

We are The Arc!

From small, rural chapters, to chapters based in Indiana's larger cities, to The Arc of the United States in Washington D.C., together, We are The Arc!

In late April, staff from The Arc of Indiana traveled over 2,500 miles throughout the state, meeting over 1,000 people from 41 of our 43 local Arc chapters in our bi-annual "We are The Arc" event.



Posey County ARC

It was exciting to see the impact The Arc has throughout Indiana, thanks to the efforts of our 20,000 members and chapters.

Chapters providing direct services to people with developmental disabilities are making a difference in the lives of infants and toddlers through early intervention services, training people to work and connecting people to community employment, supporting people in residential programs, offering health and wellness activities, teaching people to become wonderful artists, supporting the efforts of self-advocate groups and more.

Smaller chapters, what we often refer to as "advocacy chapters," which do not provide direct services, make a tremendous difference in their communities by supporting the work of local service providers, organizing and supporting social activities for people with developmental disabilities, running summer camp programs, offering educational programs, providing information and referral to families and more.

The Arc of the United States, founded in 1950; The Arc of Indiana, founded in 1956; and many, many local chapters were initially comprised of a small group of concerned and



The Arc of Boone County passionate parents and community members who became the catalyst for changing the public perception of children with disabilities. Today the combined strength of local Arcs, state Arcs and The Arc of the United States makes The Arc the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people

developmental disabilities to be self sufficient and independent to the greatest extent possible.

- Inspire positive change in public policy and public attitudes.



The Arc of Vigo County

- Prevent disabilities through education about the dangers of drugs and alcohol while pregnant and advocating for all women to have quality prenatal care.
- Serve as a spokesperson and advocate for families and their loved ones.

As we saw time after time throughout our We are The Arc visits, The Arc at the local, state and national level continues to grow and evolve along with the changing needs and issues people with disabilities and their families face.

Learn more about The Arc of the United States by visiting www.thearc.org.

Find a local chapter in your area by visiting: www.arcind.org/index/About-The-Arc/local-chapter



The Arc of Bartholomew County

with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The Arc encompasses all ages and all spectrums, from autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X and various other developmental disabilities. With more than 140,000 members and more than 700 state and local chapters nationwide, we are on the front lines to:

- Empower families with information and resources to assist them in their journey of raising a child with a disability to lead a full and meaningful life.
- Empower people with intellectual and other



The Arc of Carroll County



The Arc of Tippecanoe County

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

Self-Advocates of Indiana President's Corner

Melody Cooper

President, Self-Advocates of Indiana



Melody Cooper

The Voice

I just can't believe it is summer. Where did this year go? But Self-Advocates of Indiana is doing a lot and has been off to a good start. We have seen some new chapters start, and have been around the state. We have been talking to our legislators, and it has been good so far. Recently, we met with the office of Senator Coats and talked to them about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This treaty is for

people with disabilities all over the world, ensuring they have rights.

There is a lot coming up this summer too. We have lots more to do to get ready for our Annual Picnic on July 19. It is going to be a fun day, so make sure to join us! We are also getting ready for our conference on October 8-9. We are doing a presentation at the APSE Conference in June to talk about employing people with disabilities.

So what does all of this mean for

self-advocacy? All of this means that Self-Advocates of Indiana is working to have our voices heard. And YOU, as a chapter or supporter of SAI, are part of this too, as you continue to work in your local groups. We do have a voice. Going to all of these meetings, it feels like we are being heard more now than we were five or ten years ago. But I feel like there are a lot more people who haven't heard from self-advocates yet, and they need to know that, sure, we have a disability, but we also need to be heard and not talked down to. Because we are human!

What can we as SAI do about it? What can you as an individual do about it? Keep talking to others about our rights and what we believe in...not just for us now, but for the generation that is coming on in a few years. To let the kids of today know that they have voices, and let them

know that when they grow up, their voices are important too, and need to be heard. So talk to your legislators, the people in the State House, your teachers, your parents, your friends and people you meet in the community who may want to know more. It is important for everybody to hear that we have a voice because they need to know that we are just as important as anybody else. For so long, nobody paid attention. For so long, nobody understood. For me, nobody understood me when I was growing up. Nobody listened. Even for a child, somebody needs to listen and not just say "that child doesn't know." – because you'll be surprised by what that child does know!

