

## The Arc of Indiana's Invitation - "Achieve with us"

The Arc of Indiana is proud to unveil our new logo and tagline, "Achieve with us." If you are asking yourself, didn't The Arc of Indiana just change their logo? The answer is, yes! We updated our look after our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. Our new logo is the result of a comprehensive year-long brand identity



effort lead by The Arc of the United States and is being rolled out across the nation.



There are over 700 state and local Arc chapters throughout the United States. If you combine all of The Arcs, we are one of the largest organizations in the country. In fact, we are the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual

and developmental disabilities and their families.

This new look is designed to communicate the collective power of our group. In the logo's design, you'll see the energy and determination The Arc brings to supporting and embracing people with disabilities and their families across the arc of their lifetimes and across many diagnoses from Down syndrome to autism to Fragile X and many more.

The bold color combination of orange and yellow was chosen specifically because it is unique in the realm of nonprofit organizations, and can be exclusively associated with The Arc, much like pink is associated with breast cancer awareness or red with The American Red Cross.



As our logo becomes recognized and promoted on a national level, everyone will benefit as people identify with our shared mission. The new identity will take us forward as a movement and command the kind of respect and recognition that our organization deserves. Through the united support and involvement of our chapters and members, The Arc speaks with a clear, strong voice that invites all to "Achieve with us."



### *Achieve with us.*

Learning and sharing with one another is an important part of The Arc's Building Pathways to Empowerment campaign. You can find many ways to connect on The Arc of Indiana's website and our Pathways micro-site. Pathways—[www.arcind.org/building\\_pathways](http://www.arcind.org/building_pathways)

**Innovation.** Visit the "Innovation" section of our Pathways micro-site to view and upload videos, photos and stories about innovative programs, services and new ideas. Whether you are a provider, family member, a person with a disability, or an advocate for people with disabilities we welcome you to share and learn in "Innovation."

**Forums.** Our Pathways micro-site offers forums for families, self-advocates and providers. You can share ideas, concerns, solutions or a kind word to support one another. You can start a message topic, review topics, and post comments. Sometimes we can all feel that we are alone in our journey. Forums provide a way to connect with others in the journey you share.

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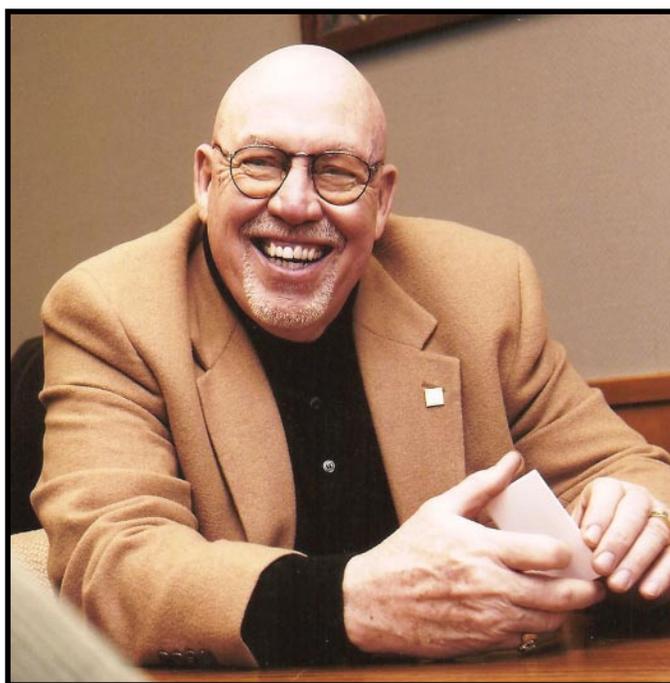
The Arc of Indiana  
107 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Suite 800  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-977-2375

## Honoring Steve Hinkle – Leader and Friend of The Arc

The Arc of Indiana honors Steve Hinkle, leader of Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana for 34 years and a great friend to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as he moves on to a new phase of his life and retirement.

Over the years Steve has been responsible for developing nine group homes, including the state's first group home, and also Arc Industries, now known as Projects Drive Group. Steve played a major role in the closing of Fort Wayne State Developmental Center. He has worked throughout his career to advocate for civil rights for men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has increased the number of people served by Easter Seals Arc every year for three decades.

