

2018 Public Policy Agenda

A core part of The Arc of Indiana's mission is our commitment to public policy advocacy

The 2018 legislative session provides many opportunities to advance initiatives that will lead to greater independence for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Indiana General Assembly convened January 3 and by statute must end by March 14.

Following are some of the key initiatives The Arc of Indiana will be working on in the 2018 session.

- Support legislation that requires licensure for applied behavior analysts.

- Support workforce legislation that could lead to increased employment opportunities for people with I/DD.

- Work to ensure that all students have options on

graduation pathways leading to a high school diploma.

- Work to ensure that the implementation of the new certificate of completion does not lead to unintended consequences that harm

students receiving special education services.

- Support bias crimes legislation that increases sentencing to offenders who commit crimes solely based on a person having a disability.

Whether you are a parent, sister, brother, grandparent, friend or a person with a disability—YOU can make a difference by joining The Arc's public policy advocacy efforts.

Visit www.arcind.org/our-programs/public-policy-advocacy to view our complete public policy agenda, find your elected officials, and sign-up to receive Legislative Memos & Action Alerts from The Arc of Indiana and The Arc US.



The Arc of Indiana is working with legislators during the 2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly to pass legislation that provides for licensure of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. Photo provided by Little Star ABA Therapy

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Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has begun their work to prepare a comprehensive plan for services for people with I/DD. It was established by HEA 1102, legislation spearheaded by The Arc of Indiana, in the 2017 session of the Indiana General Assembly, and is led by Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch, a longtime champion on issues important to people with

disabilities and their families.

Meetings are being held throughout the state to gather input and prepare a comprehensive plan.

Meetings are being held throughout the state to gather input and prepare a comprehensive plan for implementation of community-based services provided to people with intellectual and other disabilities no later than November 1, 2018.

The first two meetings were held in Indianapolis and Bloomington. Future meetings will be held in Boonville, Lafayette, New Albany, Indianapolis, and Columbia City. All meetings are open to the public, with time at the start of each meeting for public comments.

Updates regarding the task force will be posted on The Arc of Indiana's website at www.arcind.org.

Self-Advocates of Indiana President's Corner

**Kelsey Cowley, President
Self-Advocates of Indiana**

2017 was another great year for SAI. We had a successful picnic at a new location. Over 400 participants attended our joint conference with The Arc of Indiana, we advocated for health policy and made many new connections and partnerships in our communities across the state.

Self-Advocates of Indiana kicked off 2018 by holding a retreat for our Executive Officer Board. We took this time to discuss where we want to see SAI go in the future, how we can better support our individual and chapter members and how we can create lasting change in Indiana for people with disabilities. We are excited to begin implementing some of the takeaways from this meeting.

As we begin 2018, SAI has a lot to look forward to. Please take the time to look at the 2018 SAI Calendar and mark these dates on your own calendars.

- Tuesday, February 13—Valentine's Day at the State House



24—The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana Conference

We will join The Arc of Indiana on Tuesday, February 13 for the annual Valentine's Day at the State House event. This year's theme is "Have a Heart for The Arc." This is an opportunity to let our legislators hear from us and learn what is important to us. It is important that our legislators hear from self-advocates. We always look forward to seeing self-advocates from across the state at this event.

Another opportunity to let state officials hear from you is by attending and giving public comment at meetings of the Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, meetings taking place throughout 2018.

We hope to see you at these events and at future SAI events throughout 2018.

- Thursday, April 5—Central Indiana Regional Meeting
- Thursday, April 12—Northern Indiana Regional Meeting
- Thursday, April 19—Southern Indiana Regional Meeting
- Friday, July 20—SAI Annual Picnic
- Wednesday, October 24—The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana Conference

Indiana Legal Services Offers Free Civil Legal Assistance

Indy Area Program Initiated for People with Disabilities

Indiana Legal Services, Inc. (ILS) is the largest provider of free civil legal assistance to eligible low-income people throughout Indiana. ILS helps clients faced with legal problems that harm their ability to have food, shelter, income, medical care, access to government benefits or personal safety. ILS does not handle any criminal matters.

ILS has created a new program, Indianapolis Legal Access Partnership (LAP), to provide legal services for eligible individuals with disabilities in the greater Indianapolis region.

