able to wisely spend your money so that it is no longer available to be counted as a resource—clothing, items for your home, paying off debts, etc. are examples of how the money could be spent.

If you are significantly over the limit, do not spend your money unwisely. Here are some steps you can take:

- **Consider purchasing a prepaid funeral trust.** The cost of a funeral can easily exceed \$10,000. A prepaid funeral trust is not considered a resource by Medicaid.
- **Consider placing funds in a qualified special needs trust.** A special needs trust allows funds to be held in an irrevocable trust that

can be used to pay for things that government benefits do not pay for. Rather than spending all your funds at once, perhaps unwisely, a special needs trust allows items to be purchased over time. If set up correctly, Medicaid has ruled that a special needs trust is not counted as a resource.

- **The Arc of Indiana has operated The Arc Master Trust since 1988.** Trust I allows a family to create a trust for their loved one. Trust II allows a person with a disability to fund their own trust.

If you would like more information on the option of a special needs trust, call The Arc of Indiana.

Call 1-800-382-9100, or go to: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) and search for "The Arc Master Trust" for more information.

## What services are available while you await a waiver?

- Caregiver Support or Respite care could be available if you are on a waiting list for the Autism, Developmental Disabilities or Support Services waivers. Obtain the number for your local Bureau of Developmental Disability Services office by calling (800) 545-7763.

## Where can you get more information?

Contact The Arc of Indiana and ask for an Arc Network advocate in your area.

Call (800) 382-9100 or (317) 977-2375

Go to: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) and search under "The Arc Network." For a copy of a consumer guide to Medicaid waivers, go to: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) and search under "Medicaid and Medicaid Waivers."

## Moving People Off Waiting Lists and into Services Making Progress

Families who have waited for years to receive a Medicaid waiver have found that once they receive a waiver, the process of actually beginning to receive services can be extremely frustrating.

Over the past several months, the process of getting off the waiting list, to finally receiving services, is gradually improving due to the focused efforts of IPMG and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). IPMG is the company contracted to provide case management services for recipients of Medicaid waivers.

In September, 2007 it was taking over a year, 475 days on average, from the time a person was referred by the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS) to the time a budget to receive Medicaid waiver services was approved.

The time frame to move people into services, once they are targeted to receive a waiver, has improved dramatically:

March, 2007—327 days  
September, 2007—139 days  
December, 2007—48 days

At the same time, the number of people who have been “targeted” each month to receive a Medicaid waiver has continued to increase:

September, 2006—43 people  
March, 2007—67 people  
September, 2007—140 people  
January, 2008—165 people

Between September, 2006 and January, 2008:

1,758 people began the process to receive a Medicaid waiver.  
1,392 of those people had budgets submitted.

1,177 people had budgets approved and were approved to start services.

The goal of IPMG and FSSA is to

continue to reduce the processing time, and move people into services as soon as possible.



**Kris Prohl, Executive Director, Arc BRIDGES and Jamerson Bryant.** When Jamerson graduated from high school in 2004, funding was not available for him to receive services. Like many other young adults leaving special education, Jamerson joined the long Medicaid waiver waiting list.

Thanks to the priority to serve young adults who have left special education programs through the Support Services waiver, Jamerson is now receiving Supported Employment and Day Services through Arc

**BRIDGES.** Arc BRIDGES is the local chapter of The Arc in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties.

Jamerson is now working at Petco two days a week, and receives Day Services through Arc BRIDGES Community Connections program three days a week. In this program he goes to the local YMCA and is part of Arc BRIDGES bowling team on Saturdays.

## Young Adults, Aging Caregivers Given Priority for Waivers

### Young People, 18-24, Leaving or Out of High School—Priority for Support Services Medicaid Waiver

The Support Services Medicaid waiver (SSW) is now available to young people with developmental disabilities, ages 18-24, who have left or are leaving special education programs.

This means that services can immediately be available to eligible people, and they will not have to wait on a waiting list for services.

### Caregivers Age 80 and Older—Priority for Developmental Disabilities Waiver

Caregivers age 80 and older, who still care for a loved one with a developmental disability at home, are now eligible to receive supports with a Developmental Disabilities (DD) Medicaid waiver without having to be on a waiting list for services.

The Arc of Indiana estimates over

1,700 Hoosier caregivers between ages 70 and 80 continue to care for an adult child with a developmental disability at home. This marks the first time such an important step has been taken to bring supports and hope to families who have loved and cared for their child with a disability for many years.