More recently, Steve is responsible for bringing the art of ballroom dancing to the Easter Seals Arc family, creating "Dancing with The Arc Stars," a recreational program which now has been implemented nationwide at numerous



Steve Hinkle recently retired as President/CEO of Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana

Easter Seals and chapters of The Arc. Moreover, it has been declared an official sport of Special Olympics Indiana, as one of its twenty-two olympic competitions.

On January 26, 2011 Easter Seals Arc officially dedicated its main facility at 4919 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne, as the Stephen L. Hinkle Building. It was during Steve's administration that the building was purchased in 2005 after Easter Seals Arc had outgrown its original home on the city's south side. At the ceremony Chairman of the Board Bill Martin declared,

"To honor his 34 years of dedicated service as President of Easter Seals Arc and his lifelong commitment offering help and hope to children and adults with disabilities by creating solutions that changed lives, the main building on the campus of Easter Seals Arc will be re-named the Stephen L. Hinkle Building."

The Arc congratulates Steve and offers best wishes for health, happiness and well-deserved relaxation in his retirement.

## A View from My Window

Hosted by Michelle Fischer

The Arc of Indiana welcomes you to listen in to *A View from My Window*, our audiocast hosted by Michelle Fischer.

Visit the Media Gallery on our website, [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org), to listen to the latest edition and past broadcasts of *A View from My Window*, including these recent shows:

- A View from a Pathways Forum
- A View from Providers, On the Road at the INARF Conference
- A Pathways Update
- A View into The Arc's New Brand with The Arc's CEO Peter Berns
- A View from the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana
- A View from Laura LeBlanc of PBS, Need to Know

You can also follow Michelle on Facebook. Just search for, "A View from My Window with Michelle Fischer."



### The Arc of the United States Launches Autism NOW

#### Regional Summit set for Indianapolis, June 25-26

Autism NOW: the National Autism Resource and Information Center is a national initiative of The Arc dedicated to be the central point of quality resources and information for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities and their families.

A major goal of the Autism NOW Center is to provide resources and information in core areas across the lifespan. Focus areas include • **Early Detection, Intervention, and Education** • **Transition From High School into Early Adulthood** • **Community Based Employment** • **Advocacy For Families and Self-advocates** • **Community Inclusion** • **Aging Issues** • **Family and Sibling Support**.

The Center is sponsoring a dynamic series of events including Regional Autism NOW Summits in five cities across the United States including Indianapolis on June 25 & 26, 2011.

The Autism NOW summit events are designed to allow for discussions of autism-related issues, celebrate autism and other developmental disabilities and raise awareness.

Free registration for the summit in Indianapolis will begin May 9, 2011. Visit us at [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org) for information and details as they become available. The National Autism Resource and Information Center is funded by The Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

### Welcome to Donna Elbrecht

As we say farewell to Steve, we also welcome Easter Seals Arc's new president and CEO, Donna Elbrecht. Donna, a Hoosier by birth, began her career in the disability field at Easter Seals Iowa where she served in several positions before becoming its president. Most recently Donna served as President/CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Indiana.

"We are very excited about Donna's arrival and about the fresh ideas and perspective that she brings to the table," said Bill Martin, chair of the Easter Seals Arc board. "Her leadership and prior Easter Seals and social service background, along with her national experience, impressive track record, and enthusiasm for what we do and the people we serve, will be an incredible asset to the further development of Easter Seals Arc."



Donna Elbrecht, President/CEO of Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana

## Executive Director's Column



John Dickerson

### The Need for the Strong Voice of The Arc

*Achieve with Us.*

There is certainly no shortage of challenges these days facing our state and our country. It often seems that people with disabilities and their families are lost in the battles that become louder and angrier. This only underscores the need to be united in the effort to be sure that the voice of people with disabilities and their families is heard above the fray. Former Lt. Governor Kathy Davis says it quite clearly in a video that is being shared at Regional Pathways Forums we have been holding around the state. You can view the video by visiting the media gallery on our website, [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org).

We are just now coming through the worst recession that any of us can remember, and the impact on our schools and programs that support people with intellectual and developmental dis-

abilities has been drastic. Yet people soldier on, doing the very best they can in spite of these difficulties.