LAP can help eligible individuals with disabilities regarding government benefit appeals, communicating for a person with a disability who is being exploited or ignored by a landlord, and investigating if a criminal record is eligible for expungement. LAP can also provide assistance with decision-making, including education about supported decision-making, power of attorney, and guardianship.

Nick Parker, staff attorney for LAP, helps to facilitate the program referrals to find the best fit for legal assistance. If an applicant is not eligible for services, he works to find a program or organization that might be able to help.

Learn more about Indiana Legal Services at <http://indianalegalservices.org>.

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/podcasts to listen to the latest edition and past broadcasts of *A View from My Window*, including a special podcast Michelle conducted with comedian Zach Anner, *A View with Zach Anner*.

Michelle had the opportunity to interview Zach when he was the keynote speaker at The Arc of Indiana Impact Awards Luncheon in November 2017. He is an award-winning comedian, show host, and public speaker. In 2011, he won his own travel show on the Oprah Winfrey Network, *Rollin' With Zach*. He also hosted the shows *Have a Little Faith* for Rainn Wilson's media company SoulPancake, and *Riding Shotgun* and *Workout Wednesdays* on his own YouTube channel, which has over 10 million hits. He recently published a memoir, *If at Birth You Don't Succeed*.

Like *A View from My Window* with Michelle Fischer on Facebook
Follow Michelle's Blog – *My Life and Stories Behind the Mic*
Join Michelle on Twitter – @MFView



Michelle Fischer, A View from My Window podcast host, and comedian Zach Anner



Kim Dodson

Executive Director's Column

A new year has begun. Most people look at starting a new year with optimism and all that the new year will bring – a brief reflection on the past year and then all eyes on what the new year holds.

As I reflected on this past year, I found it difficult to be overly optimistic about this new year. This past year was filled with constant battling with our national lawmakers about programs and services so many Americans depend upon each and every day. These are services and

supports that make people with disabilities more independent, and many that keep them alive. What was so disheartening is to hear so many lawmakers speak about these programs like they had no human component, like they were a nuisance that should just go away.

In the past week the President has talked about his first year being filled with accomplishments. He and I would likely differ on what we claim to be those accomplishments. I would count as one of his best accomplishments unifying those of us who care about people, ALL people. This past year advocacy groups came together time and time again

to share stories and raise our voices about what was important to us, and we prevailed in so many ways. We know we have had losses as well and will continue to need to be vigilant in sharing stories and making our voices heard.

In January of 2017 I spoke a bit about people being angry and hoping that they stayed angry enough to want to make a difference. I was so glad to see that there was another Women's March planned for this year. We are continuing to let strong voices be heard. We are remaining vigilant.

I consider myself a realistic optimist (60/40 respectively). My

realistic, optimistic opinion right now is that in November 2018, remarkable change will be made. We will show our strength in numbers and will remain dedicated to what we believe in. That for me is enough to be optimistic.

To keep up to date on important public policy issues, I urge you to sign up to receive legislative updates and action alerts from The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States. You can find sign up information, and information about how to contact your state and federal representatives and senators at www.arcind.org/our-programs/public-policy-advocacy.

Chapter Spotlight

KCARC Opens 1972, Community Fun Center

KCARC, The Arc in Knox County, has created a one-of-a-kind "Community Fun Center," 1972, in Vincennes, Indiana, thanks to the innovative vision of KCARC Executive Director Mike Carney and the KCARC Board of Directors.

The name of the center, 1972, honors the founding of KCARC, when it began its mission "to bring accessible, compassionate and innovative services to people with disabilities."

While the community center was designed for people with disabilities, it is intended to be a place for the whole community to have fun, while also providing employment training for people with disabilities.

"Please envision with me a place where people with disabilities and their non-disabled peers and community members go for training, fun, learning, friendship, acceptance, relationship building, vocational preparation, empowerment, outreach to employers and much more. This vision is the heart and soul of 1972," Carney said.

1972 is located in KCARC's former sewing plant at 711 Old Wheatland Road in Vincennes. The community center offers two climbing walls and a basketball court where you can play basketball, human foosball or a giant kickball darts game. A multipurpose room includes a laser tag area and a life size Battleship game.

1972 has a fully stocked game room with a gaming system that is visible on small and giant screens, allowing everyone in the room to see what is being played. And not to be missed is a fully restored, vibrantly painted 1972 Volkswagen bus that features LED lightshows and music from the 70's.

Carney said of his dream come true, "It seemed to me that it was important for folks with disabilities to have a larger place in our community.