**Families and individuals who may be eligible for a waiver under these priority categories should immedi-**

**ately contact the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS) office to apply for these waivers.**

Obtain the number for your local Bureau of Developmental Disability Services office by calling (800) 545-7763.

For additional information, go to: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org), and search for “Medicaid and Medicaid Waivers.”

### Crisis Assistance Services

Families and people with developmental disabilities facing a crisis due to an *extreme* behavioral or psychiatric issue can call Crisis Assistance Services for help.

#### Crisis Assistance Services include:

- 24/7/365 Telephone Crisis Support
- In-Home Technical Assistance
- Out-of-Home Short Term Residential
- Follow-Along Post Crisis Intervention

#### Where to Call

**Northern Indiana**

**1-866-416-4774**

**Central Indiana**

**1-866-920-3272**

**Southern and Western Indiana**

**1-866-416-4774**

### Psychiatric Consultation

Short-term psychiatric services are available at locations throughout Indiana for children and adults with developmental disabilities who:

- Have extreme or challenging behavior or emotional issues
- Do not have a psychiatrist and may be in jeopardy
- Have a psychiatrist who would like a consultation

#### Where to Call

**Northern Indiana**

**1-866-429-5290**

**Central Indiana**

**1-866-406-7134**

**Southern Indiana**

**1-812-265-7493**

## 700 PEOPLE TARGETED TO RECEIVE MEDICAID WAIVERS

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) sent letters to 700 people at the end of January, notifying them that they have been *targeted* to receive a Medicaid Waiver.

#### Autism Waiver

- **50 people** targeted who first applied in August, 1998

#### Developmental Disabilities Waiver

- **250 people** targeted who first applied in August, 1998

#### Support Services Waiver

- **250 people** targeted who first applied in August, 2002
- **150 people, ages 18-24**, on waiting list for services

Based on past experience, FSSA anticipates that 200 of the 700 people who have been notified will either not accept a waiver or will not respond. People are being notified who first applied ten years ago. Many of those people have moved in the past ten years, but have not notified the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services of their new address.

If you applied for a waiver, and have moved, it is critical that you notify BDDS of your new contact information. Call BDDS at (800) 545-7763 and ask for the phone number of your local BDDS office.

*If you applied for a waiver, and have moved, notify BDDS.*



# Property Tax Reform, Autism Training, Priority Waivers, Bias Crimes Focus of The Arc's 2008 Public Policy Activity

The 2008 session of the Indiana General Assembly is a "short session," that must end by March 14. Following is a summary of key legislation that The Arc of Indiana is actively working on to pass or amend. The Arc of Indiana's complete 2008 Public Policy agenda, and updates on what happened in the 2008 legislative session, can be found on our web site at: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org), click on "Legislative Information Page."

## Property Tax Reform

Property Tax reform has been the primary focus of legislation and discussion in the 2008 legislative session. The Arc of Indiana has closely monitored this issue to ensure community programs for people with developmental disabilities that are funded through local property taxes are not adversely impacted by property tax reform. At this writing, **HB 1001** would repeal permissive funding of community developmental disability centers outside the property tax levy, placing local funding at risk. It is important to note that this 'repealer' language is part of the much larger property tax debate. We are hopeful that we can come to a positive resolution on this issue, which impacts over 30 community agencies and over \$10 million of local funding.

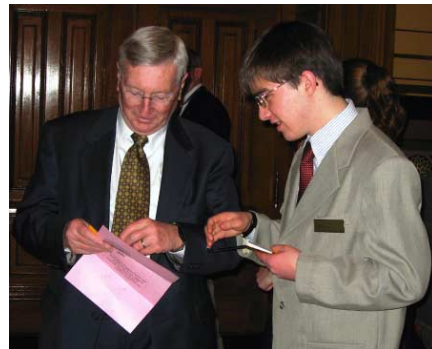
## Autism Training for EMS Personnel

**HB 1171 – Autism Training for EMS Personnel.** Representatives Vanessa Summers (D-Indianapolis) and Dennis Tyler (D-Muncie); and Senator Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso). Requires certified emer-

gency medical services (EMS) personnel to successfully complete a course of education and training on autism, effective January 1, 2009. The bill passed the House unanimously, passed the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee 9-0, and at this writing is expected to pass the Senate with no further amendments.