While policy makers in Washington talk about new rounds of budget cuts to Medicaid that fund most of what we do in Indiana for adults, families and providers seek ways to stretch current dollars in every possible way to serve people in need. Schools have been hard hit by funding reductions, but teachers carry on with their vital work helping students (including one student with Down syndrome who received an A on his regular 4th grade math test, as a proud mom recently shared with me).

As I travel the state, there is a real sense of urgency that now more than ever we must pull together to address these challenges. It is popular to say we need to cut government spending, but few can define specifically what that means, and even fewer understand the impact that it will have on real lives. We need to be ever vigilant to make sure budgets are developed carefully and mindfully, not with a meat axe. We also need to insist

loudly, with one voice, that there is a better way. It certainly will not be easy in the times ahead. But as one of our founders said to me years ago, "John, when did you ever think it was easy!"

In this issue you will see a new look for The Arc that is part of a national effort to make our voice, *your* voice, more prominent. Recently a major publication reported that The Arc is one of the largest organizations in the country. Our footprint, as the marketers call it, is larger than any other disability organization. We are proud that Indiana is the second largest state chapter of The Arc in the country, second only to New York in the number of chapters and members. The goal of our new look is to show the unified strength and voice of local Arcs, state Arcs and The Arc US.

We will continue to travel the state to inform and keep people informed, involved and active. The Arc has never allowed itself to be a victim of the times; instead The Arc has worked to shape and change the times. As the new *tagline* of our logo says, we invite you to join in this effort and "Achieve with us."

## Celebrating Gifts and Innovation

An important focus of the Building Pathways to Empowerment Campaign is celebrating the many gifts that people with developmental disabilities have to offer, as well as the resourcefulness and creativity of local chapters of The Arc and other providers who work every day to develop and implement innovative programs for individuals in their communities.

Throughout 2011 we are sharing the stories of those featured in our 2011 calendar that celebrate both gifts and innovation.



### Marie Ogden, Rest Assured

Marie Ogden is a beautiful young lady who loves her independence. Eleven years ago Marie sustained a traumatic brain injury, but thanks to Rest Assured she is able to live semi-independently.

Rest Assured is a real time, web-based staff support system with two-way communication. Support is accomplished through the creative use of an interactive, web-based program. Marie also receives residential supports through Assisted Liv-

ing Services and works for Greenbush Industries, a division of Wabash Center.

Rest Assured helps keep her safe and secure with quick access to supports when needed. Learn more about Rest Assured by visiting [www.RestAssuredSystems.com](http://www.RestAssuredSystems.com)



### Dane Cochran, Noble of Indiana

At seven years old, Dane Cochran bounces with enthusiasm – especially if there is music playing in the background. Playing along with Bongo Boys music activities at Noble of Indiana's Social Skills Autism camp was one of Dane's favorite activities this past summer. Because of his love of art, he also had a great time at Noble's summer Art Camp.

Dane does not let his diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome slow him down. Along with playing with friends, he enjoys singing, building things, reading and playing pretend.

Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis is the local chapter of The Arc in Marion and Hamilton Counties. Learn more about Noble by visiting [www.nobleofindiana.org](http://www.nobleofindiana.org)



### Bill Mason, Janus Developmental Services

Bill Mason is a creative person with a wonderful sense of humor. Bill comes to Janus Developmental Services' work experience program every work day, where he enjoys creating art in the "Hidden Talents" program. This entrepreneurial program provides experiences that support the interests of individuals with disabilities. Entrepreneurs learn how to create a quality line of gift products and work with business professionals to market and sell their products. Among the items Bill produces are beautiful gourd birdhouses.

Bill's generous donation of a birdhouse to The Arc's 2010 online auction led to a contribution of \$25 from the winning bidder to support the work of The Arc.

Janus Developmental Services/The Arc of North Central Indiana is the local chapter of The Arc in Howard and Tipton Counties. Learn more about Janus Developmental Services by visiting [www.janus-inc.org](http://www.janus-inc.org).

## Regional Pathway Forums Bring Fresh, Inspiring Ideas for Change

Last spring, The Arc of Indiana began a campaign, “Building Pathways to Empowerment,” to take a fresh look at Indiana’s system of programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families; and begin to redesign and redefine that system into one that provides people with what they want and need in the most sensible way possible.

