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October/November/December 2011



Advocacy & resource for citizens
*with intellectual &
developmental disabilities
& their families*
Affiliated with the Arc of Pennsylvania &
the Arc of United States

Barbara Telthorster,
Executive Director

Linda Balls,
Program Director

Dianne Varner,
Administrative Assistant

The Arc Officers:

- Jennifer Moody, President
- J. Evans, Vice President
- Terri Medvetz, Treasurer
- Christina Casses, Secretary
- Joanne Taylor, Past President

The Arc Board of Directors:

- Joseph Angelo
- Sue Glor-Scheib
- Joann Migyanka
- Heather Telthorster
- Mary Williams

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work to include all children and adults with developmental delays or other disabilities in every community by identifying barriers, building partnerships, and realizing solutions.

From the President:

Let's get involved....

As kids are settling back into the school day and parents are basking in the silence at home, The Arc is in full swing!

It is time to get involved with your community!

Are you a member of The Arc? Are you friends and family members? It is easy to become a member, just fill out the form and send in your yearly dues. The membership dues we receive are a very important part of keeping The Arc office up and running. The money we receive from dues, fundraising, and grants allow us to continue our many workshops and meetings.

One of those monthly meetings is the Parent Transition Group (PTG). PTG is not just for parents of "transition" age students, 14 and older. It is for all parents and caregivers of children of any age with disabilities. The meeting is a place where families can talk directly with agencies and providers about services in our community, among much more useful information. Even families with very young children can come and get acquainted with the services and the process long before their child is ready to go from school into the community.

Another way to get involved is to attend our monthly Parent Support Group. It is a fun, informal group. Children are welcome as well. We recently combined forces with Family Behavioral Resources so we will be reaching many more families. We often have speakers come in on many different topics.

To get more information about these groups or other ways to get involved, contact me at The Arc.

Happy Fall!

Jennifer L. Moody
President



Congratulations to Tom Pearson

Tom Pearson was named the Knights of Columbus Pennsylvania State Program Chairman for The Arc/Special Olympics. Tom is also assumes the responsibility as Knights of Columbus District Deputy and also serves as the Area Coordinator with 3 District Deputies reporting to him. We are pleased to have Tom as a monitor for The Arc of Indiana County's IM4Q Survey program. Tom will also be a member of The Arc of Indiana's Community Disability Awareness Workgroup. As an active member of the Indiana Knights of Columbus, he and his fellow Knights have raised the most funds for the Measure Up Campaign for The Arc. Thank you Tom for your dedication and service



From the Desk of the Executive Director

At our May 4 Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Workshop for People with Special Needs workshop, Chris Anderson, Indiana County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), announce that Indiana County has established a voluntary registry for people with special needs, called SPIN – Special Population **IN**formation Registry. Spin is a database that is administered by the Indiana County EMA.

In just the last few weeks, our country has been affected by hurricanes, tornados, fires and flooding. Some of the communities in Indiana County have been flooded. The Arc of PA was affected by the flooding in Harrisburg.



Having a disaster plan for your family doesn't just happen, it takes information, thought and action. Part of the action is to enroll people with special needs in SPIN. See the enclosed flier There is no cost. SPIN complies with all information privacy and confidentiality regulations. For more information or for a SPIN brochure, which you can complete and mail in, call 724-463-8200 ext. 13 To register on line <http://www.indianacounty.org/spin.html>

As you may have heard, Steve Surovec, The Arc of PA Executive Director, has accepted a new position. Steve has done an outstanding job and will be greatly missed. Steve sent this message:

Dear board & chapters:

Today is my last day with The Arc of PA. As you know, I'm rejoining state government becoming the E.D. of the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation starting Sept. 6. I can be reached at 717-787-7312 or email: stsurovec@pa.gov.

I've enjoyed the past 8 years working with board members, local chapters, and staff. We've accomplished a lot together. That said, I believe The Arc of PA is poised to take the step and become even better and stronger when the new Exec. Dir. Is on board.

Thanks go to Jeanne Downey, Board President, who has been great to me in recent weeks – Jeanne is leading the search committee to find the next E.D., and I have great confidence in her and the many members of the committee who possess significant Arc experience and wisdom. In the interim, the staff at The Arc of PA are top notch and I'm confident The Arc of PA will continue to perform its mission without a hiccup. Gwen, Pam, Todd, Maureen, Rita and Barry will keep things going smoothly, I'm quite sure.

I'm sure our paths will cross again in the future. Best wishes to each of you. And, as Joe Angelo said in our 60th anniversary video, long live The Arc!

National Responding to Crime Victims With Disabilities Conference Dec. 13-15, 2011 Orlando, Florida

I am pleased to announce that our Community Disability Awareness Workgroup members will be presenting at the conference on "Community Disability Awareness Workgroup: Working together to Make It a Wonderful Life for Everyone. The presenters are District Attorney Thomas Bianco, Sheriff Robert Fyock, Lou Ann Williams, Alice Paul House, Heather Telthorster, Board Member and me. As a member of the Conference Planning Committee, I had the opportunity to review some of the presentations. They are very good and will provide us with information and strategies we will be able to bring back to Indiana to help crime victims with disabilities. www.ncvc.org/ncvc

Parent Transition Group

At the Parent Transition Group meeting on Sept. 12, President Joanne Taylor and Secretary Nancy Janicak announced they will be stepping down after 8 years. We thank them for their dedication and years of service.