Now that I'm grown up, married and responsible, I know there are people who listen. But there needs to be somebody doing the talking, so that we will be heard!

20,000 Indiana Members of The Arc Sets Historic High

With more than 1,130 new members reported this spring during The Arc's annual membership campaign, the total statewide membership of

The Arc of Indiana now exceeds 20,000 members, the largest number of members reported in our 57 year history. The only Arc that exceeds

Indiana in membership is now The Arc of New York.

This spring's membership campaign, "Building Community Connections" led 14 chapters to report 1,132 new members. Leading the way were The Arc of Northwest Indiana with 354 new members; KCARC (Knox County), 175 new members; Evansville ARC, 165 new members; and The Arc of Bartholomew County, 82 new members.

To our new members, welcome to The Arc. Please visit us at www.arcind.org to learn more about The Arc of Indiana and www.thearctrust.org to learn about The Arc Master Trust. All members also receive membership benefits with The Arc of the US, www.TheArc.org.

John Dickerson, The Arc of Indiana Executive Director, said, "I encourage our members to support the efforts of their local chapter, The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States. That widespread support will lead to the success of The Arc at the local, state and national levels." Peter Berns, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of the United States, has commented that public policy officials have "noticed the breadth and depth of The Arc's network and how effective we've been at organizing and mobilizing people with I/DD and their families at the

local level to tell their stories to their elected officials." That mobilization is critical to The Arc's public policy efforts in Washington.

This spring's campaign, "Building Community Connections" led 14 chapters to report 1,132 new members.

Membership chairperson Brent Cardin, Executive Director of The Arc of Greater Boone County, thanks chapters for their efforts in recruiting, retaining and reporting members, and looks forward to The Arc's annual conference and appreciation luncheon on November 6 when chapters will be recognized for their outstanding work in the 2013 membership campaign.

"I encourage our members to support the efforts of their local chapter, The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States. That widespread support will lead to the success of The Arc at the local, state and national levels."

– John Dickerson

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 Special Olympics Indiana State Games
- A View into Hands in Autism
- A View with the Authors of "Ink in the Wheels"
- A View with The Arc Master Trust Director, Melissa Justice
- A View into The Arc's Classic Car Raffle!
- A View from the INARF Conference



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



Kim Dodson

Associate Executive Director's Column

CRPD Treaty Needs US Support

The United States Senate is expected to hold hearings on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) this summer. The CRPD is an international disability treaty adopted by the United Nations in 2006 that was inspired by US leadership in recognizing the rights of people with disabilities.

The CRPD is the first international treaty to address disability rights and was modeled after The United States' Americans with Disabilities Act. The treaty will extend the values of the ADA abroad and improve access for americans with disabilities, including veterans, who live, work or travel abroad. Over 350 american disability organizations, 21 veteran service organizations

and 26 faith organizations support the treaty.

The United States signed the CRPD in 2009, joining 154 other nations. As of the end of 2012, 124 countries have ratified the Convention. In May of 2012 the Obama administration submitted its treaty package to the US Senate for its advice and consent for ratification. On December 4, 2012 the United States Senate considered the ratification of the CRPD but fell five votes short of the super majority vote required for its passage. The reason for the vote's failure was misinterpretation of some language in the treaty's articles. Efforts have been made to address the misunderstanding, and Senate leadership remains committed to the CRPD.

The United States is seen as the global leader in eliminating disability discrimination and protecting the rights of people with disabilities. The laws that the United States has passed over the years have proven that we recognize that people with disabilities are as much a part of our nation as those without a disability. The failure to ratify the CRPD has been noticed by other countries and has begun to draw criticism.

The Arc has been working with numerous disability advocacy groups and US Senators to garner support for ratification. The treaty will promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities. We expect another vote later this year.

I ask for everyone to get involved to educate yourself about this important treaty and reach out to Senator Joe Donnelly, www.donnelly.senate.gov/contact/email-joe, and Senator Dan Coats, www.coats.senate.gov/contact/, for their support.

Senator Donnelly has expressed his support verbally but was not yet in office to vote last December. Senator Coats voted "no" on the ratification and expressed concern about the lame duck Congress' ratification of a treaty. He also cited some of the misunderstandings around the language in some articles of the treaty. His concerns should have been addressed through the adoption of the conditions that go along with the treaty.

