

Jobs, Economy, Building Better Lives Focus of Blueprint for Change, State Reform Efforts

Major change to supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is underway in Indiana through the efforts of the Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). At the same time, The Arc of Indiana continues to work to realize change through goals set out one year ago in our *Blueprint for Change*. We can report that these efforts dovetail one another in many ways – with a focus for both being on jobs, the economy and giving families and individuals the supports they need to lead better lives in communities throughout the state.

FSSA aims to bring Medicaid Waiver services to over 7,000

Hoosiers over three years, using the shared resources of state and federal funds to provide supports that will develop career paths toward employment for people with I/DD, grow the economy by adding people with I/DD to the workforce, and allow parents to stay employed.



The Arc's Blueprint for Change Steering Committee continues to move The Arc forward in realizing key principles of the Blueprint—building career pathways, supporting resourcefulness by increasing flexibility in how funding is used, and looking to new models that support people in ways that honor choice, build careers and create full lives—while also saving scarce resources so others can have those same opportunities.

Medicaid Waiver Reform

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have approved FSSA's proposals to establish a new *Family Supports Waiver* and a new *Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver*.

FSSA's goal is to bring 6,600 people onto the Family Supports Waiver and 1,000 people onto the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver by March 2015.

The Family Supports Waiver is now the basic entry point to receive waiver services. Individuals who have been on waiting lists for the former DD, Autism or Support Services Waivers will be targeted to receive services through the new Family Supports Waiver based on their earliest date of application.

The Family Supports Waiver provides up to \$16,250 in waiver services and increases flexibility in how an individual's Medicaid Waiver budget can be used. A new service, Participant Assistance and Care, will provide a new level of support to an individual either in the family home or in an individual's own home.

There will be no waiting list for the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver—designed to be a *needs based* waiver for people with specific needs. Individuals will receive services through the CIH Waiver only if and when those needs hit.

The CIH waiver expands the ability of providers to serve people with extremely challenging needs and creates a process to offer a higher rate of reimbursement to providers who meet high performance measures.

It is important to note that individuals who *currently* receive services through the former DD or Autism Waivers are transitioning onto the new Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver.

Continued on page 15

Election Guide



To help you be an informed voter, this issue of *The Arc News in Indiana* includes a special *Election Guide*. We invite you to read, learn, share and discuss – and then be sure to vote at an early voting site, by absentee ballot or at the polls on November 6th.

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Employment Campaign Launched

Hiring People with I/DD is Good for Business

The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana have launched a major Employment Campaign, designed to speak directly to employers about why employing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) is a good business decision.

Over the next 12 months a series of ads, featuring employers of people with I/DD, will run on "Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick" on PBS stations across the state, as well as local network stations that air the show.

Ads with the message, "Good for Business, Good for People, Good for the Economy" are also running on *InsideIndianaBusiness.com* and in the INSide Edge e-newsletter.

"An untold story in Indiana and across the nation is that businesses have found that people with I/DD are a ready, willing, and able workforce. Who better to tell this story than business men and women? That is why our employment campaign television ads feature business people talking about how hiring people with I/DD has benefited their businesses. We hope this will lead to more employers realizing that there is an untapped resource of workers out there, and that this will lead to an increase in employment of people with I/DD," John Dickerson, The Arc of Indiana Executive Director, said.

"When I began working and got a paycheck, not just disability benefits, I could rent a better house, ride the bus more often, buy an extra outfit now and then. And the person who

hired me got an employee who was happy to have a job. That is what I like about our campaign message, employing people with disabilities is good for business, good for people and good for the economy," Melody Cooper, Self-Advocates of Indiana President, said.

Employers to be featured on the Inside INdiana Business ads include:

- ❖ Walgreens, Kokomo—
Large Private Sector Employer/Businesses
- ❖ Bits & Bytes, Evansville—
Small Private Sector Employer/Businesses
- ❖ Turkey Run Inn, Marshall—
Large Public or Government Non-Profit Employer
- ❖ Community Access Television Services (CATS), Bloomington—
Small Public or Government Non-Profit Employer
- ❖ Nathaniel Boutelle/Passages, local chapter of The Arc in Whitley County—
Entrepreneur/Innovative Employment Opportunity

The ads can be viewed on The Arc of Indiana's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/larcadvocate

The featured employers are recipients of the 2012 Keystone Award. The Arc of Indiana and SAI established the award to recognize outstanding employers of people with I/DD. Funding for the project was made possible through a grant from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA).



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 podcast hosted by Michelle Fischer.

Visit www.arcind.org/AViewfromMyWindow to listen to the latest edition and past broadcasts of *A View from My Window*, including these recent shows:

A View into the 2012 Elections

A View into The Arc and SAI Employment Campaign

A View into the "My Life, My Choice" Project

A View with The Arc US CEO Peter Berns

Is Abuse Inevitable? A View from the NCE Conference

A View into Assistive Technology

A View Into the Special Olympics Indiana State Games

In Celebration of Mother's Day – A View with Two Moms

Be sure to join Michelle on Facebook "A View from my Window with Michelle Fischer"; subscribe to her blog, "Behind the Mic" <http://michellefischersmic.blogspot.com>; and follow her on Twitter @MFVIEW.