As part of that process, The Arc has held forums throughout the state to gather local input. The Decatur County ARC, Evansville ARC, The Arc of Vigo County, Stone Belt Arc, The Arc of Tippecanoe County and Arc BRIDGES recently hosted Regional Forums for the Building Pathways to Empowerment Campaign.

Self-advocates, family members and professionals have gathered at each forum to discuss key initiatives developed by the Big Minds Group – a group of national leaders in the field of disabilities:

- Supporting work – from paid to volunteer
- Discovering and realizing individuals’ gifts
- Supporting resourcefulness of individuals, families and communities
- Using what you need
- Shifting the power to what works

The stories that have been shared are inspirational and the ideas generated are forward thinking and exactly what we need at this critical time. However, one of the best outcomes of the forums has been watching everyone join together to help and support each other.

During one discussion, a direct support professional mentioned a self-advocate who wanted to be a chef and she was wondering how to support that goal. One person remembered the name of a business where you assemble your own dinners to freeze, another person used her Blackberry to find the location and phone number and the DSP had a new contact to try the next day.

During another forum, a group of parents discussing Supporting Resourcefulness of Individuals, Families and Communities had formed a new support group by the end of the evening.

They planned to meet weekly to have a cup of coffee and share ideas and resources with each other.

When you are discussing billion dollar programs, it’s easy to try to come up with grand ideas that save millions. The forums have also reminded everyone that the even the smallest things can make a difference.

Two self-advocates were discussing the idea of “using what you need.” At first they didn’t support the idea because of the fear of losing everything. A direct support professional at the table explained that it could be something as simple as sharing a staff person one afternoon a week so that someone else could have a staff person. They were sold and said they would be willing to give up a couple of afternoons to help someone else.

All of the terrific ideas will be compiled and used by the Indiana Response Team (see story below) to further the five initiatives. This group is working hard to produce an action plan which will be unveiled at The Arc of Indiana state conference on November 1, 2011.

If you were unable to attend one of the forums or have additional ideas to share, please go to the “Innovation” page of our Pathways website: [www.arcind.org/building\\_pathways](http://www.arcind.org/building_pathways) You can also ask questions and exchange information in our Self-Advocate, Family and Professional forums, also located on the Pathways website.

Additional forums are being scheduled. Watch for more information in “News and Events” on our website: [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org)



To help celebrate Disability Awareness Month in March, Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel read to children in the preschool classes at Evansville ARC’s Child Life Center. Deidra Conner, President of Evansville ARC, is seated to Mayor Weinzapfel’s left. The Child Life Center is a NAEYC accredited, inclusive learning center that provides services to all children ages six weeks to six years, including those with special needs.

### Next Steps in Building Pathways to Empowerment – the Indiana Response Team

When The Arc of Indiana launched the Building Pathways to Empowerment campaign last spring, our first step was to form the Big Minds Group, made up of 20 of the smartest people in the field of developmental disabilities from around the country, who developed the broad brush strokes of a new pathway for Indiana. Next The Arc created The Indiana Response Team to take these big ideas and turn them into doable plans. No small task.

At work since December, the people on the Indiana Response Team (IRT) are family mem-

bers, self-advocates, professionals and business people. They are focusing their work on the five major themes that came out of the Big Minds Group: Employment/Career Paths, Utilizing Gifts, Supporting Resourcefulness, Shifting the Power, and Using What You Need. The IRT has developed three work groups to organize around these areas: Research, Employment, and Communication. Each group is hard at work.

In one area, employment, the team has already made concrete recommendations to FSSA that would streamline and allow greater flexibility in

putting people to work using the Medicaid Waiver. By following this recommendation, FSSA could save an estimated 200,000 administrative steps per year that would make the process of responding to the employment/career path goals of individuals more accessible and affordable.

We will share the plan that comes out of the IRT at our November 1, 2011 Conference and Appreciation Luncheon. We hope you will be there for an exciting day as we share and learn how we truly can build a pathway to empowerment.

# Waiting for a Waiver; Our Successful Search for Creative Solutions

Anne Steiner, *Floyds Knobs*

When our son, Tommy, completed high school last May and we found that he was not yet targeted for the Support Services (SS) Waiver, we had to come up with some creative solutions to keep him active, engaged, connected and contributing to the community. The first question we asked ourselves was: "What would Tommy be doing and where would he be spending his time if he did not have a disability?" We tried to keep these answers in mind as we searched our community for opportunities.

