



# The Arc News in Indiana

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Achieve with us.

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arcind.org

Spring 2022

## Celebrating Disability Awareness

On February 26, 1987 President Ronald Reagan officially declared Proclamation 5613 making March National Disabilities Awareness Month. The proclamation called for people to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to help persons with disabilities lead productive and fulfilling lives.

The Arc of Indiana works each and every day to raise awareness about the strengths and needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Equally important, we work to be part of the solution in ensuring ALL people have the opportunity to live,

learn, work and fully participate in their community.

We want to be at the table and “in the room where it happens” to not only represent people with IDD, but also to ensure people with IDD themselves have a voice at the table through our strong affiliation with Self-Advocates of Indiana.

Through our work at the Statehouse and representation on the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) Advisory Council, Vocational Rehabilitation Commission, Community and Home Options to Institutional Care (CHOICE) Board, Special Education Advisory Committee and other committees, task forces and commissions, we work to bring raise awareness and

bring the voice of families and people with IDD to state level planning and decision-making.

We are also committed to directly serving people with disabilities to lead fuller, more inclusive lives. Through The Arc of Indiana Master Trust, people of all disabilities have increased financial security by having access to resources that can be saved and easily used for qualified disability and personal expenses. The creation of The Arc of Indiana Foundation’s Erskine Green Training Institute provides opportunities for postsecondary vocational training for people with disabilities that empower and lead to meaningful employment. Our team of family advocates with The Arc Advocacy Network provide

information, guidance and advocacy to ensure children and adults with disabilities receive the programs and services they are entitled to and are aware of local community resources that can help them lead their best lives.

Since our founding in 1956, people with IDD have moved from a life cut off from the world around them in institutions, to leading fuller, more meaningful lives with their family, classmates, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. We are proud to have played an important role in this over our 65 plus years. Our work is not done. In March and every other month of the year we will continue our work to empower people with disabilities and inspire positive change.

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## The Arc Makes It Happen! Help Grow The Arc’s Membership Base

Did you know that when you become a member of a local chapter of The Arc, you automatically become a member of The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States? *The Arc News in Indiana* is sent quarterly to members of The Arc, as well as donors. If you are receiving our newsletter, you likely are a member of the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The last two years have seen significant growth in The Arc of Indiana’s membership base. In 2020, we added 2,949 new individual

members. In 2021, we added 2,839 more. Across our 42 local chapters, we now have over 30,000 members!

The value of The Arc of Indiana network to families, individuals, and communities all across our state has never been higher and we are excited for what the future holds.

March marks the beginning of our annual membership campaign. This year’s campaign theme, *The Arc Makes It Happen!*, will underscore the many ways The Arc at the local, state and national level makes a difference in the lives of people with IDD and their families. From employment, to independence, education, a good life, friends, relationships and new opportunities,

The Arc network plays an integral role in ensuring all people with IDD can live, learn, work and fully participating in their community.

If you are not a member of The Arc, we encourage you to join us! You can join through a chapter in your county, or if there is not a chapter in your area you can join as an at large member of The Arc of Indiana.

If you are a member of The Arc, thank you! We encourage you to help grow our membership by sharing membership opportunities with family and friends, as well as professionals connected to the disability world.

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Visit [arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters](http://arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters) to find Indiana chapters of The Arc.  
Visit [arcind.org/get-involved/membership](http://arcind.org/get-involved/membership) to find information on becoming a member.



## Message from The Arc of Indiana CEO

*Kim Dodson*

March is not only the month that kicks us into spring but it is a great time to celebrate all things advocacy at The Arc of Indiana!

The need for advocacy has never been greater and we are fortunate to have many great partners to assist us along the journey. As an increasing number of families and people with disabilities reach out to ask for our help and guidance, we have met that demand by growing our family advocacy team, creating The Arc of Indiana Academy - [thearcacademy.org](http://thearcacademy.org), and establishing a plan to grow our resources and information and get it into the hands of people with

intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The core of The Arc's mission is to support people with IDD and their families – to be that warm voice on the end of the phone to help them through difficult times through our family advocacy team with The Arc Advocacy Network. This issue of *The Arc News in Indiana* showcases our Circles of Support members who stepped up to save this critical program. I am extremely grateful to all who support us, but specifically want to thank our Mission Circle members who have now made a considerable investment for a second year due to their strong support of our advocacy efforts.