An ad being videoed at Walgreens in Kokomo. The ads promoting employing people with I/DD will run on PBS stations and other outlets over the next 12 months.



Count Me IN! 2012 Election Guide

Indiana is nationally recognized for the strong partnership of The Arc of Indiana, Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI), Direct Support Professionals of Indiana (DSPIN) and INARF. Our Count Me IN! Campaign is a joint, statewide effort to help families, people with developmental disabilities, caregivers and providers register to vote and be engaged in the 2012 elections.

Our role is not to endorse candidates or tell you how to vote. Our role is to provide you with information and resources so that you can be an informed voter.

The Election Guide includes statements from the major candidates for national and state office, including the candidates for President of the United States, U.S. Senate, Governor of Indiana, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. These candidates were asked to respond to this question:

“If you were talking directly to someone, one on one, what would you say about how you will work to address issues of concern to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), their families and the workers who support them?”

Their responses, as well as photos submitted by their campaigns or available on public sites, are included in the guide.

On pages 8 and 9 of the guide you will find important information on registering to vote, voter ID requirements, absentee voting and accessibility for voters with disabilities.

As Election Day nears, we encourage you to seek out opportunities to meet your candidates for State Representative and State Senate and talk with them about issues important to you and your family. No matter what the issue is, you have the right to know where candidates stand to help you decide how you will cast your vote.

In addition to the question posed to candidates for national and state office, following are questions on major topic areas of concern that you may choose to ask your local candidates:

Employment – The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is a staggering 78%. As conversations take place regarding increasing jobs in Indiana and reducing the unemployment rate, what will you do to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are

included in those discussions and plans?

Public Transit – A major obstacle to people with disabilities being employed is the lack of accessible transportation. Do you believe local governments should have increased authority to let voters decide on local funding options for transit?

Affordable Care Act – The Affordable Care Act will provide access to health care to many people who otherwise would not have health care. What is your position on how the Affordable Care Act should be implemented in Indiana, including the question of establishing a health care exchange network?

Medicaid/Medicaid Waivers – Medicaid provides basic health care to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and home and community based services through Medicaid Waivers. What is your position on federal proposals to make Medicaid a block grant program to states? If Medicaid does become a block grant

program, how should Indiana make use of those funds?

Seclusion and Restraint – There is currently no state law regarding the use of seclusion and restraint in schools, including standards for training teachers and support staff in the proper use of seclusion and restraint. What is your position on the need for legislation and/or regulations to provide statewide standards, including standards for training, regarding seclusion and restraint in schools?

Charter Schools/School Vouchers – The use of charter schools and school vouchers to provide families and students with public school options and choice is central to school reform discussions. What, if any, policies, guidelines or regulations do you believe should be in place to assure students with disabilities have equal choice and equal access to charter schools and schools that accept vouchers.

The Arc of Indiana, SAI, DSPIN and INARF hope you find this guide informative and helpful, and encourage you to exercise your right to vote.



JOHN GREGG

Democratic Candidate for Governor

I believe in an Indiana that works for everyone, and where no one gets left behind. Too often those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, fall through the cracks in our society, and as Governor I will do all that I can to ensure this does not happen.

Those with disabilities are really just like any other Hoosier—they want to be productive members our society, and to make a contribution to their communities. I want all Hoosiers, regardless of ability, to be able to earn an honest living at a decent wage. That means job training for people of all abilities, so that they can take advantage of the growing sectors of our economy in the life sciences, agriculture and advanced manufacturing, energy and transportation.

Whether you have an intellectual or developmental disability yourself, or are supporting someone who does, bringing more and better paying jobs to Indiana will lift all of us up. My plan will cut taxes on businesses that headquarter here in Indiana, which will help us attract new companies and help the ones already here grow, prosper and hire more workers. I will eliminate the sales tax on gasoline, making it cheaper for Hoosiers to drive loved ones to needed medical appointments.



I believe that society is judged by how we treat our most vulnerable populations, and this particularly applies to children with developmental and learning disabilities. The Indiana Department of Child Services has let down too many kids, and we cannot allow that to happen. As governor I will reinstate preventive services for parents of at-risk children, and I will also promote adoption of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. First, it is better for the children to live in loving, full time homes. Second, it just makes financial sense to reduce the number of children living in foster care when possible.

All of our children deserve a safe and loving home, and parents need to know that there are services available, including counseling, tutoring, as well as assistance funding special medical equipment, for families who adopt children with special needs.

I believe that in Indiana, we are all in this together. When we start putting petty partisan squabbling aside, and get to work for Indiana, creating jobs and growing our economy, investing in our workforce and in the next generation, it will lift all of us up together.



John Gregg and SAI President Melody Cooper at the 2012 SAI Picnic



John Gregg at the Knox County Fair



John Gregg with Hoosier construction workers

MIKE PENCE

Republican Candidate for Governor

Indiana can, and will be, a national leader in dealing with the challenges facing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and the entire service delivery system. It is important to be mindful of the need to maximize access to services for those in need, but to do so in as thoughtful manner as possible.

When we talk about making Indiana the state that works for all Hoosiers, we truly mean ALL Hoosiers. That means tackling one of the most prevalent challenges for the I/DD population—employment. There are many ideas and theories around employment for individuals with I/DD. Those ideas need to be translated to action. To do that well, Indiana must bring together not only the best thinkers and policy makers around this subject, but also those most impacted by the decisions that are made—individuals with I/DD.