**Swim Team Membership Leads to Part-time Summer Job** Tommy had been a member of the swim team as a student at Our Lady of Providence High School, and was very fortunate to be offered a part-time paid summer job by the swim coach who was director of a local aquatic center. When summer break began, Tommy worked at the pool every Tuesday and Thursday alongside several other students he knew from his high school, providing him with natural supports and much needed social interaction. We learned that Tommy was eligible for the door-to-door public transportation system, so we took advantage of the opportunity for him to take another step towards independence by learning to ride the bus by himself to his job at the pool.

**High School Community Job Placement, Interest in Theater, Leads to Work as Theater Volunteer** As a high school student, one of Tommy's community job placements was at a local dinner theatre, helping to set up the tables for the Wednesday matinee. Theatre is his passion, so this was always a fun and stimulating environment for him. Tommy was already familiar with the dinner theatre since he attended often as a patron and had also watched his older brother perform there years earlier. The owner of the theatre enjoyed spending time with Tommy each week. After the school year ended, she graciously agreed to let him continue to volunteer under her supervision for an hour every Wednesday.

**High School Community Job Placement Leads to Work as YMCA Volunteer** Another of Tommy's high school community job placements was at the local YMCA, spending an hour straightening up around the



pool area. We asked the Y if he could continue to do this job as a volunteer after the school year ended, and they agreed. Since school personnel were no longer available to accompany him to the Y, the teacher whom we had hired as a tutor during his school years gladly accepted the challenge of switching over from tutor to "job coach." Every Thursday she picked him up when he finished his paid job at the aquatic center, transported him to the Y and supervised his volunteer work there.

**Friendships—Just Hanging Out with the Guys** Since Tommy did not have any activities scheduled on Mondays, we decided to hire one of the students from his graduating class to hang out at the YMCA with him for four hours; swimming, eating lunch, exercising on the machines and running/walking on the track. Tommy enjoyed his time "hanging out with the guys," and sometimes they were joined by another student from their class as well.

**High School Transition Plan Leads to Work as Adult High School Volunteer** When the summer job at the aquatic center ended and school began again in the fall, we implemented a plan that we had designed at his final case conference. We knew that the transition from high school student to working adult was going to be difficult, so we devised a plan to keep him connected to his high school community by setting him up as a lunch room and bookstore volunteer on Thursday mornings. He was already "trained" in the lunch room job since he had worked there several days a week as a student. As an adult volunteer, however, he

would now eat lunch with the adults and wear a staff name tag, which to him became a symbol of his transition to an adult worker.

**"Transition Pals" Leads to Volunteer Work at Local College** When Tommy's high school friends left for college in the fall, he no longer had the opportunity to hang out with them at the Y on Mondays. During his senior year of high school, he had participated in a "Transition Pals" program at our local college where he would spend an hour socializing on campus with a student majoring in special education. The teacher supervising the program offered to let Tommy do volunteer work in her office for an hour on Mondays, shredding paper and lifting heavy boxes of books. Students often stopped by her office, giving him a chance to meet some new college peers.



**Grade School Connection, Volunteer Helpers, Leads to Volunteer Work at Former Grade School** During Tommy's high school years he had maintained his connections with his Catholic grade school, so we approached the cafeteria supervisor about an opportunity for him to volunteer in the lunch room. She agreed to let him come in on Tuesday mornings, but with a small staff, she

could not provide him with training and supervision. To solve that problem, we lined up three different volunteers from the parish who knew Tommy. One had directed the Christmas youth choir when Tommy sang as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Another was a volunteer when Tommy had attended youth group as a high school student. And the third volunteer, an occupational therapist who was now staying home with her young children, knew Tommy from church. The occupational therapist designed his job tasks, and the three of them took turns training and supervising his work in the cafeteria each week.

**Vocational Rehabilitation Leads to Paid Employment** Meanwhile, Tommy had applied for vocational rehabilitation services before exiting high school, and his employment coach was in the process of job searching for him. Tommy had indicated to us that he would like to "help the kids" in the Childwatch area at the YMCA. Many of the YMCA employees already knew Tommy as a volunteer and member who worked out regularly. When we contacted the Y director to ask if employment might be an option, he was very open to the possibility. The job coach began discussions with the Childwatch supervisor, who also brought the housekeeping director in on the plan. They designed a work schedule for several hours on Mondays that involved some cleaning jobs along with helping out in Childwatch. Tommy was now earning a paycheck again, and doing a job that he had chosen himself.