As 2022 gets underway, we are kicking off a new strategic planning

process with a goal to create a three year plan that sets us on a bold and innovative path. As we look ahead we will seek out and listen to the needs of people with IDD and their families and work to improve and create programs and services that they want and need. With the great support of our board, chapters, members, donors and other stakeholders, we are poised to make a difference.

We continue to work closely with Self Advocates of Indiana (SAI). It is extremely gratifying to see SAI leadership at the table at the local, state and national level - something a decade ago seemed would never happen. In addition, SAI is responding to people seeking access to information and resources and we

want to assist them in making those resources available.

Thank you for all you do to support The Arc of Indiana. Please keep engaged to help us be informed of your needs and the needs of your community to best support people with IDD and families. Please reach out to us at [arcind.org/contact-us](http://arcind.org/contact-us) to share your thoughts, and if you need assistance, do not hesitate to contact us at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful and I hope you take a moment to learn more about our Circles of Support members on page 8 or by visiting [arcind.org/about-the-arc/circles-of-support](http://arcind.org/about-the-arc/circles-of-support).

## Nothing about US without US



*Niki Hinkle, President  
Self-Advocates of Indiana*

Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI) began in 1990 with 84 self-advocates attending a statewide training to learn how to form local groups. Over three decades later, thanks to the tremendous leadership, dedication and self-determination of our founder Darcus Nims and later Betty Williams and Shawn Fulton, SAI has grown into a network of over forty local chapters, hundreds of self-advocates across the state, and strong state leadership representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

SAI passionately believes in the motto "Nothing about US without US." We advocate that all people should be heard and be an active participant in the community they call home. Our mission is to advocate, celebrate and empower people with disabilities to become more effective decision makers, have more independence and promote employment for all.

Thanks to strong state leaders, SAI is the face at the table when it comes to making decisions about the future of individuals with IDD. We are proud that SAI leaders are contributing members to over sixteen state workgroups, taskforces, and committees relating to disability and civil rights issues.

SAI is also part of community partnerships with other organizations, including the Joseph Maley Foundation, where we help provide disability education and awareness to kindergarten through eighth grade students attending Indianapolis and surrounding county schools. SAI also partners with Indiana Disability Rights' Voter Empowerment Training program, sharing information on how to vote, voting rights, and how to get involved in local community voter education activities.

SAI will continue to strive to empower individuals with IDD to learn about the importance of the self-advocacy movement, giving back to your community, speaking up and educating others, creating change and always providing tools that empower people to become their own advocate in the months and years to come.

## Message from Kelly Mitchell

*DDRS Director*

The Arc of Indiana has achieved an extraordinary level of success these past few years, and I look forward to continuing our partnership as I begin my journey as the director of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS).

Your unwavering commitment to supporting individuals to speak up for themselves, make their own decisions, and understand their rights has been instrumental in transforming home and community-based services. Your voices have positively influenced and informed public policy, and your efforts are increasing public awareness and transforming our communities.

Rest assured that my personal and professional commitment to individuals with disabilities as the primary driver of their lives, services, and the system is strong; and I look forward to building upon our existing relationship in leading the initiatives of the DDRS Advisory Council and informing systems transformation.

Self-advocacy is a skill that opens the door to transformational conversations, builds self-confidence and enables opportunities for those we serve. Experts agree that for ALL of us, there are huge advantages for those who take charge and decide to own and drive their life. Together, we will explore and identify the path to a system that supports individuals to define and live their best life, a system that values that each person:

- Knows what they want to achieve during their life;
- Bests understands their needs;
- Knows what help or support will address those needs; and can communicate those needs to others

There is much work before us. Continue to amplify the voices of Hoosiers with disabilities as we work together to achieve our collective vision!