It is important to build a service delivery system around the idea that every individual in the system has the opportunity to be employed and have a meaningful, inte-



grated life. We must stop thinking about the I/DD service delivery system as a pure funder of services, but rather view it as an employment system that provides wrap-around services to facilitate employment opportunities.

Additionally, much work has been done to eliminate the waiting list for waiver services. There is still a lot of work to be done on that front. We must continue to push to ensure everyone waiting for services has the ability to get some support. And, we must make sure that those with the highest needs have the ability to get additional supports to ensure a meaningful, integrated life.

We can accomplish these goals, but it is going to take the hard work from everyone: families, providers of services, policy makers, advocacy groups and the individuals with I/DD. As we work together to make this the state that works, I look forward to working with you to solve these problems.



Mike Pence in Kosciusko County



Mike Pence in Mishawaka



Mike Pence at Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School in Indianapolis

JOE DONNELLY

Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senator from Indiana

On July 26, 2012, we celebrated the twenty-second anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Due to this landmark legislation, millions of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities are now able to more equally participate in our society. As congressman for north central Indiana, I was proud to support an update to this law in 2008, and I remain dedicated to the goals of increased inclusion and equal opportunity for Americans with disabilities.

I am running to be a U.S. Senator with the Hoosier common sense to get things done for middle class families. This means balancing the budget, lowering the debt, and creating jobs—all the while ensuring we protect good programs that support community efforts to take care of children, seniors, and people with disabilities. I often say the best social program is a good-paying job for mom or dad, so they can take care of their family, provide their children with a great education, and retire with dignity.



I will work with anyone and everyone to create more economic opportunity for Indiana families.

My opponent, Richard Mourdock, holds extreme positions that would affect all Hoosiers, including those impacted by intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has a proposal to eliminate the Department of Education and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, two departments that assist your community. He has questioned the constitutionality of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security—programs essential to delivering health and retirement benefits to millions of Hoosiers, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I would rather support and strengthen these programs for future generations.

Together, I know that we will be able to further our shared goal of increased opportunities for all Hoosiers. I have enjoyed meeting and working with many of you over the past few years. I look forward to continuing to work alongside your community.



Joe Donnelly in Terre Haute (left), and in South Bend (above)

RICHARD MOURDOCK

Republican Candidate for U.S. Senator from Indiana

I take special pride and honor in writing to you, The Arc of Indiana, as we approach one of the most important elections in our nation's history. As a former board member of Evansville ARC, I feel a personal concern for those with special needs and the issues affecting us all as we strive to better ourselves and our families in these challenging times.

With unemployment over 8% for 42 consecutive months, economic growth at record lows, and the unending threat of tax hikes, the past four years have been difficult for us all, regardless of ability. But these difficulties have not been shared equally, as those with disabilities have borne the brunt of our government's failed economic policies. Though the unemployment rate for people without disabilities is 8.4%, it is even higher for Americans with special needs, standing at 13.6% and increasing steadily. Simultaneously, 70% of people without disabilities are members of the workforce, while only 20% of disabled Americans are able to join. Essentially, our economy is discriminating against people with special needs twice, not only as they seek a job, but as they simply try to enter the workforce.

This needs to stop, and that's why I'm running for Senate: to put all Americans regardless of ability back to work through policies that empower consumers to earn, save, and spend as they please. It is my belief that a rising tide lifts all boats, and as we fight to lower taxes, repeal onerous business regulations, and foster confidence in our economy, we will create stronger job markets for even the most vulnerable. I fully support efforts to increase the labor force participation rate for those with disabilities to 44% by 2015, and believe we can do so with market-based liberal economic reforms which will spur growth and create jobs. But just as a rising tide of growth can lift us to prosperity, a tidal wave of debt from Washington could wash such hopes away. No matter how hard or smart we work, it will be for naught if the national



debt continues to grow. So, as we strive to cut taxes and invest in the future, we must cooperate to trim the fat and eliminate wasteful programs holding us back.

However, we will not attain employment and self-sufficiency for our disabled Americans by simply fostering growth and limiting our debt.

ner. From education to health care, providing the best services for our Hoosier disabled will revolve around Hoosiers helping Hoosiers and, as such, I oppose attempts by the federal government to assume unconstitutional powers and force upon us its one-size-fits-all policies which have failed us too many times before.



And to me, this election is a referendum on Washington's failed policies. We can either continue with the policies that have made us poorer, racked up trillions of dollars of debt, and ended our economic liberties, or we can try something new. I think it's time for a change. I support lower taxes, smaller debt, and better government. For work. For independence. For all. I thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

The vulnerable among us need our help as they transition to adulthood and working lives. But, there is a right way and a wrong way to do this. The right way starts at home, empowering our states and communities to draft policies most appropriate for their disabled citizens in an inclusive and transparent man-

WE'VE GOT THE power VOTE IN 2012

October 9

Deadline to register to vote or to transfer your registration to a new address.

October 8

First day a voter may cast an absentee ballot in person at the county clerk's office. If an office is closed for Columbus Day, early voting will begin October 9.

OCTOBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October 25

First day that a voter who is confined to his or her home, voter with a disability, or a voter who is a caregiver can vote absentee at his or her residence.

October 29

Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot to vote by mail. The request must be received by the county clerk's office by 11:59 p.m.

Election Calendar - Key Dates -

Voter Identification Requirement

Indiana law requires that voters show a government issued photo ID, with an expiration date, when they go to the polls to vote. **Accepted government IDs include:**

Valid Driver's License

State Identification Card

Valid Passport Issued by the U.S. State Department

Valid U.S. Military Identification Card

If you do not have a photo ID, you can go to any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office/License Branch to obtain a photo ID.

How to Vote Absentee

Absentee In-Person Voting/ Early Voting

All registered voters in Indiana are eligible to vote "absentee in-person" (also called "Early Voting") at their county election board office beginning Monday, October 8 and ending Monday, November 5 at 12:00 noon. However, because October 8th is Columbus Day, county election board offices may be closed. This means that in all likelihood "absentee in-person" or "early voting" will begin on October 9th.

Absentee Voting by Mail

Applications to vote absentee by mail must be received by the county election board by October 29, 2012. Absentee ballots must be received at the post office by noon on Election Day, November 6, 2012.

Registered voters can apply to vote absentee if:

- You expect that you will not be in the county where you live on Election Day.
- You have a disability.
- You are age 65 or older.
- You are scheduled to work the entire time the polls are open.
- You will be confined due to illness or injury.
- You will be caring for an individual confined due to illness or injury.
- Your religion prevents you from voting while the polls are open.
- You are a member of the military or a public safety officer.
- You will have official election duties outside of your voting precinct.

Absentee Voting at Home

Voters who expect they will be confined due to illness or injury, voters who expect they will be caring for a person who is confined at a private residence on Election Day, and voters with disabilities who believe their polling place is not accessible can vote "absentee-by-traveling board." Contact your county election board to make this request by Monday, November 5, 2012.

Absentee Voting Applications are available at: www.in.gov/sos/elections/2402.htm. The link includes addresses and phone numbers for Indiana's County Election Boards. If you do not have access to the Internet, call information or look in the blue pages of the phone book to find the number for your County Clerk/County Election Board.

Absentee voters are NOT required to show or provide a photo ID when they submit their absentee vote.

November 6 Election Day!

Polls are open for voting from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Remember to bring a government issued photo ID that has an expiration date.

Remember, if you are voting absentee by mail, your absentee ballot must be received at the post office by noon on November 6th.

NOVEMBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November 5

Noon deadline to vote absentee in person at the county clerk's office; deadline for voters who are disabled and voters who are caregivers to request to vote at home.



Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires at least one accessible voting machine be placed in each polling place in addition to making the facility physically accessible.

If you have a complaint about accessibility at your polling location, call the Hoosier Voter Hotline to report the issue at 866-IN1-VOTE (866-461-8683). HAVA staff will be answering calls from 6:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. EDT on Election Day, and 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on normal business days.

GLENDA RITZ

Democratic Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction



I am a public school teacher of 33 years running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. I am licensed in the areas of special education (K-12), general education (K-6) and library science (K-12). I have taught students with a broad range of disabilities in MSD Washington Township Schools, Indianapolis. As an educator, I know the challenges and rewards of working with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I know of the excitement that students, educators, and parents/caregivers feel when students have the opportunities to discover and develop their individual gifts and talents.

I have an in-depth knowledge regarding federal and state laws of IDEA and Article 7 respectively. I whole-heartedly support the intent of the laws to provide individual support and opportunities for students with disabilities to live successfully in the community upon graduation from public schools. As State Superintendent of Public Instruction you can count on me to do the following for students with disabilities:

- Expand the role of the Indiana Department of Education to work with other agencies to support infants and toddlers with disabilities and to provide more support for public preschool special education programs.



Glenda Ritz on graduation day with a student from her first class as a teacher in 1978

- Monitor the services provided to students with disabilities within our public schools to ensure high-quality programming by gathering input from education professionals and parents and streamlining the process for addressing Individual Education Plans.
- Identify high quality professional standards for pre-service training for

special education teachers and provide professional development opportunities for practicing educators to improve their teaching techniques to reach all students. Current school funding levels have eliminated much of the professional development opportunities, and the education field is constantly evolving. My administration would restore professional development priorities for all aspects of public education.

- Increase the opportunities for graduation and career pathways for students with disabilities. The current requirement for all students to pass Algebra I holds back too many students. At the same time, emphasis on Algebra I is limiting access to applied and practical math courses that many students need in the work place and to live independent lives.
- Work with community agencies to identify and increase support for families.
- Support legislation that improves public policy and provides adequate and appropriate funding for

programs that serve students with disabilities.

I think you will agree that my general platform for our Indiana education system will also provide support for students with disabilities:

- Give more time to education, less time to testing – *Our students are more than test scores!*
- Give more control to local school districts to implement state and federal standards – The best ideas happen when parents, teachers, and students work together.
- Make sure every child is safe and respected at school and school activities – Fund training programs for students and educators to stop bullying.
- Make teacher licensing and evaluation standards top in the nation, with respect and professionalism – Letting unqualified people teach is bad for Indiana's children.
- Clear the barriers to quality vocational career/tech education – Schools must prepare all students, not just the college bound.