One of the best ways to do that was to create something that was unusual, unique, much needed, and very valuable – and something that people with disabilities can enjoy alongside people who do not have disabilities."

Thank You to O

The Arc of Indiana

For 61 years The Arc of Indiana has stood as beacon of hope for individuals with disabilities and their families. We were able to touch countless lives in 2017 because of the incredible generosity of our donors. Thank you for helping us help others.

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Healthcare Initiatives
Indiana Association of REALTORS

Kiwanis International
Mickey's Camp
Midwest Academy
Mortar Board Alumni Club of Muncie Indiana
Network for Good
Schmidt Associates
The Arc of Vigo County

Foundations

Amazon Smile Foundation
Healthcare Initiatives
Herb Simon Family Foundation
IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital Foundation
Shafer Foundation

Memorials

During 2017, The Arc of Indiana & The Arc of Indiana Foundation received memorial donations for the following individuals. While nothing will ease the loss suffered by family and friends, these memorial gifts serve as a tribute to these very special people.

Chris Barr
Chrissy Lynn Clawson
Alan Clyne
Vickie Collins
Janice Lee Crooks
Lloyd Crowe
Art Dahlgren
Deborah C. Downs
Alice Ann Ewbank
Vicki French
Dr. John Gilliland

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Michael, Ken & Phyllis Kaplan
Tiffany McCrary
Rosa McDaniel
Clint McKay
Ronnie Sipes
Mason Smith
Lia Smollen
David Spade
The Arc of Indiana staff
Jill Vaught

Honorariums

In 2017, The Arc of Indiana & The Arc of Indiana Foundation received donations in honor of the following individuals.

Gregory Abbott
Helen Fay Berhman

The Arc of Indiana Golf Tournament Hosted by Eddie Gill

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Prize Sponsor - MDwise
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Crew Car Wash
Dance Kaleidoscope
Delta Faucet
Detour Salon & Style
Disney World
Downtown Comics
Eagle Creek Golf Club
EGTI Staff & Students
Eiteljorg Museum
Eric Braun/Kneedachef
Footlite Musicals
Frontier Soups Handlebar Indy

Harry & Izzy's
Hendrick Pool & Lawn
Holiday World
Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Jack's Camera Shop
Jared Quarles
Jim Purucker
Kings Island
Linda Finke
Louisville Mega Cavern
Louisville Slugger Museum
Mallow Run Winery
Murray's Jewelers
Oliver Winery
Pazols Jewelers
Perfect North Slopes
RCI

Shedd Aquarium
St. Elmo's
Sun King
The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site
The Colts
Thr3e Wise Men
Tiger Treats
Trader Joe's
University Dermatology Center

The Arc of Indiana & Self-Advocates of Indiana Annual Conference & Impact Awards Luncheon

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The Arc of Greater Boone County
The Arc of LaGrange County
The Arc of Northwest Indiana
The Arc of Vigo County

The Arc Advocacy Network

We're Here to Help

The Arc Advocacy Network, a program of The Arc of Indiana, provides information, referral, advocacy and support regarding:

- Government programs, including Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers, SSI and Vocational Rehabilitation
- Employment
- Navigating Health Insurance
- Natural and Community Supports
- Guardianship and Alternatives
- Community Living Options
- Self Advocacy and Self-Advocates of Indiana

The Arc Advocacy Network is also available for presentations and to exhibit at local events.

In December, two new family advocates, Cyndi Johnson and Ofelia Jimenez, joined The Arc Advocacy Network team. Ofelia is a bilingual advocate and will be increasing outreach to the Latino community. She is also translating guides and fact sheets to better assist



Ofelia Jimenez

Spanish speaking families. Cyndi, a long-time advocate based in Bloomington, Indiana, will extend our outreach to southeast Indiana.

The Arc's Insurance Advocacy Resource Center

The Arc Insurance Advocacy Resource Center (INARC) works to assist families who have a loved one with a developmental disability navigate their private insurance policies and increase knowledge of basic health insurance issues, including the Affordable Care Act.

Michele Trivedi, INARC Man-



Cyndi Johnson

ager, is a long-time autism insurance advocate and mother of a daughter with autism.