*Kelly Mitchell, MBA, joined the DDRS team in July, 2021 as the associate director of DDRS. She previously served as president and CEO of Southern Indiana Resource Solutions (SIRS).*



# The Arc Makes Local Change Happen

## Leslie Green – Stone Belt Arc

Stone Belt, The Arc in Monroe County, was established in 1958 by a group of families seeking a place to educate and support their loved ones with IDD. Thanks to those founding families, Stone Belt now serves over 1300 individuals each year through employment programs, residential supports, lifelong learning opportunities, and clinical mental health services.

CEO Leslie Green has lived Stone Belt Arc's mission to prepare, empower, and support individuals with IDD to fully participate in the community since joining the organization as a recreation therapist in 1979. She will retire in April.

Over the past 42 ½ years Leslie has advocated tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals with IDD. She has worked to ensure employment opportunities, recently incorporating Employment First initiatives throughout the agency. As a champion for direct support professionals, she joined in The Arc of Indiana's successful campaign to increase DSP wages across Indiana. Her efforts to build a strong advocacy program and educate the community about the importance of advocacy have been recognized nationally.

One of Leslie's greatest passions has been the development of Stone Belt's highly visible and thriving arts program. It has given many individuals with disabilities the opportunity to become successful professional artists in the community.

In 2008, Stone Belt embraced performance art with the introduction of "I Am You" featuring monologues written and performed

Since the founding of The Arc of Indiana in 1956, the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have been positively impacted thanks to leaders of our chapters who are committed to making local change happen to improve programs, services and the community where people with IDD and their families live. Leaders of two of our chapters, Stone Belt Arc and KCARC, have spent their career building strong organizations that have impacted thousands of lives.



Leslie Green and an "I am You" performer

on stage at a community theatre. Leslie saw this as a wonderful outlet to help individuals to see past their disabilities and embrace their abilities. The performances also give the community insight into individuals with disabilities' thoughts, hopes, and dreams.

Leslie counts herself fortunate to have spent her career working with incredible people who have shared her passion. "I believe I have lived in the most exciting and empowering time in all of history for people with developmental disabilities. Societal changes and personal empowerment have transformed the lives of many individuals with disabilities from living in exclusion to being fully included in the community. I am happy to have played a role, however small, in helping these things come to pass."

As she moves into retirement, the leadership reins will pass to Bitta DeWees, who began her career at Stone Belt in 1990. Thanks to Leslie's leadership, passion, and perseverance, Stone Belt Arc is positioned to continue to promote the uniqueness, worth, and right to self-determination of every individual for years to come.

Leslie Green and self-advocates at the Statehouse



## Mike Carney – KCARC

KCARC, The Arc in Knox County, was founded in 1972 under the leadership of Mike Carney. His 50 years of service to the organization and his community was recently recognized at an agency wide celebration.

KCARC started because of a need within Knox County. Parents needed a place for their children to not only fit in, but to thrive. From manufacturing to residential services to early childhood learning, KCARC has a place for people with disabilities across their lifespan.



Mike Carney and a KCARC client

Manufacturing at KCARC started in the winter of 1972 with three clients. Today, upwards of 200 people work in their manufacturing operations, which include contracts with the Department of Defense and General Services Administration. Since 2013, KCARC has provided 100% of dry milk on United States naval ships. Garment manufacturing began in 1987 and continues with the production of clothing, pouches, and gear used by the U.S. military.

Throughout the height of the COVID pandemic, KCARC fulfilled all of their government contracts as they were deemed an essential service. Innovative practices were put into place to aid employees, including providing staff with 16,313 free meals, free child care, and added bonuses as appreciation of their efforts.

In 2017, KCARC opened a family fun center, 1972, a throwback to the year they were founded. The center was created thanks to Mike's vision several years before that Knox County needed a place not only for people with disabilities, but where the entire community would be welcomed to gather together for fun. Today, 1972 is a community asset to all.

Their Pre-Employment Transition Services program assists students with disabilities in their transition from high school to employment or post-secondary training.