I look forward to serving Hoosier students as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



Glenda Ritz meeting with families and teachers

TONY BENNETT

Republican Incumbent, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

During my time as a biology teacher, principal and local superintendent, I was constantly inspired by the children and adults around me. My experiences in Indiana's schools reinforced my belief that all children, no matter their background or unique needs, have the ability to learn and grow. When we set high expectations and embrace a culture of academic excellence, all students benefit. I brought this fundamental belief with me to my current job as Indiana's Superintendent of Public Instruction, and I'm pleased to report to you today on our results.

Through the hard work of educators and students across Indiana, we've set three all-time academic records. Test scores have improved by eight percent over the past three years, Indiana is second in the nation for improvement for advanced placement gains, and last year more students graduated from high school than ever before. While these results are encouraging, I believe we can do even more, especially for students with developmental disabilities.

As a father of a child with a learning disability, I understand that reading is critical to future success. Research shows that students who struggle to read in the early grades continue to lag behind their peers throughout their time in school and beyond. This is why I supported and implemented a policy that requires all children learn to read before they leave third grade.

We must continue to set high expectations for principals, teachers, and students—so kids who require specialized instruction receive the help they need. To make it happen, we need great teachers in every classroom. Indiana made changes that ensure all teachers are experts in the subjects they teach and require all teachers and principals to receive meaningful yearly performance evaluations. Together, these changes help us recognize,

reward, develop and keep the most effective teachers in our schools. Over the next four years, we'll continue our work to ensure every classroom has a great teacher, all children learn to read, and every student has the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. We'll work hard to make sure even more students are graduating high school, and we'll

keep our focus on further reducing the number who drop out.

We must not only prepare students for college, but we must also ensure students who take another path have the skills they need to find good jobs. We must work to give parents more opportunities to be involved in their child's education. As education leaders, we must con-



Dr. Bennett at the State House

tinue to hold ourselves accountable to a high set of standards. This vision, combined with the hard work of our students and educators, is a winning formula for the future of our state.

There's no doubt that collaboration will be key to our shared and continued success. I've greatly appreciated the partnership and open dialogue I've had with your organization over the past four years. Thank you for your leadership and for all of the work you do on behalf of students across Indiana.



Dr. Bennett in the classroom

BARACK OBAMA

Democratic Incumbent, President of the United States

I am committed to providing people with disabilities access to the same opportunity to live rich and fulfilling lives – the same as every American. As a country, we value the contributions of all of our citizens and residents, including the over 50 million people in this country living with disabilities.

I am committed to providing people with disabilities access to the same opportunity to live rich and fulfilling lives – the same as every American.

But while people with disabilities are integrated into society as never before, we must do more. My Administration has achieved real results, and I will continue to stand up for the millions of Americans with disabilities and ensure that they have a fair shot and a chance to succeed.



For example, Obamacare stops insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions or disabilities, and expands Medicaid coverage, while providing new supports that will help people with disabilities live in their communities. I have also increased funding for programs that ensure young adults with disabilities receive the education and training they need to compete for jobs, and expanded protections against violence motivated by gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Additionally, we will continue to work actively with the community so that Americans with disabilities have a voice in ensuring a level playing field. Our policies will be guided by this principle today and in the future.