Tommy has been given many opportunities to enrich his life and keep him connected to his community. We believe that our persistence in keeping him involved, included and well-known in the community throughout his life resulted in many of these doors opening for him. People who already knew him were much more likely to give him a chance than those who had never had personal contact with him. While we are looking forward to the waiver services filling in some of the gaps in Tommy's days, we feel that our creative solutions have brought meaning and personal fulfillment to his life, and have helped him cope positively during this major transition period.

## The Arc Works to Bring Attention to Needs of People with I/DD During 2011 Session

The 2011 session of the Indiana General Assembly has been the most contentious in decades, dominated by the House Democrats walk out and encampment in Urbana, Illinois. Throughout the session, The Arc has worked to ensure that the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not lost amongst the many high profile issues that have been the focus of the legislative session. As *The Arc News in Indiana* goes to press, following is a summary of the status of the biennial budget and key legislative issues.

### Biennial Budget

#### Medicaid Waivers

Modest growth will be allowed in the Medicaid waiver program. The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) has stated that the allocation for waivers will allow approximately 2000 people to move into services over the next two years. This growth will be for people needing emergency or priority status waivers, people transitioning out of state operated facilities (people with a dual diagnosis who currently reside in state mental health facilities), and some movement off of the waiting list. Medicaid waiver funding, including funds to move people off waiting lists, continues to be a priority of The Arc.

#### Vocational Rehabilitation

Throughout the legislative session, The Arc of Indiana has pressed lawmakers to fund vocational rehabilitation at a level that will allow Indiana to draw down the full amount in federal match funds that are available to Indiana. As we go to press, an additional \$3.25 million is needed in the budget line item to fully fund vocational rehabilitation services. DDRS has stated that they are working to find other existing resources to draw down the full federal match. The Arc of Indiana will continue to work with lawmakers and DDRS to make sure that Indiana does not leave any money on the table for vocational rehabilitation services.

#### Public Mass Transit

When the biennial budget passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee, the bill was amended to reduce state funding of public trans-

Over 100 family members, self-advocates and Arc leaders came to the State House on February 10, 2011 to deliver Valentines to their legislators with the message, "Open Hearts. Open Communities."



Above: Stone Belt Arc, local chapter of The Arc in Monroe County, met with area legislators, including Senator Vi Simpson—long-time supporter of The Arc and an advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Left: Representative Ed Clere (R-New Albany) and Christa Dismore, Self-Advocate for The Arc Network at The Arc of Indiana's annual Valentine's Day event at the State House.

portation. The Public Mass Transit Fund supports people with developmental disabilities with their transportation needs. Transportation is very important to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities who need transportation to fully participate in their local communities. They depend on public transportation to get to and from jobs, medical appointments and local businesses. The loss of public transportation can turn into the loss of jobs, further escalating the unemployment rate for people with developmental disabilities which is already a staggering 78%. As we go to press, The Arc continues to work to restore funding to the Public Mass Transit Fund.

### Education

The Arc of Indiana worked throughout the legislative process to make sure that students with disabilities have the same opportunities as students without disabilities in the discussion around school choice. Students with disabilities should not be turned away from a school because they may need some additional resources to achieve educational progress.

**HB 1002—Charter Schools.** Representative Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis). Allows charter schools to opt in to the state health insurance plans. Establishes the charter school board as a statewide sponsor of charter schools.

**HB 1003—School Scholarships.** Representative Bob Behning (R-Indianapolis). Increases the school scholarship tax credits that may be awarded for donations to a scholarship granting organization. Allows scholarship granting organizations to grant scholarships to families with income that is not more than 250% of the amount required for the individual to qualify for the federal free or reduced priced lunch program. Provides scholarships to low income students to pay the costs of tuition and fees at a public or private elementary school or high school that charges tuition.

**HB 1341—Special Education Grants.** Representative Bob Behning (R-Indianapolis). Requires a school corporation, including a charter school, to expend a proportionate share of its state special education grant on providing special education services to parentally placed nonpublic school students with disabilities.

**HB 1429—Textbooks and other Curricular Material.** Representative David Yarde (R-Garrett). Expands the definition of textbook to include certain hardware, software and digital content.