KCARC's child care program began in the summer of 1972 in the basement of First Baptist Church with four children. Today, the Civitan Children's Center's early development learning program serves over 100 children with and without disabilities.

When asked to speak about the impact of The Arc, Mike said, "The birth of The Arc at the local, state and national level has impacted countless lives. Locally, from the dream of a few parents in 1969 to the humble beginnings in 1972, KCARC has grown to be an economic asset, a major employer, and a haven for many people. I think the impact on lives is indescribable and cannot be measured except by each person's life experience. The impact absolutely resides in the person and how each person feels after experiencing KCARC."



# The Arc Makes Advocacy Happen

## The Arc Advocacy Network

The Arc Advocacy Network's team of family advocates provide information, referral and advocacy to assist and guide individuals with disabilities and their families with a wide range of issue. Following are two examples of how we work each and every day to provide guidance and support.

In 2014, a mom in central Indiana called, looking for resources for her 13 year old son with autism. It was a general call seeking help. She really did not know what she was looking for. She didn't know what questions to ask. She just knew her son needed help. While googling for information, she found The Arc.

In speaking with one of our family advocates, they discussed what programs and services might best help her son. We helped her apply for a Medicaid Waiver for home and community based services.

We talked about what is age appropriate for a 13 year old. We talked about community resources that could help him live his vision of a good life. We talked about what things would be available to him in the future and discussed what to prepare for.

Two years later, her son was targeted for the waiver, and she called back to figure out what to do next. We talked her through that and helped her learn how to maximize her son's waiver. Since he was now 15, we told her about Pre-Employment Transition Services and encouraged her to sign him up to begin receiving employment training. She called later to discuss guardianship and alternatives to guardianship. Later, she called for guidance with the SSI process, and we celebrated together when he was approved. Recently, she called for guidance on how to navigate the vocational rehabilitation process.

What started with Google led to a relationship. She calls The Arc

**The Arc Indiana**

### Empowering People, Inspiring Change Wrap-Up

**2021**

- Advocacy Calls**  
Provided support and resources to the 3,329 people who called our family advocacy team.
- Family Education**  
Helped 635 individuals learn about accessing community resources and navigating services through 35 trainings.
- Online Academy**  
Developed The Arc of Indiana Academy, offering online training to assist families and people with disabilities in becoming strong advocates.
- Self-Advocacy Growth...**  
Supported the creation of four new Self-Advocates of Indiana chapters ...
- ... And More Growth**  
... and provided training to 942 people with disabilities in partnership with SAI.
- Community Training**  
Assisted 2,634 people with disabilities earning sub-minimum wages learn about paths to community employment ...
- ... And Community Employment!**  
... leading to 1,000 referrals to vocational rehabilitation to explore employment options.

ARCIND.ORG  
THEARCACADEMY.ORG

**The Arc of Indiana Academy Advocacy Training Program**

The Arc of Indiana Academy's online Advocacy Training Program offers a wide array of videos on topics impacting people with disabilities and their families. Individuals seeking a deeper understanding of these topics can complete comprehensive training modules and earn a certificate in that area of learning. Our goal is to empower families and people with disabilities with the information and tools they need to be strong advocates for their loved ones and themselves.

**Visit the Advocacy Training Program at [thearcacademy.org](http://thearcacademy.org).**

We are pleased to provide this platform thanks to leaders in the disability field who have joined together in Circles of Support to sustain and grow our advocacy efforts, with special thanks to our Mission Circle members:

- Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
- Governor's Council for People with Disabilities
- Indiana Professional Management Group (IPMG)
- KCARC/The Arc in Knox County
- New Star
- Quillo Connect

whenever she has questions because she knows we will get her accurate information and because she knows we will tell her about things she may not even be considering, yet. She knows we have her back because that's what The Arc Advocacy Network does. We are here for whatever families need.