Barack Obama meeting with teachers



Barack Obama on a farm in Union Mills, Indiana



Barack Obama speaking in Marion, Indiana

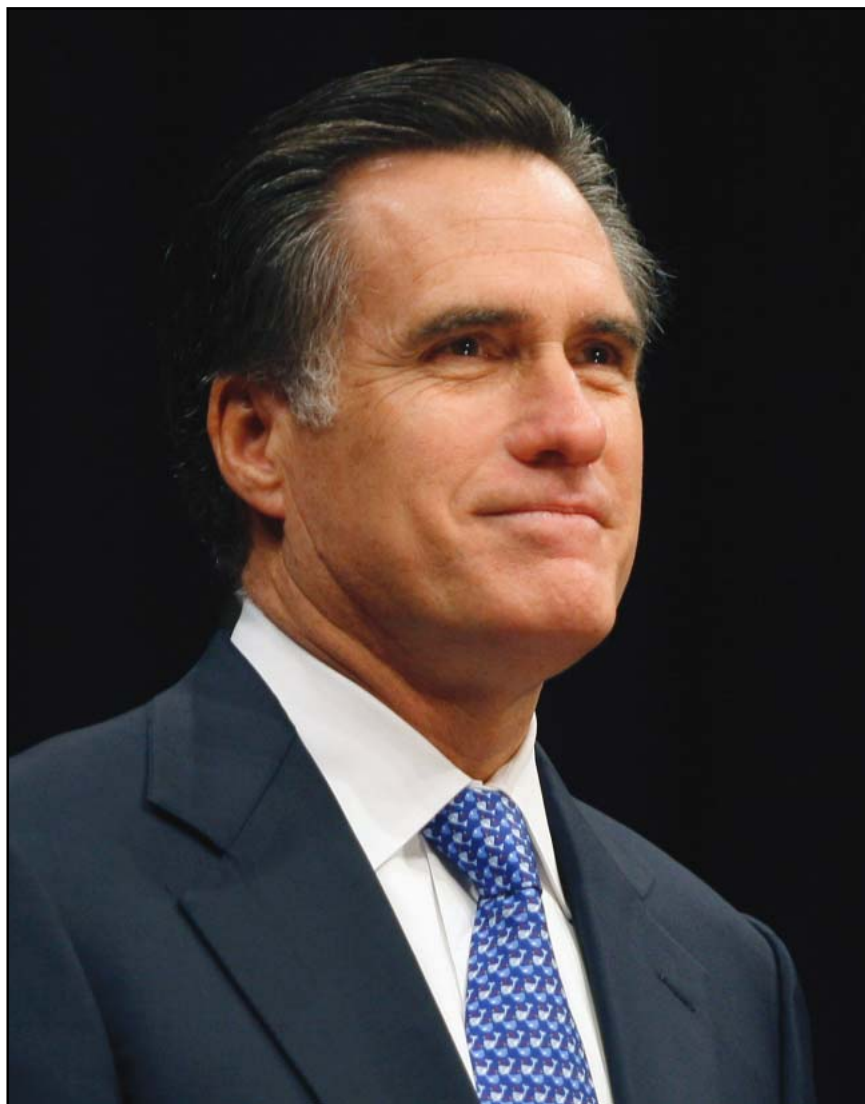
MITT ROMNEY

Republican Candidate for President of the United States

As president, I will work to ensure that Americans living with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to prosper. I understand the challenges that these Americans and their families face and how important advocates in all areas of government are to ensuring that their concerns are heard and their most pressing needs are addressed. As president, I will be an advocate for these Americans and the families and workers who support them.

I understand that one of the most pressing needs that individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities face is that of affordable and quality health care. As president, I will work to break down the barriers to care and services that those with developmental disabilities currently face. My reforms will reduce costs and increase choice, ensuring that every American is able to find a plan that meets their needs.

The promise of opportunity inherent in the American Dream is one that is linked with the ability to obtain a world class education and all of the benefits it brings. As president, I will work to provide improved educational opportunities for special needs students and their families by taking unprecedented steps to provide increased school choice. For too long, the parents of special needs students have battled bureaucracy and numerous other barriers to secure an education for their child that fits their unique needs in an environment that is inclusive and safe. A Romney Administration will break down these barriers, allowing IDEA funding to follow the student to the school of their choice. This flexibility will place the power with the parents and acknowledges an essential truth – that parents are the



most ardent advocates for their children and should have a say in their education.

I realize that gains have been made in providing a good education to special needs students, but there is also much room for improvement. As president, I will put in place an education policy that provides choice in conjunction with high standards, accountability, great teachers, and importantly, increased information for parents. All parents strive to provide their children with the best life possible and the most prosperous future imaginable. To do this, they need not only the flexibility to make choices but also the information to make sure that choice is the right choice for their child.

As president, I will work to ensure that Americans living with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to prosper.

As a parent of five sons and the grandfather of eighteen grandchildren, I know the sleepless nights that come with parenting. As president, I will work to make sure that these worries are lessened by getting our economy back on track so that the families can rest a little easier knowing that they will not have to worry about the next paycheck or the price at the pump. A sound economy also means more jobs for individuals of all talents to pursue their passions.

Election Guide Messages from The Arc, SAI, DSPIN and INARF

Be an Informed Voter

John Dickerson
Executive Director

This is a first for *The Arc News in Indiana* in many respects. We are partnering with Self-Advocates of Indiana, INARF and Direct Support Professionals of Indiana to bring you this special issue as part of our joint COUNT ME IN statewide voter registration and Medicaid waiver signup campaign. Forty thousand families, self advocates and professionals across the state will receive this special Election Guide issue – a new milestone in our statewide distribution of *The Arc News in Indiana*. Then there is the guide itself, with messages from incumbents and candidates for President, U.S. Senate, Governor and Superintendent



of Public Instruction – key leaders seeking your vote.

Why this special effort?

Our role is not to endorse candidates or tell you how to vote. Our role is to help you be an informed voter.

The candidates included in our guide were asked to respond to this question, “If you were talking directly to someone, one on one, what would you say about how you will work to address issues of concern to people with I/DD, their families and the workers who support them?”

We hope their answers will help you make an informed choice as a voter on November 6th.

We encourage you to ask your local candidates for public office, including those running for state senate and state representative, this and other questions (see a few suggestions on page 3) that will help guide you in casting your vote.

Many of my friends are disappointed with politics today and choose to just not vote. That’s understandable, but I do not agree. People have fought and died across the oceans and in this country to protect our right to vote. We owe it to them to participate. And we owe it to those who count on us. People like Stephanie, a valued employee of the Bitz and Bites deli team in Evansville. And the Fletcher family, who found that a diagnosis of Fragile X was not as scary when

First Steps began to provide important early intervention services to their children. And Susan and Larry, who became friends while living in a nursing home and now enjoy living in their apartment with supports from the Medicaid Waiver. Check out our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/arcadvocate, to see their stories in these videos: “Employment Campaign/Bits & Bytes,” “Steps to Take When Your Child has a Disability,” and “Moving from a Nursing Facility to a Home in Your Community.”

