



120 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Indiana, PA 15701  
 Phone: 724-349-8230 Fax: 724-801-8549  
 Web-Site: [www.arcindiana.org](http://www.arcindiana.org) Email: [info@arcindiana.org](mailto:info@arcindiana.org)  
 Facebook: The Arc of Indiana County  
 October / November / December 2010



of Indiana County

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:**

- Clarissa Amond
- Joseph Angelo
- Sue Glor-Scheib
- Joann Migyanka
- Julie Rado
- 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:**

Back to school time!

With the kids all back to school, it is time to start up our Parent Transition Group (PTG) meetings again. They are the first Monday of each month at 10am with lunch provided after. Just before the PTG meetings at 8:30am each month are the Community Disability Awareness Workgroup meetings. Contact anyone at The Arc for more information about each of these meetings. Hope to see you there!

We have a new addition to The Arc! It is the birth of our Parent Support Group! We are holding an informal support group twice a month to accommodate all families. It will be the first Thursday of each month at 9:30am and the third Wednesday at 6:00pm. Please see the flyer inside this newsletter and spread the word to other parents!!

Make sure to review the Executive Director’s report inside this newsletter for information regarding our open house. Please stop in and see our new office!! We are up and running now and ready for the new school year to begin!

Also inside this quarter’s newsletter is a personal note from me regarding an issue that has both touched my heart and fueled anger. The current owner of the land and buildings of a state school and hospital in eastern Pennsylvania (that closed its doors in the 1980s due to the unspeakable abuse that was committed against its residents) is allowing a haunted attraction to open this month using its dreadful history as part of the attraction. Please review my personal message and visit [www.preservepennhurst.org](http://www.preservepennhurst.org) to learn more and visit <http://www.gopetition.com/petition/38326.html> to sign the petition to stop this haunted attraction from opening its doors.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Buddy Walk for the Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh will be held on October 16 at Hartwood Acres. Visit <https://www.dsapgh.org/index.asp> for more information and to register. Also, the 2011 Down Syndrome Calendar will be on sale at the Buddy Walk. Many of our Arc’s kids with Down syndrome are featured in the calendar! I will see you there!

Don’t forget to check us out on our website [www.arcindiana.org](http://www.arcindiana.org) and on Facebook under The Arc of Indiana County!

Jennifer Moody

## From The Desk of the Executive Director:

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, when I saw the representative from Libby Corp., who owns Regency Mall, come in the office I thought he was stopping to say, "Hi" like he usually does. This visit was different. He came to tell me due to major changes at the mall, our lease was not being renewed. President Jen Moody, Vice President J Evans, Board Member Heather Telthorster and I began searching for a new location for our office. We called and visited many places. Meanwhile back in the office, packing began with many thanks to ICW Vocational Services volunteers; Dianne Varner, Administrative Assistant; Linda Balls, Program Director and Heather Telthorster. A special thanks to Dr. Scott Little, our new landlord, Putt Real Estate and Attorney Vivian Supinka. We located a place and finally moved to 120 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Indiana, PA 15701 on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Open House is scheduled for Sept. 23 from 2-6 but please feel free to stop in any time Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00 to see our new office.

**The SAFE: Safety Awareness For Everyone** workshop on Oct. 21 is fast approaching.

We have agencies/groups providing information tables: accessAbilities, Alice Paul House, Dept. of Health, Armstrong-Indiana MH/MR/EI, Emergency Management Services; Human Services Council; Health Care Quality Unit, Indiana Regional Medical Center, Law enforcement, American Red Cross, Value Behavioral Health, and The Arc of Indiana County.