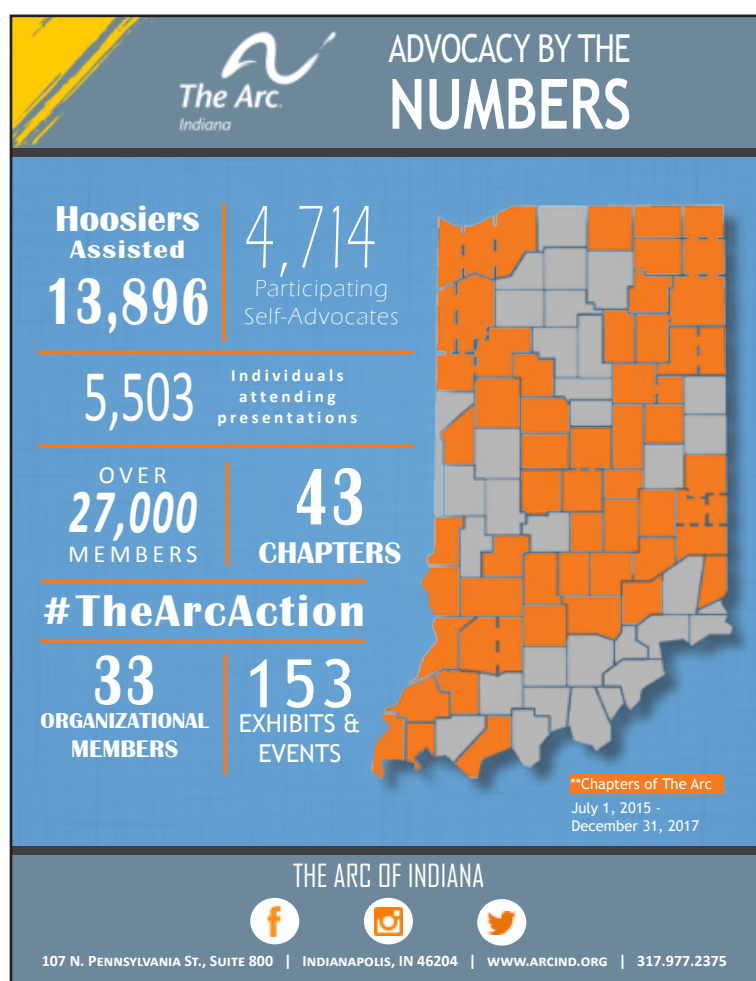
Following are just some of the recent activities of INARC.

- Consulted with families regarding insurance plan and coverage questions under private, ACA and Medicaid plans, and consulted with families and their providers regarding specific coverage appeals and coverage problems under private, ACA and Medicaid plans.
- Participated in the state-wide ABA (Applied Behavior

Analysis) Work Group to address issues related to ABA therapy services across the state and to provide input on the issue of Board Certified Behavior Analysis licensure, and regulation and accreditation of ABA therapy centers and providers.

- Continued ongoing work with the Autism Legal Resource Center regarding large national insurance carrier's violations of state and federal law in their refusal to cover autism treatment.
- Participated in the National Committee for Access to Autism Treatment work group to assure that autism and developmental disability habilitative and behavioral services are covered under any health reform bill passed by Congress.

Contact The Arc Advocacy Network and The Arc Insurance Advocacy Resource Center, 317-977-2375 – 800-382-9100 – thearc@arcind.org



Plan Ahead with The Arc's Center for Future Planning®

Do you know an adult with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) who needs help planning for the future? The Arc's Center for Future Planning® supports and encourages adults with I/DD and their families to plan for the future. A plan is important through all stages of life, but especially for the future when a parent or caregiver is no longer able to provide support.

The Center offers a website that provides information and assistance to families and individuals with I/DD on areas such as person-centered planning, decision-making, housing options, financial planning,

employment, daily activities, and making social connections. The website includes the *Build Your Plan*® tool that allows families to begin to develop their plans online.


The Center also has videos and materials on how to build a career, find a next home, pay for the future, grow a social network, and build good relationships.

Visit the Center for Future Planning at futureplanning.thearc.org.

For additional information on Future Planning, including information on establishing a special needs trust through The Arc of Indiana Master Trust, visit www.thearctrust.org/future-planning.

An innovative phone app, WorkHere, developed by an Indiana team, is working to connect workers with employers close to where they live. And, through partnerships with local chapters of The Arc, is seeking to help address the need for chapters to connect with qualified individuals to fill available positions for direct support professionals.



