We are excited to celebrate in-person this year at our 51st Annual Dove Awards Program! There will also be a live stream/ virtual experience available. This event will serve as Tom Kendziorski's farewell celebration and we are looking forward to honoring him for all of his years of service and dedication to the organization. You won't want to miss it!

For 51 years, The Arc of Oakland County has honored individuals, companies, agencies, residential settings, technicians, teachers, employers and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Awards are presented in several categories together with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Nomination forms are sent out to professionals, families, members and friends of The Arc of Oakland County. Each and every nomination that is sent back to The Arc is reviewed by a Selection Committee. Every nomination form is read, reviewed and discussed by the Selection Committee and then voted on. The selection process is lengthy and thorough.

You should be receiving your nomination forms in early January. All nominations are due into The Arc office by Friday, February 4, 2022. The Selection Committee will meet the following week and the award recipients will be notified shortly thereafter.

Nominations may be sent in by mail or e-mail to Allison at amurowany@thearcoakland.org. If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call the office at 248-816-1900.

On behalf of our board of directors and team, Happy New Year! As we begin 2022, I want to invite you to join us in celebrating our 55th year at this year’s Annual Dove Awards on March 18th. This year will be extra special as we will be back in person AND finally honoring my predecessor, Tom Kendziorski. Join me to thank him for his dedication to our community!

This past year, a few key issues became the topic of our daily conversations and will continue to be at the forefront of our advocacy initiatives. These include:

Behavioral Health Redesign - There were two proposals introduced to the Michigan Legislature this year. One in the House, and one in the Senate. The senate bill package would privatize all Medicaid health services and give full financial control and decision making to for-profit insurance companies, while the house’s proposal would replace the state’s 10 public Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIPH’s) with a single public or nonprofit administrative services organization. We will continue to be a voice at the table and encourage a plan that will ensure services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORY

This past November, one of The Arc of Oakland County’s Forever Plan participants passed away. His mother died over 20 years ago and was able to live out her last days knowing that, despite not having any living family members, her son would be cared for through the Forever Plan, forever.

Care for him The Arc of Oakland County did! Over the years, he continued to thrive in the place he called home for his entire life. He enjoyed a full life that included birthday celebrations, music class sessions where he could joyfully play his guitar, trips to the local cider mill with his roommate, and many other instances where he was able to thrive in his community.

He also needed assistance navigating all that comes with living with disability. His file told a story of The Arc of Oakland County being there to advocate against government benefit interruptions, threatened state budget cuts, home remodeling needs, health issues, and numerous partnerships with community partners to help him to flourish in the community. We were there for him through it all. Even after he passed on November 13th, we continued to advocate on his behalf as we carried out the funeral plan his mom created 25 years ago. We ran into legal issues with his burial site, but we successfully worked through them, and he was finally laid to rest beside his mom and dad in a beautiful casket that his mom handpicked. Promise delivered.

To learn more about The Arc of Oakland County’s Forever Plan, please call our office at 248-816-1900. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and share more success stories with you!

Alisa Zee Interview with The Arc of Oakland County

Dawn Calnen (The Arc of Oakland County Executive Director) & Tom Lias (The Arc of Oakland County Board Member) recently had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Alisa Zee about our organization and partnership with Gorman’s. It aired on several radio stations on Sunday 12/12/21.

Listen to the full interview and hear for yourself why The Arc of Oakland County is such a vital part of our community! Link to the interview is below. It is also posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages!


COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

with The Arc of Oakland County’s Executive Director – Dawn Calnen

JOIN US! Our next Community Conversations will take place virtually via Zoom on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Please visit our website at www.thearcoakland.org for the link and more information. Can’t make it this time? No problem! We plan to host at least one per quarter. Your thoughts and concerns are important to us!

We are looking forward to collaborating together!
developmental disabilities are delivered and overseen locally, by community organizations who partner and collaborate daily to create meaningful services and supports for people.

**Direct Support Professional Crisis** - In 2021, we urged the state legislature to approve a budget that would increase the hourly wage for our Direct Support Professionals. They answered our call by passing a $2.35 per hour wage increase. Unfortunately, a severe staffing crisis persists. We will continue to advocate for system changes that attract, retain, and invest in quality and dedicated professionals who will provide needed supports to our community.

**Merger of MORC and Easter Seals** - Recently, MORC and Easter Seals announced that they would combine forces and merge their two organizations. I have had discussions with leaders from both entities regarding the merger and have confidence that The Arc of Oakland County will continue to have open and collaborative discussion as the details are clarified. We will work to ensure that no person gets left behind!

For 55 years, The Arc of Oakland County has worked diligently to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities, and to ensure systems are in place so they can choose and direct the services and supports they need to live and thrive in a healthy and safe environment. I can assure you that we will continue to be tireless advocates and have a part in these crucial conversations that involve our community.