### Oct. 21, 2010 9:00-3:30 "SAFE: Safety Awareness for Everyone"

"Helping Prevent, Identify and Respond to Crime Victimization of People with Developmental Disabilities" Darla Stuart, The Arc of Aurora

"Emergency & Disaster Preparedness For People with Special Needs"

Don Palmer, Indiana Borough Emergency Management Agency

Chris Anderson, Indiana County Emergency Management Agency

"Let's Chat About My Abilities" panel

Jonathan Rado, Heather Telthorster, Dianne Varner



### SAFE Workshop Follow-up Sessions

Jan. 20, 2011 9:30-3:00

"Law Enforcement and People with Disabilities", with Col. R.E. Jackson  
Member of the National Organization on Disability's

"Partnership For Protection Support Team" with

Thomas Bianco, Indiana County District Attorney

March 23, 2011 9:30-3:00

"Friendship and Self-Advocacy for People with Disabilities" with  
Mary Nau, Health Care Quality Unit

May 4, 2011 9:30-3:00

"Emergency & Disaster Preparedness for People with Special Needs"

Danny Sacco, Indiana Regional Medical Center

Indiana County Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Director

Don Palmer, Indiana Borough Emergency Management Agency

Chris Anderson, Indiana County Emergency Management Agency

All events will be held at the Rustic Lodge, 2199 Oakland Ave., Indiana, PA 15701

To register call The Arc of Indiana County 724-349-8230 or email [btelth@arcindiana.org](mailto:btelth@arcindiana.org)

### Thought For The Day..... Remember the three R's

Respect for self, Respect for others, and Responsibility for all your actions.

*Barbara Telthorster, Executive Direct*

# Open House

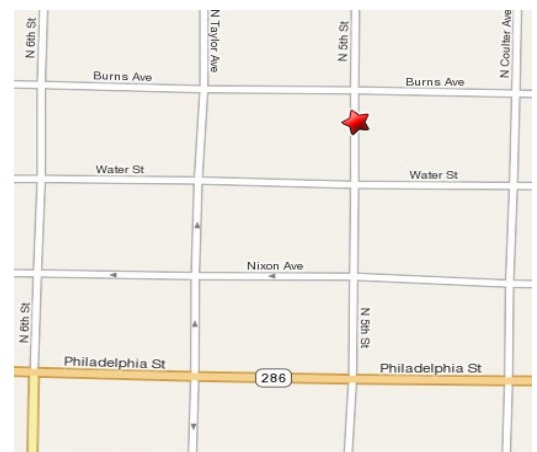
The Arc of Indiana County



120 North 5<sup>th</sup> St  
Indiana, PA 15701

September 23, 2010  
2:00PM – 6:00PM

Everyone Welcome!



## **A personal message regarding the “Pennhurst Asylum” haunted attraction:**

Pennhurst State School and Hospital located in eastern Pennsylvania was named a historical landmark in April, 2010. The basis of this was to remember the past as to not to repeat it. Pennhurst turned out to be not much of a school, but an institution. An institution at the time that believed the answer to people with developmental disabilities was segregation and sterilization.

Over 10,000 men, women, and children with developmental disabilities came through the doors at Pennhurst in the over 60 years it was open. Treatment of the individuals while at Pennhurst was unspeakable and inhumane. The overcrowded conditions were deplorable. Family members visiting Pennhurst would find their loved ones abused, regressing, and not properly cared for. At the time, families of children with behavior problems including those with autism and ADHD, who were considered unmanageable at home, found the idea of a state run “school” a reasonable option for their children.

Pennhurst was forced to close its doors 1986 after Halderman vs Pennhurst revealed insufferable conditions including both physical and chemical restraints used to control residents, not for therapy. Residents were placed in seclusion rooms for days and other areas were filthy and disease ridden. Many reports of intolerable abuse and injuries were reported as well.

Please visit [www.preservepennhurst.org](http://www.preservepennhurst.org) to read more about the conditions at Pennhurst and its history. Those working to preserve Pennhurst would have liked to see a tasteful memorial and/or museum on the grounds.

Now to the present day...

The current owner of Pennhurst has decided to allow a haunted attraction to open this September, 2010 where the cost to get in is deemed “patient admission”.

Why am I outraged and disgusted by this?

My son, Nicholas, is 8 and has Down syndrome. He also has ADHD and anxiety/mood disorders. All of this resulting in aggressive and unwanted behavior problems.