### First Steps, Guardianship, Audit Requirements

**SB 88—Various Health Issues (First Steps).** Senator Connie Lawson

(R-Danville). Renames the commission on mental health to the commission on mental health and addiction. Makes numerous changes to the commission. Redefines the services provided by community mental health centers.

SB 88 was amended in the House to also include language regarding the First Steps program, including language that will allow the division on disability and rehabilitation services to work with third party payors to negotiate reimbursement for early intervention services. Language was also amended into the bill that sets up a tax-intercept program for families who fall 60 days delinquent on paying their copayments for First Steps services. Language was also inserted into the bill that will no longer allow DDRs to terminate services to a child whose family is more than 60 days in arrears of paying their copayments for the program.

The Arc has worked hard throughout the legislative session to assure children in need of early intervention services through First Steps are not harmed by changes to the First Steps program.

**HB 1047—Study Audit Requirements for Service Providers.** Representative Suzanne Crouch (R-Evansville). Requires the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to conduct a study on the number of types of audits and surveys required of entities providing services for which the division pays and to report back to the DD Commission by September 1, 2011. Providers of services to people with I/DD sometimes must comply with multiple and duplicative audits. This bill, supported by The Arc, is an attempt to begin to streamline audits, freeing up administrative costs faced by agencies to allow as much funding as possible to be used to serve people with I/DD.

**HB 1055—Adult Guardianships and Protective Proceedings.** Representative Ralph Foley (R-Martinsville). Enacts the uniform adult guardianship and protective proceedings jurisdiction act. Governs issues concerning original jurisdiction, registration, transfer, and out-of-state enforcement of guardianships and protective orders appointed or issued for adults. Changes the duration of a temporary guardianship from 60 to 90 days.

# Grateful Voices Lift Up Affordable Care Act

March 23rd marked the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Affordable Care Act. Many organizations representing people with disabilities, including The Arc, supported its passage because of the multiple benefits it offers to people with disabilities including:

- Ending discrimination in health insurance against people with disabilities and people with pre-existing health conditions
- Expanding private health insurance coverage and Medicaid
- Creating new options for long term services and supports and improved prevention and public health programs

To help celebrate the anniversary, Family Voices Indiana recently called on families to share their stories on how the ACA has made a difference in their lives. Two of The Arc of Indiana's Family Advocates for The Arc Network, Heather Dane and Jennifer Akers, shared their stories, which we have reprinted here with permission from Family Voices.

## Heather Dane, Indianapolis

The difference the Affordable Care Act makes to my family is insurmountable. Both of my children have neurological disorders which not only affect their development but their overall health. Because of ACA my husband and I are free to explore career opportunities without having the fear of losing health coverage for our children. Each hospital stay is no longer further complicated and stressed with the fear that this may be the visit that gets us to the lifetime max. We no longer have to ask ourselves, "What will we do

when they no longer have health coverage?" ACA has given my family a piece of mind that no other recent legislation has been able to give.

## Jennifer Akers, Westfield

I used to think America's health care system was fine. I was single, with a teaching job, with good benefits. In fact, I wished that I had more money in my pocket as opposed to the health insurance I accessed maybe once a year. That all changed when I became a mother...

Despite doing everything right during my pregnancy, my child was born with two rare genetic syndromes. As she struggled to survive, my husband and I struggled to figure out how we were going to meet her long term needs. She was approaching half of our lifetime cap for private insurance before we even got to take her home from the hospital. And when she did come home, we still had out of pocket costs for specialized formula, specialized equipment, etc. Adding to our financial stress was the fact that I needed to quit my job in order to take care of Grace.

Fortunately, in her first year of life, a social worker helped us obtain the Aged and Disabled waiver under Indiana's home and community based services program. It allowed her to access Medicaid Disability, even though our income of one teacher's salary had made her previously ineligible. Medicaid paid for home nursing, enteral nutrition, assistive technology, incontinence products and many other services that our private insurance would not cover. The waiver provided much needed nursing-level respite for us.

We still worried about maintaining creditable coverage so she had access to private insurance even with her pre-existing conditions. Any thoughts of my husband changing jobs were always dominated by what the private insurance benefits would be for Grace. We still struggled to pay for her other expenses...and we were lucky. Most families are still waiting for Home and Community Based Services. Indiana has waiting lists for most services. Middle class families find that they make too much money for many programs because the programs never consider the costs of raising a child with a disability.