 WorkHere to help employees find people who live near where they work. This makes a huge difference for workers because they spend less time and money on commutes. It also helps the employer because people who live closer to work are more satisfied with their job and turnover less. We thought our location based approach would really apply to direct support positions.”

“Since we’ve started working with chapters of The Arc in December, we’ve added a new dimension to WorkHere – we are actively connecting with workers on social chat platforms. Our community team is sharing with job seekers the

advantages of working for an Arc affiliate. We're very excited about our relationship with The Arc, and we hope WorkHere can help chapters continue to make an incredible

WorkHere is free for workers and is available on Google Play, the iTunes App Store, Amazon AppStore and the web at www.workhere.com.



WorkHere cofounder Mike Seidle and Michelle Fischer, host of The Arc of Indiana's A View from My Window podcast. Look for "A View into WorkHere" at www.arcind.org/podcasts.

AWS Foundation has awarded a \$170,000 grant to Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI) to provide student scholarships and increased outreach to potential students in northeast Indiana.

Erskine Green Training Institute, developed by The Arc of Indiana Foundation, provides postsecondary vocational training for people with disabilities for employment in the hotel, food service and healthcare support fields. EGTI is housed within the Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana.

The mission of AWS Foundation is to help children and adults with enduring intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities live as independently as possible, be included in the community and function at their highest potential.

“We are pleased to provide scholarships and help spread the word about this first of its kind program – available right here in Indiana,” says Patti Hays, AWS Foundation CEO. “The training programs offered by EGTI provide real-life job and life skills needed for individuals to compete in

the job market and increase employment opportunities. With today's high demand for skilled workers, this program greatly benefits both individuals with disabilities that are seeking employment opportunities and employers statewide."


Andy Kirby, The Arc of Indiana Foundation Executive Director said, "We greatly appreciate the support of AWS Foundation. EGTI recently completed its second year of operation. During those first two years, the lives of our students have been transformed. Over 80% of EGTI graduates have gone on to secure jobs and gained increased independence in their hometowns. With the support of AWS Foundation, we look forward to continuing to grow our program and supporting individuals with disabilities in making their dreams of gaining meaningful employment a reality."

For more information about the AWS Foundation, visit *www.AWSFoundation.org*. For more information about Erskine Green Training Institute, visit *www.erskingreeninstitute.org*

ERSKINE
GREEN
Training Institute

A PROGRAM OF
THE ARC OF INDIANA
FOUNDATION

Creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities



www.erskingreeninstitute.org

Congratulations to The Arc 2017 Impact Award Recipients



Education Impact Award
Wayne High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana



**Outstanding Self-Advocate
Impact Award**
Kim Milas



Sycamore Award
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**Cathleen Clark Professional
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Indianapolis (above)



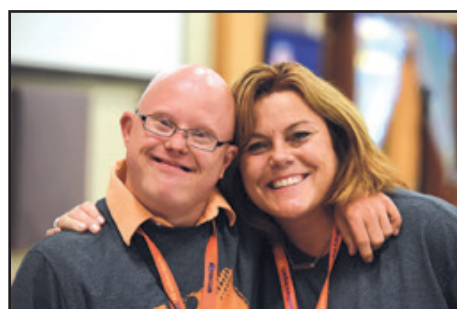
Employment Impact Award
Finish Line (above right)



Executive Director's Award
Stone Belt Arc

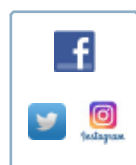


President's Award
Indiana IEP Resource Center



**Outstanding Professional
Achievement Impact Award**
Katie Griffin
Aktion Club, Kiwanis International

UPCOMING EVENTS



www.arcind.org



www.erskingreeninstitute.org



www.thearctrust.org



www.sai.org



**VALENTINE'S DAY
AT THE STATE HOUSE**
Give a Heart for The Arc
February 13



**THE ARC OF INDIANA 29TH
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Hosted by Eddie Gill
Eagle Creek Golf Club, Indianapolis
June 15



**SELF-ADVOCATES OF INDIANA
ANNUAL PICNIC**
Hummel Park, Indianapolis
July 20



INDY COOKS FOR THE ARC
NCAA Hall of Champions
Indianapolis
September 8



**THE ARC OF INDIANA & SELF-ADVOCATES
OF INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCES & IMPACT
AWARDS LUNCHEON**
Wyndham Indianapolis West
October 24