If born in a not too distant past, Nicholas could have been a Pennhurst resident. Nicholas would have been forced to endure abuse and degrading living conditions. Nicholas may have died in the care of those at the Pennhurst State School and Hospital.

How do I look into my son's face and tell him that these things actually happened in my lifetime and explain to him that people are going to pay money and find enjoyment in the suffering of those that could have been him?

Those that suffered at Pennhurst were brothers, sisters, and children. They were loved ones to families that were searching for help from a state institution that failed them. There are many former Pennhurst residents successfully living and working in our community today. What do you tell them? How do you explain to them that nightmares they may have endured are a joke and entertainment to some people?

I ask that you boycott the Pennhurst haunted attraction. I ask that you spread the word that those individuals that lived and died at Pennhurst should not be exploited any more.

"The residents lived lives of inner dignity and grace in a world designed to strip that dignity from them." – former Pennhurst employee

Don't try to strip them of it again! Say NO to the "Pennhurst Asylum"!

Jennifer L. Moody  
President, The Arc of Indiana County



**The Arc of Indiana County  
Calendar of Events  
October / November / December 2010**



Date	Event	Time	Location
Oct. 4	Community Disability Awareness Workgroup	8:30am-9:30am	The Arc
Oct. 4	Parent Transition Group	10:00AM – 12:00	The Arc
Oct. 7	Parent Support Group	9:30am	The Arc
Oct. 11	Columbus Day	Office closed	
Oct. 12	“Let’s Have Dinner”	5:30pm	Ponderosa
Oct. 18	The Arc Board Meeting (All are welcome to attend)	6:30pm	The Arc
Oct. 20	Parent Support Group	6:00pm	The Arc
Oct. 21	SAFE:Safety Awareness For Everyone workshop	8:30am-3:30pm	Rustic Lodge

Date	Event	Time	Location
Nov. 1	Community Disability Awareness Workgroup	8:30am – 9:30am	The Arc
Nov. 1	Parent Transition Group	10:00-12:00	The Arc
Nov. 4	Parent Support Group	9:30am	The Arc
Nov. 9	“Let’s Have Dinner”	5:30pm	Ponderosa
Nov. 11	Veteran’s Day	Office closed	
Nov. 15	The Arc Board meeting (All are welcome to attend)	6:30pm	The Arc
Nov. 17	Parent Support Group	6:00pm	The Arc
Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving	Office closed	

Date	Event	Time	Location
Dec. 2	Parent Support Group	9:30	The Arc
Dec. 6	Community Disability Awareness Workgroup	8:30am– 9:30am	The Arc
Dec. 13	Parent Transition Group	10:00am – 12:00am	The Arc
Dec. 14	“Let’s Have Dinner”	5:30pm	Ponderosa
Dec. 15	Parent Support Group	6:00pm	
Dec. 20	The Arc Board Meeting (All are welcome to attend)	6:30pm	The Arc
Dec. 23-30	Christmas and New Year’s	Office closed	

**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.

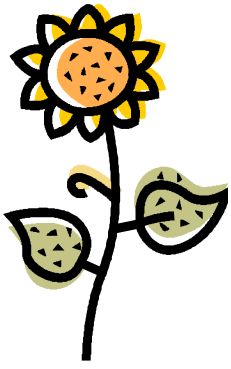
**Parent Transition Group:**

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.

**The Arc of Indiana County  
Hours  
Monday – Friday  
8:30AM to 4:00PM**



"Alone we can do  
so little;  
together we can  
do so much." – Helen  
Keller

## The Arc of Indiana County

### Parent Support Group

NEW Location: The Arc Office  
120 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Indiana, PA 15701

Time: Twice a month to accommodate all families

9:30 a.m. – Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4 and Dec 2

(1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)

6 p.m. – Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, and Dec 15

(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

Contact: Jen Moody [moody216@verzion.net](mailto:moody216@verzion.net)

724-422-4379

For parents of children of all ages and all abilities.  
Although child care is not provided, children are welcome!