Details and talking points on the CRPD can be found by visiting www.usicd.org/index.cfm/tools-and-resources

Blueprint for Change

Celebrating Those Who are Making it Work

The following stories, featured in our 2013 calendar, exemplify the good work that is happening throughout the state thanks to our local chapters of The Arc. Through their efforts, people with developmental disabilities are building career pathways, utilizing their unique gifts, and leading full and meaningful lives in their communities – all key goals of The Arc's Blueprint for Change. Learn more about the Blueprint by visiting www.arcind.org.

Bi-County Services, Inc. Local Chapter of The Arc in Adams and Wells Counties

James Vidal and Gary Amburgey come together to work on an activity they both enjoy – helping others. Through supports provided by Bi-County Services, James and Gary volunteer at Bluffton Regional Medical Center to help prepare patient handbooks, menus and home care folders.

Thanks to Bi-County Services, James, Gary and many other individuals have the chance to volunteer for a variety of organizations



James Vidal and Gary Amburgey

including the hospital, local libraries, nursing facilities, the Salvation Army and more. These activities are all part of Bi-County's mission to provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to not only give back to their community, but also to gain job skills that will lead to paid employment.

Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana Local Chapter of The Arc in Allen, DeKalb, Huntington and Steuben Counties



Mesha Starks

Mesha Starks enjoys taking part in "Masterminds," one of Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana's innovative programs for young adults. A key goal of the program is to help young adults gain and improve skills that will help them transition to employment.

Mesha keeps active and gains encouragement in accomplishing goals while working out in the health and wellness room. Through the program's volunteer component, Mesha is gaining job skills while helping others in the Fort Wayne community. Finally, Mastermind's technology component

is helping Mesha learn how to explore books, magazines, the Internet and other resources at the local library.

Mesha's beautiful smile and enthusiasm, along with her new skills, will all equip her on her journey to independence.

The Arc of Greater Boone County Indiana Mentor

Kathy Odom is by nature a quiet person, but through her art work she has found a way to communicate and share with others.



Kathy Odom

Kathy lives in a group home operated by Indiana Mentor in Indianapolis. She is also an artist and a member of Arc Artisans, an entrepreneurial program of emerging artists at The Arc of Greater Boone County. While she is creating beautiful works of art, she is also developing skills in creative expression, craftsmanship and small business management

Through connections she has made at home and at work, Kathy has a circle of friends that enrich her life and allows her to enrich the lives of others.

Understanding Your Rights / Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology (AT) promotes greater independence by enabling people to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing, by providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to accomplish such tasks. For individuals with disabilities, assistive technology (AT) can improve access to education, employment, independent living, recreation and participation in the community.

Too often, individuals with disabilities are denied the assistive technology services or devices they need to be more independent. Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission (IPAS) may be able to



assist individuals with disabilities and their families in accessing technology devices and assistive technology services.

The goal is to obtain both the AT that individuals need, such as a power wheelchair or communication device, and any related AT service, such as a medical evaluation, pre-

scription and training in the use of the device.

An assistive technology device means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Examples are computer equipment, augmentative/alternative communication systems, ipads, screen readers, hand controls, wheelchairs, walking aids, environmental control devices and aids for daily living and working.

An assistive technology service means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device.

An AT service includes:

- Evaluation of the AT needs of an individual
- Purchasing, leasing or otherwise providing for the acquisition of AT devices
- Selection, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing or replacing AT devices
- Coordination and use of necessary therapies, interventions or services with AT devices such as services associated with education and rehabilitation plans
- Training or technical assistance for the individual and, if appropriate, family members, guardians, advocates, professionals, employers or others who provide services to, employ or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities.

Potential AT funding sources may include Medicaid, Medicare, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Special Education, Private Insurance Companies, Low-interest loan programs and private charities.

If you need help with an issue involving Assistive Technology, contact:

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission

800-622-4845

317-722-5555

800-838-1131 (TTY)

www.in.gov/ipas

IPAS Assistive Technology (AT) Cases Histories

Following are two examples regarding AT that demonstrate how IPAS can help.