Last month, we got a call from a hospital social worker in a neighboring state who had a patient from Indiana, about to turn 18, in serious condition with a traumatic brain injury. While the social worker knew how things work in her state, she wasn't sure how to guide his parents once he got back to Indiana. We told her that we could guide the family and connect them with every possible resource.

One of our family advocates connected them with local resources, including a church who ran a meal train for the family. We reminded

them to take things one step at a time and not to get ahead of themselves – we didn't know how their son was going to be 3 months from now, a year from now, or five years from now. We reassured them that we could help connect them to services and resources, depending on what their son would ultimately need. We let them know we were here for them with whatever they needed.

Yes, our family advocates problem solve. We connect people to resources. We help them navigate different systems, and we help them weave those systems together for the benefit of their loved ones. But one of the most important benefits our advocates provide is a calm, compassionate ear. We listen. We reassure, and we make sure families know they are not alone. We let them know we're here to advocate and help.

# The Arc Makes Public Policy Change Happen

## 2022 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The 2022 session of the Indiana General Assembly ended in the early morning hours of March 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Following are the legislative wins for Hoosiers with disabilities.

### Lemon Law

The general assembly unanimously approved legislation championed by The Arc of Indiana to expand the state's motor vehicle protection act, also known as the Lemon Law, to include accessible vehicles and accessible features. If an individual has major issues with their vehicle or accessible features, the manufacturer has three tries to fix the problem. If there is still an issue, the manufacturer must work with the customer on getting a replacement or reimbursement for the vehicle or accessible feature.

### ABLE Account Tax Credit

Over the past few years, The Arc of Indiana has worked with the state treasurer's office to provide a tax credit for deposits made to an ABLE Account. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts allow Hoosiers with disabilities and their families to save money to be used toward disability related expenses. 529 College Savings accounts allow for a tax credit and The Arc has advocated that ABLE accounts should have the same benefit. Legislators agreed and approved up to \$500 in tax credits for money deposited into an ABLE account beginning in 2023.



Leaders from local chapters of The Arc, families, and members of Self-Advocates of Indiana joined together for our annual Valentine's Day at the Statehouse event. Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch was one of many state officials and House and Senate leaders who joined in the event.

### First Steps

Currently, infants receiving First Steps early intervention services have to wait for their service plan to be signed by a doctor. Waiting for a doctor to approve and sign the service plan can delay the start of therapies needed during a critical time of the infant's development. Legislation was approved that will allow a physicians' assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse to sign off on the service plan rather than waiting for a doctor's signature.

### DDRS Advisory Council & 1102 Task Force

Legislators put into state statute the make-up of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) Advisory Council to ensure that an equal representation of self-advocates, families and service providers are at the table. The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana are included in the make-up of the council. The new statute also defines the role of the council regarding advising DDRS and lays out what DDRS must report to the council, including Medicaid waiver application numbers, waiting list numbers and changes being made to waivers.

As a follow-up to last year's historic investment in direct support professional (DSP) wages, legislators approved legislation requiring the Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (1102 Task Force) to:

- Create a plan to address the DSP workforce crisis, including training, certification and a workforce pipeline
- Develop a pilot program to improve the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) waiver approval and denial process
- Review the DSP incident reporting process, including how the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS) can better communicate and update service providers about incident reports

### Managed Care

There was a great deal of debate throughout the session regarding managed care as the state looks to move individuals 65 and older receiving long term services and supports (LTSS) into managed care. This is a complex issue and legislators are still trying to fully grasp the concept. They put a minor hold on this change by barring the state from moving LTSS into managed care until January 2023. This gives advocates and stakeholders more time to meet with legislators on this issue.

### Special Education Workforce

Every industry, including special education, is facing a workforce shortage. To address the special education workforce, legislation was approved that will allow a professional in the disability field to easily transition into the special education classroom after completing a teacher training program and passing all the required state tests to become a teacher.

### Keep Up to Date

The Arc of Indiana accomplished a lot in the short nine-week session. We could not have done it without the help of our members, chapter leaders, families and self-advocates. We look forward to continuing to educate legislators about managed care and special education issues, as well as working with the 1102 Task Force on legislative recommendations for the 2023 session.