May you all have a healthy and safe 2022...DHC

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**2022 TAX GUIDE**

**FREE**

PREPARED FOR PERSONS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND/OR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

This authoritative income tax guide will prove to be invaluable for tax preparers, parents, and others concerned with tax deductions stemming from the care and support of a minor child, an adult, or other persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Issued annually, the 2022 INCOME TAX GUIDE is prepared by Thomas F. Kendziorski, Attorney at Law and past Executive Director of The Arc of Oakland County (retired 2021) on a voluntary basis. The 2022 INCOME TAX GUIDE was written for The Arc Michigan and is copyrighted. The guide will be available online in late-January.

Visit our website at [www.thearcoakland.org](http://www.thearcoakland.org) and click on “Resources” and “Income Tax Guide” to view. You may also view this tax guide on The Arc Michigan’s website at [www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org). Please call The Arc of Oakland County with any questions at 248-816-1900.

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Shop on AmazonSmile & Help Support The Arc of Oakland County

The Arc of Oakland County is registered with AmazonSmile!

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer’s selected charitable organization.
How You Can Support The 2022 Dove Awards

Become a Sponsor

Sponsorship opportunities are available and include recognition in all event and media releases, in the program, in our agency newsletter, PROFILES, in our Annual Report, and on our social media pages.

A generous donation to sponsor the Annual Dove Awards Program will help The Arc of Oakland County maintain programs and services at their present level.

Donate an Item to the Auction

Donating a new item to the Online Auction is another way to help and includes recognition in all event and media releases, in the program, in our agency newsletter, PROFILES, in our Annual Report, and on our social media pages.

We are holding an Online Auction in conjunction with the program. Smaller items will be combined to make larger, packaged items that would be of interest to bidders.

Some suggestions are: gift certificates to restaurants, stores, salons and hotels; sports tickets and jerseys; theatre and opera tickets; days/weeks in your vacation condo/home; spa and fitness club packages; golf related items and rounds of golf; and electronics.
The Arc of Oakland County's 51st Annual Dove Awards Presentation will be held on Friday, March 18, 2022. We will also be organizing an Online Auction that everyone is able to participate in! More information coming soon. Last year, the Online Auction was a great success and we are confident it will be this year as well!

We would like our members and friends to consider making a donation to the Online Auction. We are looking for NEW items, both large and small. We will combine the smaller donated items to create packages of items to bid on.

Some suggestions are: gift certificates to restaurants, stores, salons and hotels; sports tickets and jerseys; theatre and opera tickets; days/weeks in your vacation condo/home; spa and fitness club packages; golf related items and rounds of golf; and electronics. Of course there is more out there and we welcome any contribution you can make!

Additional suggestions would be baskets of items centered on a theme such as, an “Italian Basket” with olive oil, pasta sauces, etc.; a “Coffee Lover Basket” with various flavors of coffee, coffee mugs, cookies, etc.; and a “Zoo Basket” with fun items from the Detroit Zoological Store with day passes.

To donate or to volunteer to help with the Online Auction, please email Allison at amurowany@thearcoakland.org.

Have you considered sponsoring our 51st Annual Dove Awards Program this year?

The Annual Dove Awards Program is part of what makes our organization so special and unique! With your help, we are able to continue the tradition of honoring individuals in our community who have helped improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

Please use the remittance envelope attached to this newsletter to send in your donations. You may also donate online at www.thearcoakland.org or over the phone by calling our office at 248-816-1900. Any and all sponsorships are greatly appreciated.
**ACTION ALERT**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022.** SSI RATES ARE ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIVING SITUATIONS</th>
<th>FEDERAL</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household of Another</td>
<td>$560.67</td>
<td>$9.33*</td>
<td>$570.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing/Independent</td>
<td>$841.00</td>
<td>$14.00*</td>
<td>$855.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care/AFC</td>
<td>$841.00</td>
<td>$157.50</td>
<td>$998.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUPLE-House of Another</td>
<td>$841.00</td>
<td>$13.96*</td>
<td>$854.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUPLE-Independent</td>
<td>$1,261.00</td>
<td>$21.00*</td>
<td>$1,282.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The payment of the state supplement to SSI is sent on a quarterly basis, by either a paper check or via direct deposit, from the Michigan government to recipients at the "Household of Another" and the "Sharing/Independent" rates. Benefit payment checks (or direct deposits) are forwarded during the months of: March, June, September and December. For persons receiving only an SSI supplement amount due to the presence of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and/or earned income, the state supplement will not be paid. Affected individuals must apply separately for Medicaid at a local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") office.

1. The “personal needs income” or “incidental needs allowance” for 2022 remains at $44.00 per month for Adult Foster Care recipients (Personal Care). The monthly AFC payment for 2022 is $954.50. The SSI personal allowance for residents of a nursing home is $30 federal and $7 state for total of $37.00.

2. **NOTE:** The cost-of-living (“C.O.L.A.”) increase for either SSI or SSDI benefits is 5.9% for 2022.

3. An additional State Medicaid Personal Care Supplement check is paid directly to providers of Adult Foster Care. The amount remains for 2022 at $250.92 (effective: 10/1/18) per month per resident.