A man's rights were violated when the Indiana correctional facility where he resided failed to provide him needed medical equipment, specifically a lightweight wheelchair. Originally, he was given a wheelchair that he was unable to operate independently. IPAS determined that the facility had violated the individual's rights by failing to obtain a wheelchair assessment to ensure that the wheelchair fit properly, met his medical needs and allowed him to perform his daily living activities. IPAS advocated for a complete wheelchair evaluation and the individual received a wheelchair that met his needs.

The family of a man who resides in a nursing home contacted IPAS to request assistance with a Medicaid denial of a replacement wheelchair. The nursing facility had submitted incomplete requests for the equipment. IPAS assisted the individual and the nursing facility in submitting a more thorough request. When Medicaid continued to deny the provision of a specialty wheelchair, IPAS requested an appeal hearing. Due to IPAS' advocacy efforts, Medicaid reviewed the request, reversed its decision, and authorized the specialty wheelchair that was needed.

Other examples of areas where IPAS may be able to insist include situations where an employer denies a reasonable accommodation involving assistive technology, working with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) to help pay for needed AT, or advocating for schools to provide AT evaluations and appropriate AT to students.

IPAS 2013-14 Proposed Priorities

Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS) was created in 1977 by state law to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. It is Indiana's federally designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system and client assistance program.

IPAS is in the process of establishing their priority areas of focus for 2013-2014. You are asked to help IPAS be your protection and advocacy system by reviewing their proposed priorities and objectives for 2013-2014 and making comments or suggestions. Ask yourself, "What are the most significant disability rights concerns which I or my family members, and the public, face?"

Following is a summary of the proposed focus area. Learn more, and submit your comments, by visiting www.in.gov/ipas and clicking on "Priorities" in the information bar on the left side of the page.

Abuse and Neglect — Freedom from abuse and neglect is a fundamental right. One of the primary purposes of IPAS is to work toward the elimination of abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities.

Equal Access and Other Rights — Individuals with disabilities must have access to programs, services, technology, polling places, buildings and housing.

Special Education — Due to increased emphasis on school discipline, students with disabilities are at

increased risk of termination or reduction of their educational services. Students, parents and advocates need information and support to enable them to effectively self-advocate. There are also school systems that exhibit ongoing violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and Article 7.

Employment — Historically, individuals with disabilities have experienced a higher rate of unemployment or underemployment, which represents a significant barrier to achieving the level of independence and productivity that many people with disabilities wish to attain.

Education and Training — Students, parents and advocates need information and support to enable them to effectively self-advocate.

Information and Referral — The IPAS Commission continues to support the efforts of the staff to provide timely and accurate information about disability rights for individuals with disabilities, their families, as well as advocates, and members of the public.

Administration — IPAS strives to provide high quality advocacy services that are responsive to the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. IPAS continues to ask our clients about their experiences with IPAS to help us identify how we can improve our services.

Assistive Technology Resources

Abledata - www.abledata.com

Provides information about assistive technology products and rehabilitation equipment

Assistivetech.net - www.assistivetech.net

Provides access to information on AT devices and services

Easter Seals Crossroads INDATA Project - www.eastersealstech.com

Provides information and access to assistive technology, at no charge, to Indiana residents with disabilities. Services include device demonstrations, device loans, recycled computers, reutilized assistive technology equipment, alternative financing resources, educational trainings and conferences.

PACER Center - Simon Technology Center (STC) - www.pacer.org/stc

Helps make the benefits of assistive technology available to parents and professionals via trainings and projects. The STC includes a software and device lending library.

PATINS - <http://patinsproject.com>

The PATINS Project is the Indiana Department of Education/Center for Exceptional Learners assistive technology systems change initiative. Provides lending libraries where AT is available to public schools for preview and evaluation purposes.

Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD) - www.fctd.info

Provides AT resources of interest to families of children with disabilities.

Job Accommodation Network (JAN) - <http://askjan.org>

Provides guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues.

New Information Service - The Legal Network

The Arc of Indiana has launched a new service, The Legal Network, to provide information to attorneys, judges and other practitioners in the legal field who have a family member with a disability or direct interest in a person or individuals with disabilities.

To sign-up for this free information service, visit: www.arcind.org/index/legalnetworksignup.asp

The Legal Network is a project of The Arc of Indiana supported by the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission (IPAS).