We encourage you to keep up to date by signing up to receive our weekly e-newsletter and state and federal public policy updates at:  
[arcind.org/get-involved/sign-up](https://arcind.org/get-involved/sign-up)

# The Arc Makes Employment Happen

## ADEC Makes Full Transition from Sheltered Work

ADEC, The Arc in Elkhart County, is celebrating 70 years of mission-filled services to northern Indiana families and individuals.

Over the past several years, ADEC discussed and planned how to best transition away from 14-C employment – a federal exemption that authorizes employers to pay wages below the federal minimum wage — commonly referred to as sheltered work. In June 2020, ADEC leveraged the downturn of business prior to and during COVID to re-evaluate and re-configure ADEC Industries. They suspended sheltered workshop operations and reopened under an exciting new model. What was once a sheltered workshop was transformed into a

hybrid space that includes a new pre-vocational program and a competitive integrated employment factory offering market-based wage compensation.

“ADEC is very proud of our recent successful 100% conversion from a 14-C facility to a fully integrated competitive employment environment,” shares Donna Belusar, President and CEO of ADEC. “It is a great achievement and a testimony to the heart and minds of the Elkhart County leaders who champion those we serve.”

The new pre-vocational program, “The Hub” focuses on helping individuals build employment skills.

“The Shop,” offers competitive integrated employment that

continues some of the work previously seen in ADEC’s sheltered workshop, such as the production of Silver Linings Trash bags in partnership with Ability Indiana and Fastenal. Other partners include local RV and musical instrument manufacturers who choose The Shop to fulfill their assembly needs.

ADEC’s Gaining Grounds Coffee House in Bristol, Indiana, provides a common ground between the people they serve and the public. Not only do they serve delicious coffee, but they also provide opportunities for individuals with IDD to sell their art work through Art by ADEC, which proudly displays one-

of-a-kind artwork created by people served in ADEC’s six day service locations. 50% of the proceeds go to the artist and the other 50% goes back into the program to help replenish art supplies. In May, Gaining Grounds will launch a new internship program that will offer paid employment along with a wide array of job skills training.



## The Arc Southwest Indiana Partnership with Toyota a Model for Success

Since 2014, The Arc Southwest Indiana has been working to support individuals with disabilities to be hired at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana (TMMI) through three programs - the Enclave, the Transitional Training Center and the newest program, Inclusive Talent Apprenticeships. Each program helps individuals build new vocational skills and continues training until they are ready to apply for employment at their host site.

Through the Inclusive Talent apprentice program, Ted Brown, TMMI Vice President of Administration, and The Arc Southwest Indiana are redefining what it looks like to hire and train people with disabilities. That starts with hands-on, extended training, competitive pay and endless career

opportunities; but that is just the start. Getting the job is just one part of being successful. Through the Inclusive Talent Apprenticeship program, The Arc Southwest Indiana realized providing training for work alone does not inherently lead to success. Providing training to increase independent living skills, including budgeting, driver’s education, communication and how to build healthy relationships, all play an important role in helping people unlock the door to a high paying, long term career.

The Arc Southwest Indiana and TMMI have built a strong partnership and program that works to move people with disabilities into competitive employment and have developed a model that can and should be replicated across the state.



The Arc of Indiana Foundation’s Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI) provides vocational training for a variety of jobs in the hotel, food service, healthcare support and inventory distribution environments.

An EGTI graduate who completed the inventory distribution program in the fall of 2018 has seen tremendous success.

RK, who was born in Ethiopia, was adopted at the age of 12. Despite facing developmental delays and learning disabilities, she always has had a positive, can-do attitude. She embraced EGTI’s program and following graduation was

hired at an Indianapolis area hospital making \$13.65 an hour in inventory distribution. In the past three years, she has received three promotions and is now a shift supervisor supervising 16 staff members and is making over \$45,000 a year.