## Criteria for Priority Medicaid Waivers

**HB 1266 – Eligibility Criteria for Priority Medicaid Waivers.** Representative Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette) and Senator Marvin Riegsecker (R-Goshen). The bill requires the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to seek an amendment to the Developmental Disabilities waiver to put into law specific priorities for providing Medicaid waivers in emergency situations. The bill was voted out of the House unanimously, approved by the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee, and at this writing is expected to be approved by the Senate.



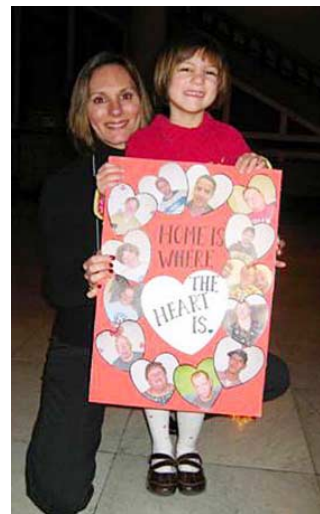
Representative Larry Buell (R-Indianapolis) and Ned Russell-Sullivan, The Arc Network.

## Certification for Behavior Analysts

**HB 1288 – Certification for Behavior Analysts.** Representative Vanessa Summers (D-Indianapolis) and Senator Gary Dillon (R-Pierceton). The bill requires anyone who claims to be a certified behavior analyst to be certified by the national Behavior Ana-



State Representative William Crawford (D-Indianapolis) and Mollie Noble, Noble of Indiana



Kerry and Lindsey Fletcher, Boone County Arc, joined over 100 Arc advocates at The Arc's State House Valentine's Day Event.

lyst Certification Board. The bill passed unanimously out of the House, was assigned to the Senate Corrections, Criminal and Civil Code Committee, and at this writing is scheduled for a hearing.

## Bias Crimes

Several bills were filed in the House and Senate regarding crimes against people with disabilities. The bills provide for harsher sentencing for offenders who choose their victim based on having a disability.

**SB 171 – Crimes Against Persons with a Disability.** Senator Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) and Representative Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis). Makes committing an offense against a person with a disability an aggravating circumstance for sentencing purposes. The bill passed the Senate unanimously, was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, and at this writing is scheduled for a hearing.

## Lead Poisoning

**SB 143 – Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.** Senator Beverly Gard (R-Greenfield) and Representative Charlie Brown (D-Gary). The bill specifies certain requirements for laboratories, the state department of health, local health departments, residential rental property owners, child care providers, and retail establishments related to childhood lead poisoning prevention. The bill passed unanimously out of the Senate and at this writing is expected to be amended and approved by the House Public Health Committee.

*Position points developed by Family Voices, advocated by The Arc*

## Article 7 Revisions will Update IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Action (IDEA) was enacted by Congress in 1975 to ensure all children with disabilities receive a public education. IDEA was reauthorized by Congress in 2004. Indiana is now updating the state regulation of IDEA, known as Article 7, to comply with changes made to IDEA.

The Arc of Indiana, along with a broad coalition of disability organizations, supports recommendations developed to the proposed revisions by Family Voices.

Key issues covered by Family Voices and The Arc include:

- Initial Evaluation
- Notice of Case Conference Committee

- Consent for Change of Educational Placement
- Prior Written Notice
- Resolution Process for Disagreement in Change of Placement
- Complaints
- Due Process Hearing Appeals
- Early Childhood
- Transition Individualized Education Program
- Remaining in School Through School Year of 22nd Birthday
- Extended School Year
- Assistive Technology and Accessible Formats

## Technical Assistance and Training

Nearly one out of five Hoosier schoolchildren is identified as having special needs – right at the national average. Clear direction and support is needed for administrators, teachers, families and students to successfully prepare these children for a productive life after school. That is the goal of Article 7.

The full review and discussion of proposed revisions to Article 7 can be found on our web site: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org). Public hearings on Article 7 Revisions will be held in March and April. Visit the web site to learn when a hearing will be held in your area.



Jennifer Akers, Family Advocate, The Arc Network, testified at the State Board of Education meeting in February on the need for further revisions to Article 7.



# The Arc Master Trust Celebrates 20 Years of Service

The Arc Master Trust is proud to celebrate twenty years of service to Hoosier families and people with disabilities.

## Why did The Arc establish The Arc Master Trust?

Government programs are limited to basics like food, shelter, and medical care. Many families wonder how “extras” will continue to be provided to their loved one after they are gone. In other cases, people with disabilities receive an inheritance, a large back payment from Social Security, or a personal injury settlement—funds that may make them ineligible for government programs.