To learn more about IPAS, visit: www.in.gov/ipas

For more information on The Legal Network, contact thearc@arcind.org

Film Series Shows that Hiring People with Disabilities is Good for Business, Good for People and Good for the Economy



The Arc of Indiana has produced a documentary film series, "Pathways to Employment," which celebrates six unique Hoosiers who have not let their developmental disabilities stand in their way of becoming employed. The six short films are designed to share the message that hiring people with developmental disabilities is "Good for Business, Good for People and Good for the Economy."

You can find all of the films on The Arc of Indiana's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/arcadvocate, in the

playlist, "Pathways to Employment." The films are also available on DVD.

The Arc has also produced a tool kit to help individuals and organizations use the films in schools, with business and civic organizations, at public events, etc. to help educate others about the value of employing people with disabilities.

A new "Guide to Community Employment and Vocational Rehabilitative Services," also produced by The Arc, provides a step by step guide to how vocational rehabilitative services can help people with disabilities become and stay employed.

The DVD, tool kit and Guide to Community Employment can be ordered by contacting The Arc of Indiana at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100 or thearc@arcind.org.

You can also download the tool kit and employment guide by visiting www.arcind.org and clicking on "News and Events."

Creation of Hospitality Training Institute Goal of The Arc Development Group

The Arc of Indiana recently received a \$5 million grant from the State of Indiana to be used for the construction of a hospitality training institute and hotel in Muncie, Indiana. A grant has also been received from the Ball Brothers Foundation in Muncie to be used for start up expenses for this new endeavor.

In 2012, the Board of Directors for The Arc of Indiana voted to create The Arc Development Group, LLC. The purpose of the ADG is to create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The first venture was Works of Arc, www.worksofarc.com, an online art store where individuals with disabilities can sell their artwork.

The grants will be used for ADG's next project, a hospitality training institute and hotel that will be built

adjacent to the Horizon Convention Center in downtown Muncie. The hospitality training institute, where individuals with disabilities will receive post secondary training and internships learning to work in the hospitality industry, will be unlike anything in the country.

This new business venture will serve multiple purposes. The primary goal will be to successfully train individuals with disabilities in the hospitality industry resulting in their employment. In addition to the hospitality jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities will be available so that individuals with disabilities can own a small business within the hotel. These could include a flower shop, news stand, shoe shine stand and other related ventures. The project will also provide a resource

for all businesses in Indiana in how to successfully hire and maintain employees with disabilities, and will provide a well trained workforce, ready to be employed in the hospitality industry in communities throughout the state.

Profits from the operation of the hotel will be used to support the training institute and other initiatives of The Arc.

Planning continues for this project. The next steps are securing a management company to run the day to day operations of the hotel and then selecting which brand the hotel will be. ADG hopes to make those announcements in July and be ready to break ground in early 2014. The hospitality training institute and hotel are slated to open in the summer of 2015.

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2013 Legislative Wrap-up

The 2013 session of the Indiana General Assembly adjourned in the very early morning hours of April 27, just a few days shy of the statutory deadline. The priority of the session was passing a biennial state budget, which did pass along party lines. This was the first legislative session for newly elected Governor Mike Pence, who was able to work with a super majority of his party in both the Senate and House. Despite the super majority presented in both chambers, many issues received bipartisan support.

Interim Committees and Commissions will begin to meet in late June. Stay tuned to The Arc of Indiana's Legislative Action Center, www.arcind.org, to stay up to date on meetings and topics.

Following is a recap of key legislation impacting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Budget

HB 1001 – State Budget Bill

The state biennial budget bill continues to fund critical programs for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. This includes:

- Full funding for vocational rehabilitation services to support efforts in getting people with disabilities into community employment and post secondary educational opportunities.
- Funding to allow home and community based waiver services to continue to move people off long waiting list for Medicaid Waiver services. One estimate is that the level of funding allows for approximately 4,800 new people to receive services under the Family Support Waiver over the next 2 years. Funding is also included to move people into the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver.
- Funding was partially restored for a state-wide volunteer adult guardianship program that supports people with disabilities having access to a qualified guardian should they need someone to help them make key decisions in

their lives. The funding will help cover the costs to create a guardianship registry and office through the Supreme Court.

- A \$5 million investment to help establish a hospitality training institute for people with disabilities that will provide job training and post-secondary educational opportunities. This venture will improve the quality of life for thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities across the state and lead to more independent lives.
- Funding for Best Buddies and CHOICE, Indiana's state funded home care program.