We have come so very far, but have so much more to do. Our national and state leaders of all parties need to know these stories. They need to know *your* story. They need to know that their actions impact many lives in many ways. Thank you for all you do, and thank you for expressing your voice by voting.

Your Vote Counts!

Melody Cooper
President

November is election month, and on Tuesday November 6, I’ll be at the polls. In 2008, I thought that was the most important election. As I look around, listen to the radio and watch the news about the 2012 election, I realize that this one is incredibly important, too. The fact is, every election matters. And with every

election, it is important to vote. Whether you have a disability or not, it does not change the fact that every vote counts, including yours!

I’m not here to tell you who to vote for – I’m here to encourage you to get out and vote! I think we need to educate ourselves. Get to know the candidates – what do they believe? What is their motive? What would happen if they were elected? Will each candidate do what they say they will do? Listen to what they say – watch the news, listen to the

radio, read the paper, talk with friends. If it’s happening in your area, attend a Legislative Forum to meet the candidates in person.

Voting is really important. We need to be serious about it – it’s our right, it’s our responsibility and it’s our chance as a nation to decide how we want the future to be. The world is changing, and we need to let people know that we will be there to stand up for our rights. We will be part of the change.

Hope to see you at the polls!

For tips on voting and other election news, check out Self-Advocates of Indiana’s September newsletter. Call (317) 977-2375 to request a copy.



The Board of Directors and membership of the Direct Support Professionals of Indiana (DSPIN) are proud to partner with Self-Advocates of Indiana to promote the Count Me In! Voter Registration & Medicaid Waiver Waitlist Campaign. As the only membership organization dedicated to advancing the direct support profession through public policy advocacy and professional development, exercising the right to vote is near and dear to us. From researching candidates to waiting in line at the polls, we all have the right to be counted. Through an internal education campaign DSPIN is encouraging DSPs to support self-advocates as they consider candidates and incumbents and cast their ballots. DSPs support self-advocates every day – for us, Election Day is no exception.



As Indiana’s primary membership association for disability service providers, INARF is proud to partner with Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI), The Arc of Indiana, and Direct Support Professionals of Indiana (DSPIN) to promote the Count Me In! Voter Registration & Waiver Waitlist Sign-Up Campaign.

With the gubernatorial election fast approaching, and many key legislative seats in play, it is more important than ever for our community to stay informed and engaged. From voter education to transportation to the polls, INARF believes that we all deserve to be counted on Election Day – and we’re committed to achieving this goal one person at a time.



Jobs, Economy, Building Better Lives, continued from Page 1

Education

Equally as important to The Arc is the ongoing call for education reform – bringing change to the over 120,000 Hoosier school children who have an Individual Education Plan. The Arc's Education Committee continues to work closely with state officials to assure education reform, including charter schools and vouchers, always includes a voice for students with special needs. Again, we see a positive push toward approaches to prepare *all* children for a career, and even post-secondary education. We are watchful, however, that financial pressures facing local school districts are leading to larger classrooms and concerns that children with special needs are negatively impacting standardized test scores. Inappropriate use of seclusion and restraint for children with behavior challenges remains an issue. The Arc will champion legislation in the 2013 session of the Indiana General Assembly to address the use of restraints and seclusion in schools. We will also work to bring positive attention to schools and educators who, despite difficult financial times, find new and creative ways to provide the best education and future opportunities to all children.

Families—Making a Difference

Hoosier families and individuals with I/DD have been making a difference through The Arc since our founding 56 years ago. The history of The

Arc is one of families who have always sought for ways to build a better life for their loved ones, rather than looking to government for all of the answers. That innovative spirit is at the heart of the *Blueprint for Change* and is exemplified by the success of The Arc Master Trust. In 2013 we will celebrate 25 years of The Arc Master Trust—established through the efforts of forward thinking families and important seed money from our local chapters.

Through our special needs trust program, families have saved and invested over \$45 million to provide for their sons' and daughters' futures; and this year, thanks to that planning, The Arc Master Trust will provide over \$5 million to trust beneficiaries whose parents are no longer here – thanks to their forethought. Learn more about The Arc Master Trust and the Blueprint for Change by visiting www.thearctrust.org and www.arcind.org.



The Arc Master Trust

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

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

My Life, My Choice Project Provides Residents of Nursing Facilities with Options

The Arc of Indiana is working with the State of Indiana on an initiative to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) currently living in nursing facilities are offered choices about where they live.

The goal of the “My Life, My Choice” project is to educate, empower, and remind individuals with I/DD that they have choices regarding their

living situations, whether it is choosing to live in a nursing facility, an ICF/DD, in the community or elsewhere.

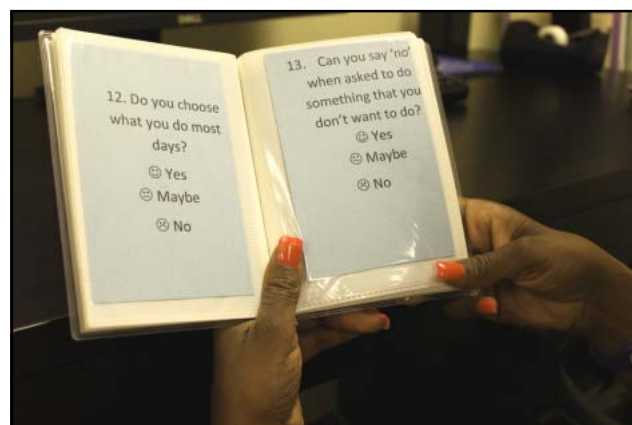
To achieve this goal, The Arc has trained forty individuals who are working in two-person teams to conduct interviews across the state. Interview teams include a Lead Interviewer who is a person with I/DD and a Support Interviewer who does not have I/DD.