Although she has great difficulty in reading, she has learned how to make accommodations that keep her successful at her job. For example, rather than reading item descriptions, she matches item numbers to accurately place medical supplies on the right cart and get them to the correct destination. RK is now living independently, pays her own bills, manages her own shopping and medical appointments and arranges assistance from her job coach when needed.

Her father said, “It is truly amazing to see how well my daughter is doing. Certainly, a large part of this is her character and faith. When once asked in high school why she works so hard in the face of seemingly helpless situations (for example, taking algebra four times until she finally passed the course in the last semester) she responded, ‘Because, where I’m from, we don’t have these opportunities.’ But her achievements are also tied to the strong foundation EGTI has given her - a foundation in independent living, a foundation of self-advocacy, and a foundation of job skills training. We could not be happier with EGTI.”



Sean Taylor, a TMMI engineer, works with TMMI engineer/mentor Ethan Wichman thanks to The Arc Southwest Indiana and TMMI’s partnership.

# The Arc Master Trust Makes Work, Independence & Connections Happen

One of the great things that The Arc of Indiana Master Trust can do is give to people the ability to engage with others in their community in a meaningful way, either through better or easier communication, employment or social activities. The trust can be used to pay for items or activities that can enhance an individual's quality of life.

One example of this is Michael Ely. Michael has been a Trust II beneficiary since October of 2001. A Trust II account is funded with the beneficiary's own funds and any ongoing additions to the account are

also provided with the beneficiary's own money.

In July of 2021, Michael's trust account manager was contacted by Michael and his mother regarding using his trust to purchase an EyeGaze Tablet, technology used by people who cannot control a computer or a tablet by standard methods such as a keyboard or a mouse. The EyeGaze tablet allows Michael to use the tablet both at home and at work through his eye movements.

Michael is a digital assistant at the Indiana Institute on Disability

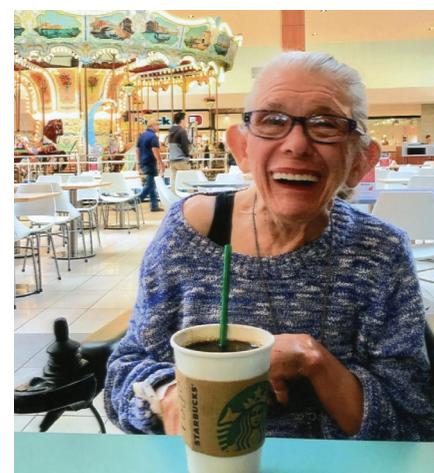
and Community where he uses his EyeGaze tablet to create documents, increase document accessibility, and categorize and describe photos. He is also the web designer and manager of Self-Advocates of Monroe County's website.

Other examples of how the trust impacts lives includes paying for art lessons at a local art center, purchasing a service dog to help a beneficiary gain greater independence, helping a beloved pet get regular grooming, walking a beneficiary through the process of finding and purchasing his dream home, making a young girl happy by getting beautiful braids like her friends at school, and organizing and paying for Sandy's first ever vacation – her dream trip to Nashville, Tennessee.

Sandy's assistant on the trip wrote to the trust staff, "We all dream of places we want to go and dare to travel. The Arc makes those dreams a reality for so many people like Sandy."



Michael with his EyeGaze tablet



Sandy in Nashville.



Ruby's new braids.



Richard's Self-Portrait

## INDEPENDENCE starts HERE!

Erskine Green Training Institute is a postsecondary vocational training program for people with disabilities that empowers and leads to meaningful employment.

### High School Certifications

% of high school certifications earned upon graduation  
*(Data reflects current and former students)*

Dropped Out  
2%

GED  
1%

48%

Diploma

49%

Certificate of Completion

# 55

Indiana Counties Represented

\*Data reflects current and former students

# 243

Graduates

# 5:1

Student-Staff Ratio

### Employment Status

% of students employed after graduation

Timeframe	Unemployed	Employed
8-months	24%	76%
18-months	24%	76%

\*Data based on 8-month & 18-month survey

# 9

Vocational Programs

### Average Hourly Wage

# \$10.00

\*Data based on 8-month survey

601 S. High Street  
Muncie, IN 47305  
egti.org | 765.381.8071  
Revised: March, 2022

The Arc Master Trust offers families and people of all disabilities an experienced, professional option for special needs trust administration at an affordable price, allowing resources to be saved and easily used for qualified disability and personal expenses.