Education

SB 345 – Use of Seclusion and Restraints in Schools

The Arc of Indiana led efforts for the successful passage of SB 345, which establishes a commission on seclusion and restraints in schools to adopt rules concerning the use of restraint and seclusion in schools and develop a model restraint and seclusion plan. Requires school corporations and accredited nonpublic schools to have in place a restraint and seclusion plan for the 2014-2015 school year.

HB 1423 – Antibullying

The Arc of Indiana was part of a successful coalition which worked for the passage of antibullying legislation. The bill requires the department of education, in consultation with school safety specialists and school counselors, to develop guidelines to assist school corporations and safe school committees in establishing bullying prevention programs, investigation and reporting procedures, and discipline rules. Requires each school corporation to include the number and categories of bullying incidents that occur within the school corporation on the school's annual performance report. Requires each school corporation to provide training to school employees and volunteers concerning the school corporation's bullying prevention program, and to provide annual bullying prevention education to students. Modifies the definition of bullying.

HB 1004 – Early Education Evaluation Program

Establishes the early education evaluation program to gather data concerning the school readiness of low income children who have received early education services, and establishes the early learning advisory committee.

HB 1005 – Graduation Exams

Provides that if a student has not achieved a passing score on a graduation exam, the school counselor shall meet with the student, the student's parent and guardian, and the student's teacher in the subject matter in which the student has not received a passing score to discuss available remediation and to plan to meet the requirements necessary for a graduation waiver. Provides that the education roundtable, when making recommendations to the state board regarding the methods of measuring school improvement, may consider the remedial needs of students who are likely to fail a graduation exam or require remedial work while attending a postsecondary educational institution or workforce training program.

HB 1312—EARN Indiana Program

Changes the college work study program into the employment aid readiness network (EARN) Indiana program. Makes changes to the definition of "eligible employer" to extend eligibility to for-profit companies and allow year-round participation of all eligible entities.

SB 1 – School Resource Officers and School Safety

Provides that a person, before being appointed as a school resource officer, must successfully complete the training requirements for law enforcement officers and receive 40 hours of certified school resource officer training. Establishes the Indiana Secured School Fund to provide matching grants to enable school corporations and charter schools to establish programs to employ school resource officers, conduct threat assessments of school buildings and purchase safety equipment and technology.

SB 464 – Education Funding for Children in Residential Care

Provides that if a student is placed

in a state licensed residential mental health facility under written orders of a licensed physician, if the student received educational services provided by the facility, and if certain other conditions are satisfied, the school corporation receiving state tuition support for the student at the time for the student's admission to the facility shall pay the facility a per diem for the educational services provided by the facility to the student during the student's admission in the facility.

Health

HB 1328 – Affordable Care Act

Provides for implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Specifies that Indiana insurance law applies to a health plan offered through a health benefit exchange to the same extent that the law would apply if the health plan were offered independent of the health benefit exchange. Specifies requirements for health plans issued through a health benefit exchange. Provides for dissolution of the Indiana comprehensive health insurance association (ICHIA). Requires the office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to report to the health finance commission specified information regarding the participation of the aged, blind, and disabled Medicaid population in risk-based managed care, managed fee-for-service programs, and home and community based services management programs.

SB 267 – Autism

Changes references from "pervasive developmental disorder" to "autism spectrum disorder."

Other Key Issues

HB 1011 – Public Mass Transportation

Establishes the central Indiana transit study committee. Requires the committee to report to the legislative council before December 15, 2013, concerning specified transportation issues.

SB 203 – Protection and Advocacy Services Commission

Provides that an individual with mental illness is eligible for services from the protection and advocacy services commission if the individ-

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The Arc Master Trust

Trust II Provides Option to People with Disabilities to Fund Own Trust

The Arc of Indiana Master Trust II was established in 1995 in response to legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1993 allowing people with disabilities to fund their own trust. The Arc of the United States, as well as The Arc's Trust Director at that time, Alan Kemp, were instrumental in working for the passage of the legislation.

In Indiana, thousands of people have benefited from the law making Trust II possible. People receiving an inheritance, lump sum back-payment from Social Security or lawsuit

settlement can place those funds in a special needs trust rather than spending the money quickly just to stay eligible for government benefits.