During interviews, the Lead Interviewer, with assistance from the Support Interviewer as needed, engages residents in a peer-to-peer discussion about their quality of life, ideal living situation, and their daily experiences in their current living situation.

During this time the Support Interviewer gathers the information using a specialized iPad application that helps track results. If the individual expresses an interest in community living, information about community living options is provided, empowering individuals to make an informed choice about where they live.

The project began in June 2012 and is scheduled to run through December 2012. For more information about options for people with I/DD currently living in nursing facilities:

- View “Moving from a Nursing Facility to a Home in Your Community” on YouTube by visiting: www.youtube.com/arcadvocate
- Read “A Guide to Transitioning from a Nursing Facility to a Home in Your Community” by visiting www.arcind.org, click on “Help for Families,” click on “Home and Community Based Services,” and scroll down to find a link to the guide.
- Listen to the “A View into the My Life, My Choice Project” podcast by visiting www.arcind.org/AViewfromMyWindow
- Contact The Arc at 317-977-2375, 800-382-9100, or thearc@arcind.org



Works of Arc Online Art Gallery

Works of Arc, an online art gallery and store featuring the work of Indiana artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), is scheduled to launch in early October. Through Works of Arc, www.worksofarc.com, featured artists can share their talents *and* earn an income.



Each incredible piece of art is unique and handmade. The pieces are quite varied, featuring the artists' wide variety of mediums and talent. You will find everything from watercolors to jewelry, purses to bird houses, note cards to photo frames. Please be sure to check back often as new pieces and new artists are continually being added.

Whether you are looking for a special piece for your personal collection or the perfect gift, Works of Arc has something for everyone.

Works of Arc is a division of The Arc Development Group, LLC and is operated by The Arc of Indiana.

The mission of The Arc Development Group is to provide unique avenues and training opportunities that lead to employment and greater self-sufficiency for people with I/DD.



Note cards featuring artist Jessica Green's beautiful watercolors can be purchased through *Works of Arc*. Jessica's artwork was featured at a reception for the National Conference of Executive Directors of Arcs (NCE), hosted at The Arc of Indiana's office in August during the NCE Summer Leadership Conference in Indianapolis.

Blueprint for Change

Celebrating Those Who are Making it Work

Throughout 2012 we are sharing stories featured in our 2012 calendar that exemplify the good work that is happening through local chapters of The Arc to help individuals with I/DD build career pathways and use their unique gifts – key goals of the *Blueprint for Change*.

Noble of Indiana

Local chapter of The Arc
in Marion and Hamilton Counties



Madi Barnes got a head start on her career through an internship with St. Vincent Carmel Hospital's business office, thanks to Project SEARCH—an innovative project run in partnership with Noble of Indiana, Hamilton-Boone-Madison Special Services Cooperative, Indiana

Institute on Disability and Community, and the Indiana Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Project SEARCH gives students an opportunity to gain the job skills they need to transition from the classroom to the workforce.

The Arc of Northwest Indiana

Local chapter of The Arc
in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties



Zachary Vada felt out of place in school for many years, until he gained confidence through excelling in a computer class at a Career Center. Following high school, Zach applied for job training assistance through vocational rehabilitation and was connected with a job developer at The Arc of Northwest Indiana. After spending time continuing to improve his computer skills, The Arc connected Zach with Al Konieczka, the owner of Alkon Consulting Group, Inc., a web site design, development and hosting company. After reviewing his work and interviewing Zach, Al hired him to join the Alkon team as an HTML Programmer.

2012 Calendar of Events

Visit www.arcind.org for more information on upcoming events!

September 24-28

Count Me In! Voter Registration & Waiver Wait List Campaign, Statewide

September 25

The Arc of Indiana 56th Anniversary

October 3

The Arc of Indiana Annual Conference, Appreciation Luncheon & Annual Meeting; Self-Advocates of Indiana State Meeting & Board of Directors Election, Marriott East, Indianapolis

October 24

The Arc Master Trust 24th Anniversary

October 25-29

The Arc of the United States National Convention, Washington D.C.

November 1

The Arc of Indiana 2013 Winter Heating Assistance Program Opens

November 14-28

The Arc of Indiana Annual Online Auction, www.arcind.org

December 1

The Arc of Indiana Board of Directors Meeting, Indianapolis

December 10-11

Self-Advocates of Indiana Board of Directors Meeting, Indianapolis

Evansville ARC

Local chapter of The Arc
in Vanderburgh County



With the help and support of Evansville ARC, Mike Hufnagel enjoys a full life in the Evansville community through his long-time job at G.D. Ritzy's restaurant, and as an active community volunteer. His restaurant career is supported by Evansville ARC's Community Job Link's program, and his volunteer efforts, including assisting the Muscular Dystrophy Association, are facilitated by Evansville ARC's Connections for Life Program.