Many families and individuals have found that establishing a trust at a local bank is not an affordable option—fees may be higher than what they can afford, or the bank requires a larger Trust than what the family or individual can fund.

The Arc recognized the concern of families and the needs of people with disabilities, and began The Arc Master Trust.

The Arc Master Trust includes two Trust programs, Trust I and Trust II.

**Trust I, established in 1988**, helps families provide for the future of their loved ones. Over 850 families are enrolled; and over 300 families have an active, funded Trust from which disbursements are being made.

**Trust II, established in 1995**, allows people with disabilities to fund their own Trust, or in some instances for a family member to fund Trust II. Trust II serves over 650 people, and over 600 disbursements are made each month for Trust II recipients across the state.

## Reliable, Knowledgeable Staff and Advisors

Government benefits have regulations that must be understood and followed, or eligibility for benefits could be lost. The Arc Trust has 20 years of experience, and The Arc of Indiana has over 50 years of experience, in understanding government regulations. Families do not need to worry about learning and staying current with regulations, The Arc takes this responsibility.

**Melissa Justice** was recently appointed to serve as Trust Director of The Arc Master Trust. Melissa has served The Arc for twelve years, most recently as Controller for The Arc of Indiana and supervisor for financial management of The Arc Master Trust.

The Trust staff also includes Trust Account Managers, **Geyssel Gonzalez** and **Elizabeth Clayton**.

**Tom Ewbank**, an attorney with Krieg DeVault, is on retainer to provide legal counsel to The Arc Master



Tom Ewbank, legal counsel to The Arc Master Trust, and Melissa Justice, Trust Director

Trust. Tom is an expert and leader in the field of Trusts, and was instrumental in working with Alan Kemp, The Arc's first Trust Director, to help found the Trust twenty years ago.

A Trust Advisory Board and Family Advisory Committee, as well as The Arc of Indiana Board of Directors, provides advice and oversight of The Arc Master Trust.

Trust I and Trust II funds are on deposit with The National Bank of Indianapolis.

## User Satisfaction

Each year, we ask the people making requests for Trust disbursements if they are happy with our service. We consistently receive high marks, marks we make public on our web site. Go to: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) and click on The Arc Master Trust.

## The Arc's Winter Heating Assistance Program Helps 500 Hoosiers

A service of  
The Arc Master Trust

The Arc of Indiana's 2008 Winter Heating Assistance Program assisted 500 low-income individuals with disabilities with \$100 toward their winter heating bill. Funding for the Winter Heating Assistance Program comes from remainder shares left to The Arc Master Trust.

The Arc of Indiana is pleased to offer the Winter Heating Assistance Program, now in its seventh year, to low-income Hoosiers with disabilities.

We plan to offer this service again in 2009. Information will be posted on our web site: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org)



Melissa Justice, Trust Director, meets with Valerie and Mark Wood, who are establishing a trust for their son.

## Proud of What We Have Built

The Arc of Indiana is proud of how The Arc Master Trust has grown, and even more proud of the positive impact it has made on people with disabilities and their families over the past 20 years.

The Arc Master Trust is now one of the largest, most respected Special

Needs Trusts in the country. This respect has been earned through the careful planning and development of the Trust, and through the day-to-day service it provides.

We look forward to many more years of service to people with disabilities and their families through The Arc Master Trust.

## Annual March Membership Campaign Underway

For the third consecutive year The Arc of Indiana, along with its local chapters, is conducting a membership campaign in conjunction with March 2008's Disability Awareness Month. The campaign theme, “Attitude is Everything, Members are Everyone,” centers around the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities awareness theme, “Attitude is Everything.”

The Arc's Member and Chapter Committee is working with local chapters, assisting them in developing activities, materials and awareness with the goal of increasing statewide membership in The Arc. Janice Durham, chairperson of the committee, encourages all chapters to participate in the campaign. “With The Arc's continued efforts to reduce the waiting list and reach out to self-advocates and families, building our membership at the

local and state level will help us in our advocacy work,” Janice said.

As a result of the past two campaigns more than a thousand new members have joined The Arc.

As a result of the past two campaigns more than a thousand new members have joined The Arc. One aspect of the present campaign is to develop the new Business/Corporate At-large State Membership category.

The Arc of Indiana 2008 *Membership Campaign Tool Kit* is available on The Arc of Indiana's web site. Go to [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) and click on “About The Arc of Indiana.” Then click on: “2008 Membership Campaign Tool Kit.”