4. For concurrent recipients of SSI and SSDI (old age, survivors, widows, disability, and disabled adult child) benefits, the total of the two checks is $20.00 more than SSI alone for the specific living situation.

5. The standard Medicare “Part B” monthly premium (i.e., single persons with annual incomes below $91,000, and married filing jointly below $182,000) for 2022 is $170.10. Some longer-term enrollees may pay less each month due to special “hold harmless” premium calculations. If the state of Michigan pays the Part B premium due to your eligibility for Medicaid, the state will have to pay the $170.10. Persons with higher annual incomes must pay a significantly higher monthly Part B premium.

6. The SSDI Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) work earnings ceiling for 2022 is increased to $1,350.00 ($2,260.00 if recipient is blind). The Trial Work Period threshold for 2022 is now at $970.00.

7. The 2022 SSI asset limits remain at $2,000.00 for an individual and $3,000.00 for a couple. The monthly SSI Student Exclusion for 2022 is $2,040 (annual limit is $8,230).

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**2021 ANNUAL RUN CHALLENGE DONATIONS CONT.**

James and Lauren Bernacki

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!
We raised over $14,000 for our 2021 Annual Run Challenge!

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**2021 ANNUAL HOLIDAY APPEAL**

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!
We raised over $20,000 for our 2021 Annual Holiday Appeal!
TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE 2022

We will be participating in the annual Tootsie Roll Drive for children and adults with intellectual impairments sponsored by local councils of the Knights of Columbus. Council #5436 located in Waterford and Council #2569 located in Royal Oak need volunteers from the membership of The Arc of Oakland County.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! This traditional community service project has financially supported our local chapter of The Arc for several years. We need the help of The Arc of Oakland County membership to assist with soliciting donations!

We need as many of our members as possible to volunteer for at least two-to-four hours of time on the weekend of Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 8, 9, and 10, 2022.

Please contact us if you would like to sign up and work a storefront station in the downtown Royal Oak area, or in the Clarkston-northern Waterford area.

You can fill out the sign up sheet below and return it to The Arc of Oakland County office. You can also e-mail info@thearcoakland.org or call our office at 248-816-1900.

Name: ______________________________ Phone #: ___________________________

Location Preference (please check one): □ Royal Oak □ Clarkston

Time/Date Preference: __________________________

Please mail back to: The Arc of Oakland County, 1641 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48084
Or, fax this page to: 248-816-1906

The Arc US Virtual Program Library for People With Disabilities Is Now Live!

Looking for online activities that someone with disabilities in your life can use to keep busy during the winter months?

The Arc US's new Virtual Program Library, a free hub full of on-demand activities that can be done from home by people with disabilities, their families, and service providers.

Topics include arts, community and life skills, health and wellness, virtual clubs, and more.

Visit the hub to check out the resources they have so far and share it with your networks so it can continue to grow into a robust resource for people with disabilities and their supporters!


You can give a lifeline of hope and give the gift of comfort this season. Donate $50 to The Arc of Oakland County benefitting children & adults with disabilities and get $200 OFF any leather recliner from Gorman's 10 best brands including the world famous Stressless.

The event will run from November 19, 2021 through January 17, 2022.
Profiles

Oakland County

Profiles is published by The Arc of Oakland County • 1641 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48084 • 248-816-1900

AS OF 12/21/2021 WE HAVE 1,176 MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS

NOVEMBER MEMBERS
Humberto Chapparro • Ann Momrik • Marlene Schwan
Laura Searle

DECEMBER MEMBERS
Stephen & Tina Posey • Elaine Montinco • Kenneth Rouleau
Cheryl McPhereson • Heather Webber • Jantz Black

Calendar

January
25 – The Arc of Oakland County Board of Director’s Meeting, 7 p.m.

February
4 – Deadline for Dove Awards Nominations
10 – Community Conversations with The Arc of Oakland County, 6 p.m. on Zoom

March
4 – Auction items due to The Arc office
18 – 51st Annual Dove Awards Program!

IN MEMORIAM
John P. Schoeffel

The Arc of Oakland County Staff
Dawn H. Calnen, J.D.
Executive Director
Beth M. Lafata
Comptroller
Allison M. Murowany
Director of Public Relations and Development
Patricia D. Luker
Senior Staff Advocate
Kiesha D. Lawton
Administrative Services and Forever Plan Coordinator
Monica M. Knoblock
Director of Financial Management Services
Megan L. Arnold
Financial Management Services
Ashley L. Ball
Financial Management Services
Larry W. Bizon
Financial Management Services
Jessica S. Habbi
Financial Management Services
Michelle S. Larzelere
Financial Management Services
Diane M. McDaniel
Financial Management Services
Leanne E. Mayes
Financial Management Services
Garret C. Van Drunen
Financial Management Services
Linda M. Yucha
Financial Management Services

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Tom Lias, 1st VP
Randy Meono, 2nd Vice President
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Allison M. Murowany