[thearctrust.org](http://thearctrust.org) | 317-977-2375 | 800-382-9100



# Circles of Support

*Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.*

## Mission Circle



*Donna Elbrecht,*  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana works to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities succeed at home, at work, and at play. Easterseals Arc offers a broad range of services including employment services, day programs, residential services, recreation, respite, and support in the community and at home.

Mission: Our purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day.  
[easterseals.com/neindiana](http://easterseals.com/neindiana)



*Karen Brummet, Chief Executive Officer*  
Indiana Professional Management Group (IPMG) provides person-centered case management services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and wraparound facilitation services to children with emotional and/or behavioral challenges.

Mission: To create an exceptional organization that supports its Employee Owners to become expert navigators, guiding individuals and families to access quality, integrated services and supports that result in the betterment of their lives.  
[gotoipmg.com](http://gotoipmg.com)



*Kate Barrow, Executive Director*  
The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is an independent state agency that facilitates change. The Council receives and disseminates federal funds to support innovative programs that are visionary, influence public policy, empower individuals and families and advocate systems change.

Mission: To advance the independence, productivity and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. This mission is accomplished through planning, evaluation, collaboration, education, research and advocacy.  
[in.gov/gpcpd](http://in.gov/gpcpd)



*Dan Strick*  
New Star serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana.

Mission: To provide choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families through a culture of innovation and caring to enrich their lives and maximize their independence  
[newstarservices.org](http://newstarservices.org)



Make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across Indiana by making a gift. You may mail your gift in the included donation envelope or simply scan the QR code to give a gift online. Your support, no matter the amount, makes an impact on so many people.



*President, Mike Carney*  
Since 1972, KCARC, The Arc in Knox County, has led the effort to effectively play a positive role in lives of those who have disabilities within their community. KCARC has been at the forefront of Knox County by being an economic asset, a major employer, and a haven for individuals and families served.

Mission: To advocate and provide opportunities in a dignified and respectful manner for the total well-being of individuals and families with special needs.  
[knoxcountyarc.com](http://knoxcountyarc.com)



*John Dickerson, Founder/CEO*  
Quillo Connect is an empowering digital platform for sharing stories of success, resources, and knowledge for all people within the intellectual and developmental disabilities community. Built on the principles of Charting the LifeCourse, Quillo Connect is a daily tool to help individuals and families to educate, engage, and inspire their circles of support for building the good life.  
Mission Statement: With Quillo Connect, we focus on what's possible through motivating messages that help build community, equity, and belonging for the respect and well-being of ourselves and others.  
[myquillo.com/connect](http://myquillo.com/connect)

### DREAM CIRCLE

Indiana Conference of Executive Directors of The Arc (ICEArc)

### ALLY CIRCLE

Duke Energy  
Hylant  
Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Special Olympics Indiana  
United Health Care

### FRIEND CIRCLE

Carey Services  
Gibson Insurance  
Hopewell Center  
Indiana Institute on Disability and Community  
Insights Consulting  
Meaningful Day Services  
Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis  
Stone Belt Arc  
The Arc Southwest Indiana  
Unity of Indiana

### Save the Dates!

We are excited to share dates for our 2022 IN PERSON events! Be sure to mark your calendars!

June 22  
The National Bank of Indianapolis 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament hosted by Eddie Gill  
*Eagle Creek Golf Club, Indianapolis*

September 23  
Self-Advocates of Indiana Picnic  
*Hummel Park, Plainfield*

November 29  
The Arc of Indiana Annual Meeting  
Self-Advocates of Indiana Social  
*Horizon Conference Center, Muncie*

November 30  
The Arc of Indiana & Self-Advocates of Indiana Conference  
2022 Impact Awards Luncheon  
*Horizon Conference Center, Muncie*