I imagine many of you will read this and be thankful that this doesn't resemble your life. I am glad it doesn't...for now. Most of us will experience some level of disability in our lifetime, even if it's just through aging. We're saving the state money by caring for our child at home instead of placing her in a nursing home or institution. I'm also certain she's an asset to society because she's received the supports she needs to thrive.

The Affordable Care Act provides states with critical new dollars toward achieving a goal of supporting everyone who can live at home or in community-based living the supports to do so. We hope this means that no matter where we live in the U.S., Grace can have access to what she needs without waiting years for it to be available.

*Family Voices Indiana is the Family Voices state affiliate organization. Family Voices of Indiana shares advocacy opportunities and updated information on issues that impact Indiana families of children with disabilities or special needs. Learn more by visiting <http://fvindiana.blogspot.com/>*







## The Arc

### Master Trust

Trust I

Established in 1988, Trust I helps families provide for the financial future of their loved ones without affecting eligibility for government benefits.

Trust II

Established in 1995, Trust II allows people with disabilities to fund their own trust - often with funds received through an inheritance, back payment from a social security or a personal injury settlement - allowing them to maintain eligibility for government benefits.

www.thearctrust.org • 800-382-9100

The Arc of Indiana Master Trust is the nation's premier special needs trust, serving Hoosiers of all disabilities and their families since 1988.

## Date Set for 2011 Golf Outing



### Plan Now to Attend Steve Green's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Outing to Benefit The Arc.

Former Indiana Pacer and I.U. basketball star Steve Green will once again host this year's charity golf outing to benefit The Arc of Indiana on **Friday, June 17**. You won't want to miss this fun-filled day designed for golfers of all abilities.

We are excited to announce a new location this year – Eagle Creek Golf Club in Indianapolis. Eagle Creek offers two 18-hole courses and a central location with easy access to Interstate 65. The official golf course of the Indianapolis Colts, Eagle Creek Golf Club is consistently ranked as one of the top public golf courses in the state. This year's golfers will be able to choose the course they want to play.

The day will include lunch, 19<sup>th</sup> hole refreshments and a chance to win a car. On-line registration begins May 1. For information please contact Jill Vaught at 317-977-2384 or [jvaught@arcind.org](mailto:jvaught@arcind.org).

### The Arc News in Indiana

107 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Suite 800  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-977-2375  
800-382-9100  
[www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org)



## Experience a New Way of Meeting

### The COVOH Lab

The Arc of Indiana is pleased to offer a new service for organizations and businesses that helps groups interact, create, innovate and make decisions effectively and efficiently. The COVOH Collaborative Work Lab is an innovative system that provides a streamlined meeting format.

Designed to enhance the productivity level of group meetings, an experienced facilitator leads groups through structured discussions to capture creative thinking and maximize the contributions of each member. Each session is individually tailored to fit the needs of the group and accomplish their personal goals.

The COVOH lab is ideal for any group and can be used for strategic planning, project evaluation, surveys, making policy recommendations, developing curriculum, evaluating candidates for employment, grant writing, focus groups, board development and so much more.



To schedule a demonstration, please contact Jill Vaught at 317-977-2384 or [jvaught@arcind.org](mailto:jvaught@arcind.org)

## Family and Caregiver Training Services

If your loved one receives services from Indiana's Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Autism Waiver or Support Services Waiver, The Arc of Indiana can help ease and support the process of receiving Family and Caregiver Training.

Under Indiana's Medicaid Waiver program anyone who has a Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Support Services Waiver or Autism Waiver can spend up to \$2,000 of their waiver budget per year for Family and Caregiver Training. These funds can be used to provide training and education to parents, family members or non-paid caregivers in a variety of areas. Examples

include workshops, conferences, marriage and family counseling, or how to develop an individualized support plan. Family and Caregiver Training funds can help families and caregivers better meet the needs of their loved one.

The Arc's Family and Caregiver Training Services Program allows The Arc to pay for the upfront costs and then seek Medicaid reimbursement. Our goal is to ease the process of receiving the Family and Caregiver Training you want and need.

Learn more by visiting us at [www.arcind.org/caregivers](http://www.arcind.org/caregivers), or contact us at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100.