Thought for the day....

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance!

Barbara Telthorster, Executive Director

**The Arc of Indiana County
Calendar of Events
October / November/December 2011**

Date	Event	Time	Location
October 3	Community Disability Awareness Workgroup	8:30am – 9:30am	The Arc
October 3	Parent Transition Group	10:00am – 12:00pm	The Arc
October 10	CLOSED – COLUMBUS DAY		
October 11	“Let’s Have Dinner”	5:30pm	Ponderosa
October 17	The Arc Board Meeting (All are welcome to attend)	6:30pm	The Arc
October 19	Parent Support Group	6:00pm	The Arc
October 20	I CAN Workshop	9:00am – 2:00pm	Rustic Lodge
October 27	Self-Determination: A Way to Get Power, Choice, and Control in Your Life	10:00am – 12:00pm	The Arc

Date	Event	Time	Location
November 7	Community Disability Awareness Workgroup	8:30am – ?	The Arc
November 7	Parent Transition Group	10:00am – 12:00pm	The Arc
November 8	“Let’s Have Dinner”	5:30pm	Ponderosa
November 21	The Arc Board meeting (All are welcome to attend)	6:30pm	The Arc
November 23	Parent Support Group	6:00pm	The Arc
	The office is closed for Thanksgiving from Wed. 11/23 -11/25 and will be open 11/28.		

Date	Event	Time	Location
December 5	Community Disability Awareness Workgroup	8:30am– 9:30am	The Arc
December 5	Parent Transition Group	10:00AM – 12:00	The Arc
December 13	“Let’s Have Dinner”	5:30pm	Ponderosa
December 19	No The Arc Board Meeting		
December 21	Parent Support Group	6:00pm	The Arc
	Christmas we are closed Fri. 12/23 and will open Tues. 1/3		

Community Disability Awareness Workgroup:

This is a group of community members working together to provide information about disabilities to members of our community to help us get to know each other better and to make our community a better place for everyone.

Parent Transition Group:

These meetings provide an opportunity to share information with families, agencies, educators, businesses, and legislators from Armstrong and Indiana Counties. Lunch will follow the meeting. Please RSVP to The Arc.

“Let’s Have Dinner”

Join other families and friends of The Arc for dinner. Tuesday is Kid’s night. There is a craft table for the kids. Mention The Arc each time you dine at the Indiana Ponderosa and they will donate to The Arc of Indiana County.

Parent Support Group For parents of children of all ages and all abilities. Although child care is not provided, children are welcome! Contact: Jen Moody moody216@verzion.net or 724-422-4379.

<p>The Arc of Indiana County</p> <p>Hours</p> <p>Monday – Friday</p> <p>8:30AM to 4:00PM</p>
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Indiana County Bar Association Donation

The Arc of Indiana County was honored to receive a generous donation from the members of The Indiana County Bar Association. The mission of The Arc of Indiana County is to work to include all children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities or other disabilities in every community by identifying barriers and best practices, building partnership and realizing positive outcomes.

Our Community Disability Awareness Workgroup members include attorneys, people with disabilities, their families, and other community members. Through this partnership, we are able to assist each other in many ways including the "Partnership For Protection Support Team" established by Indiana County District Attorney Thomas Bianco. District Attorney Bianco and Assistant District Attorney Pat Dougherty were speakers at our "Law Enforcement and People with Disabilities" workshop.

On December 13, 2011, at the National Responding To Crime Victims with Disabilities Conference in Orlando, Florida, District Attorney Bianco will be presenting about the Community Disability Awareness Workgroup with members, Lou Ann Williams, Director Alice Paul House; Sheriff Robert Fyock; PA State Trooper Deana Kirkland; Heather Telthorster, The Arc Board Member; and Barbara Telthorster, The Arc Executive Director.

With this generous donation from The Indiana County Bar Association, The Arc of Indiana County will continue its work to assist people with disabilities become employed, tax paying citizens who safely live in and contribute to their community and thus making it a wonderful life for everyone.

The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q)

The IM4Q is a Multi-Year Plan which created local independent teams to monitor the quality of services for people with developmental delays. These teams include people with disabilities, family members, and community members. The Arc of Indiana County was asked to participate in the pilot IM4Q in 1999. We have continued to conduct the IM4Q surveys.

The purpose of the IM4Q is to collect information to improve the quality of life for people with developmental delays. The process is guided by the values and principles of Everyday Lives: choice, control, quality, stability, individuality, freedom, relationships, success, contributing to community, accountability, mentoring, collaboration, and inclusion.

IM4Q uses trained independent monitors to interview people receiving services and their families about their services. Interviews are arranged at a time and place convenient to the person. The survey data and considerations are entered into a confidential database. The Armstrong-Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program (formerly Armstrong-Indiana MH/MR Program) uses the results of the interviews for quality improvement purposes. No personal identifying information is contained in the reports. A person's support team may receive the results of a survey at their annual meeting, if the person agrees to share. We have been able to use the information to host workshops and provide information on disability issues which were identified in the surveys.

Linda Balls, The Arc of Indiana County IM4Q Program Director, has done a wonderful job overseeing the program and training the monitors. For more information, contact The Arc of Indiana County office at 724-349-8230.