## MINORITY OUTREACH PROJECT, from page 1

- Share information and products from activities of the Minority Outreach Project.

- Work with The Arc Network's Family Advocates and Self-Advocates (see article, page 1), staff and advocates from Local Arc Chapters, and Vocational Rehabilitation staff to develop a more coordinated approach in serving

minorities with disabilities.

The Minority Outreach Project is supported through a grant from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation.

For more information go to our web site: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org)

## Thanks to Our 2007 Sponsors

Thanks to all of the sponsors of The Arc of Indiana in 2007. The support of our sponsors helps make it possible for The Arc of Indiana to advocate for people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Indiana.

### Champion Your Future, A Game Plan for Life

Indiana Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners  
ATTAIN

Indiana Conference of Executives of Arcs (ICEArc)  
Janus Developmental Services Inc. / The Arc of North Central Indiana  
RAISE—Reliable Alliance in Special Education, inc.

### Steve Green's 17th Annual Golf Tournament

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Liberty of Indiana

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The National Bank of Indianapolis

#### Hole-in-One Sponsor

Burd Ford

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Burd Ford

### Lifetime Achievement Award Breakfast

Duke Energy

ADEC

### The Arc of Indiana 2007 Conference and Luncheon

**Gold**  
ICEArc

**Silver**  
AARP

#### Bronze

Achieva Resources Corporation

Easter Seals Crossroads

INARF

Indiana Truck Association

R.A.I.S.E.

### Homecoming Celebration Dance

AARP

Carey Services

### 2008 Calendar

Achieva Resources Corporation

Arc Opportunities

Bi-County Services, Inc.

Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana

Indiana MENTOR

Lake County Foundation for the Retarded

Passages, Inc.

Wabash Center

ADEC

Arc Rehab Services

Carey Services

Evansville ARC

KCARC

Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis

Stone Belt Arc, Inc.

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317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100

[www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) and [www.TheArcLink.org](http://www.TheArcLink.org)

## THE ARC OF INDIANA PAGE ON—FACEBOOK

The Internet offers new ways to communicate and connect advocates, families, and people with disabilities.

The Arc of Indiana has long had a web site, [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org), and now we have a page on Facebook.

Facebook is a “networking site” on the Internet that can connect people with friends, co-workers, and people with similar interests. We hope that The Arc of Indiana page on Facebook will help connect people of all ages and backgrounds who share a connection to developmental disabilities.

We encourage you to join Facebook and “become a fan of” The Arc of Indiana page.

### Here is what you need to do:

Anyone can join Facebook. All that's needed to join Facebook is a valid email address.

- Go to: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
- Click on the green, “Sign Up” button.
- Follow the directions for creating your Facebook page.
- You can use privacy settings at any time to control who can see what on Facebook.

### Become a Fan of The Arc of Indiana Page

- Once you have joined Facebook, you can find The Arc of Indiana page.

- Just type “The Arc of Indiana,” into the Facebook search box.

- Once you have found our page, you can click on an option called, “Become a Fan of The Arc of Indiana.”

- The Arc logo and link to The Arc of Indiana page will be displayed on your Facebook page—helping to promote The Arc and connect others to The Arc.

- You will find other “fans of The Arc of Indiana” on our page—helping you connect with families, self-advocates, and staff of The Arc of Indiana.

### Start a Conversation / Discussion

We hope that The Arc of Indiana page on Facebook will be a place where you connect with others. You can post information, ideas, thoughts on “the wall,” or start a discussion on the discussion board.

### Facebook—Not Just for Kids

Many think of “My Space” and “Facebook” as networking sites for teenagers and college students. Facebook has become, however, a site for corporations, small businesses and not-for-profits to reach out and connect. We hope you will give it a try (and if you have teenagers or college age kids, surprise them with your own Facebook page!)

## Upcoming Events

*Saturday, March 15, 2008*

*7:00 p.m.*

### The Arc of Indiana Fundraiser with the Indiana ICE

Half of Every \$11 Ticket Sold Returns  
to Benefit Your Local Arc Chapter

*Pepsi Coliseum, Indiana State Fairgrounds*

*Friday, June 20, 2008*

*Former Pacer and I.U. Basketball Star*

### Steve Green's 18th Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit The Arc of Indiana

*September 4-7, 2008*

### Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered National Convention

*The Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, Indiana*

[www.SABE2008.org](http://www.SABE2008.org)

*For complete information on these and other upcoming events,  
go to: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org), click on “Upcoming Events”*