Another common reason Trust II accounts are established is when individuals have too much money in their bank account at the end of the month, typically from a Social Security check or personal earnings, which would put them over asset limitations to remain eligible for government programs. Any excess at the end of the month can be put into the trust so that eligibility for

Social Security and/or Medicaid is maintained, and money is set aside for future use in the trust.

Actually, there are three options if individuals have more than the \$1,500 in assets they are allowed to have to remain eligible for Medicaid or \$2,000 for SSI.

The first option is to spend the money. The money must be spent on items for that individual, and documentation must be kept on how the money was spent. Both Medicaid and SSI will ask where and how the money was spent.

The second option is to prepay the individual's funeral and burial expenses through an Irrevocable Funeral Trust. As long as it is established properly, this type of funeral trust will not interfere with the individual's eligibility for government programs.

The third option is to establish

a special needs trust like The Arc Master Trust II.

It is possible to do all three things if there is sufficient money and time. If the individual receives Medicaid, any excess funds have to be expended or placed in a trust by the last day of the month in which the money was received or Medicaid benefits will be lost. SSI allows a bit more time, requiring any excess funds to be addressed within a couple of months.

The Arc Trust currently has approximately 1,100 persons enrolled in Trust II, with a total value of approximately \$12 million.

If you would like more information on Trust II, please contact The Arc Trust office at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100, or email Trust Director Melissa Justice at mjustice@arcind.org.

Visit www.thearctrust.org for more information about The Arc Master Trust.

Legislative Wrap-up, Continued from page 6

ual lives in a community setting, including the individual's own home.

SB 273 – Music Therapy

SB 273 passed the House and Senate, but was vetoed by the Governor. The Arc supported the section of the bill that prohibited individuals from claiming to be a certified music therapist unless the individual held or maintained the credentialing administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. We will continue to work on this issue in the next legislative session.

SB 387 – Parking for Persons with Disabilities

Increases from \$50 to \$100 the minimum civil judgment imposed for certain infractions involving parking a motor vehicle in a space reserved for a person with a physical disability or a disabled veteran.

SB 500 – Group Home Conversion

Allows certain community based residential service providers who have more than 4 individuals with developmental disabilities residing in a group home, and who are converting from a group home program to a residential program funded by a Medicaid Waiver, to continue to provide services to the same number of individuals in the Medicaid Waiver setting.

SB 559 – Medicaid Fraud

Establishes procedures for filing a civil action on behalf of the state

to recover money owed to the state, plus civil penalties and damages due to the filing of a false claim under the Medicaid program.

Introducing The Arc Insurance Project

The Arc of Indiana has launched The Arc Insurance Project to help 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, long-time autism insurance advocate, mother of a daughter with autism and member of The Arc's Health and Wellness Committee, will lead the The Arc Insurance Project. Michele will work with a team of project specialists, including The Arc's Family Advocates and the Autism Society of Indiana's Allies Team, to help families and individuals throughout the state with complicated health insurance issues and concerns.

Contact Michele at mtrivedi@arcind.org or 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100.



Indiana's Premier Special Needs 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 such as SSI, SSDI and Medicaid.

Trust II
Established in 1995, Trust II allows people with disabilities to fund their own trust, allowing them to maintain eligibility for government benefits.

Over the past 25 years, nearly 5,000 people have enrolled in Trusts I and II. Trust I investments total over \$30.5 million, and Trust II investments total over \$14.5 million.

Whether you are a family member, person with a disability or a legal or other professional, The Arc Master Trust is here to help.

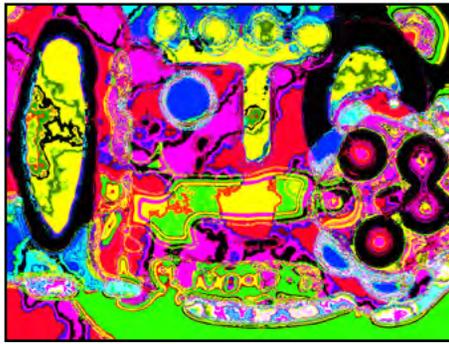
www.thearctrust.org 800-382-9100



Works of Arc Online Art Gallery

Visit Works of Arc, www.worksofarc.com, The Arc's online art gallery and store featuring the work of Indiana artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

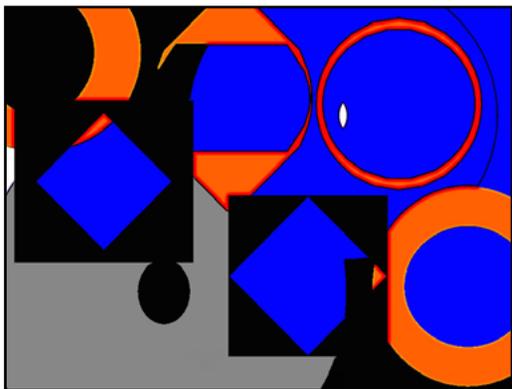
Each incredible piece of art is unique and handmade. The pieces are quite varied, featuring the artists' wide variety of mediums and talent. You will find everything from watercolors to jewelry, purses to bird houses, note cards to photo frames.



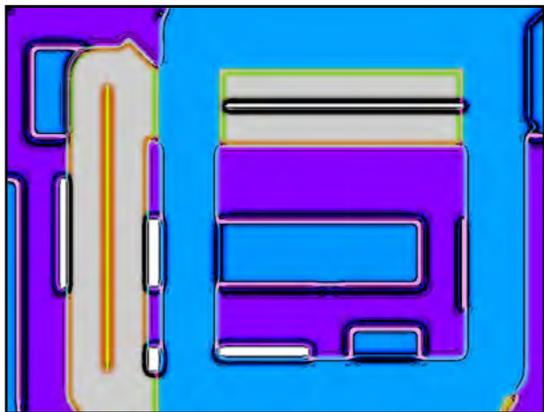
The Sundae Nova #11

A new artist whose work is now available at Works of Arc is Levee Cunningham. Levee creates beautiful work with a program called paint.net. Pictured here are just a few examples of Levee's unique work.

Whether you are looking for a special piece for your personal collection or the perfect gift, Works of Arc has something for everyone. Visit us today, and be sure to *like* us on Facebook.



The Gemstone Nova #18



The Sundae Nova #6

Classic 56 Chevy Car Raffle

You could win this classic 56 Chevy! Just enter our raffle, \$10 a chance, for your chance to win.

Back in 2006, to celebrate The Arc's 50th Anniversary, a generous donor gave The Arc the 1956 Chevy to commemorate the year we were founded. We have enjoyed taking the car to local events throughout the state as a way to publicize the good work of The Arc. Now we are raffling the Chevy to help raise funds for The Arc. The winner will be announced at our 2013 Conference on November 6.

Purchase your raffle ticket now by visiting www.arcind.org and clicking on "News & Events."

Indiana Gaming License Number 130352



Save The Date!

The Arc of Indiana 2013
Conference,
Appreciation Luncheon
& Annual Meeting

November 6, 2013

The Fountains
Carmel, Indiana

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Will Miller, author of "Refrigerator Rights," is known for his expertise (and humor) in the areas of well-being, stress and coping, interpersonal relationships, organizational health and American culture.

Workshop Topics:

- § Insurance & the Affordable Care Act
- § General Education Curriculum Modification
- § Relationships & Sexuality
- § Asset Based Community Development
- § Technology & You: Safety, Social Interaction and Networking
- § Post-Secondary Planning
- § An Introduction to Tyze – Online Networks
- § Creating Your Personal Guide to Community Connections

Visit www.arcind.org, for updates, registration information and news on how you can nominate individuals, businesses and organizations for our 2013 Awards Program!

Upcoming Events

July 19
Self-Advocates of Indiana
Annual Picnic & State Meeting
Eagle Crest Picnic Area
Indianapolis

August 2-5
The Arc of the United States
National Convention
Bellevue, Washington

August 23
2nd Annual Food Fest!
Monument Circle
Indianapolis

September 25
The Arc of Indiana
57th Anniversary

October 8-9
Self-Advocates of Indiana
Conference &
Board of Directors Election
Indianapolis

October 12
Indy Cooks for The Arc
Dallara Indy Car Factory
Speedway

October 24
The Arc Master Trust
25th Anniversary

November 6
The Arc of Indiana
Annual Conference,
Appreciation Luncheon
& Annual Meeting
The Fountains
Carmel



August 23, 2013
Monument Circle
Indianapolis