

Wishing You Good Health, Joy
and Peace this Holiday Season



Dear Members and Friends of The Arc of Oakland County,

It has certainly been an eventful year! COVID-19 has touched all of us in some capacity and although it may have changed how we conduct business — it has not affected our ability to make sure **ADVOCACY** continues to be our top priority! I am beyond proud and humbled by the staff and Board of Directors that have remained constant and steadfast in carrying out our mission.

The Holiday Season is now upon us. In whatever manner you celebrate during this glorious time of the year, I wish for everyone peace, health, prosperity and happiness. As we approach the close of another busy year, I will take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting this wonderful organization with your time, talent, and treasure!

I still need your help. The Arc of Oakland County continues to weather the constant storms of ever-decreasing charitable dollars. Everyone's generous participation is absolutely essential again this year during our annual Holiday fund appeal.

Simply put, our traditional funding sources have not kept up with rising costs and inflation. The reasons vary, and I am also all too aware that some of our members may be experiencing personal economic difficulties. As I mentioned last year, unfortunately after 40 years of partnership, the United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) has decided to terminate its financial support of The Arc of Oakland County, as well as each of the other local chapters within the Detroit Metro area. It is critical for us to continue our delivery of professional and personal advocacy services in 2021. To accomplish this goal, I solicit the financial support of our membership and friends so that we can continue to assist everyone who asks.

Advocacy remains our primary mission. Just as we grow and develop from infancy into adulthood, so progresses the different advocacy needs of individuals and families. Advocacy is: assistance and guidance through the maze of special education; help in understanding guardianship and the endless Social Security Disability regulations; plus, questions answered and explained about public mental health services and the rights of your child. The list goes on and on.

Advocacy is any way that any member of this staff can assist you with any question, any problem, any referral, or just lending a listening ear of support and understanding.

We must redouble our efforts next year to ensure the future of all children and adults with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities. Local advocacy efforts are our best hope.

I respectfully request your consideration of The Arc of Oakland County as you plan your end-of-the-year tax-deductible donations. Your support of The Arc of Oakland County will allow us to extend our outreach of advocacy into the community, to help families, and to educate the general public. Your entire gift is earmarked towards the maintenance of The Arc of Oakland County and its unequalled leadership in advocacy, which benefits so many. As our only financial appeal of the Holiday Season, I humbly ask for your personal sacrifice when making a contribution.

Also, please ask your employer's human resources or payroll department if they offer a charitable matching gift program. These matches are often dollar for dollar, which doubles your charitable-donation power!

Many thanks for responding to this need as generously as you are able. Large gifts are wonderful and appreciated; but EVERY gift — regardless of amount — will help The Arc of Oakland County!

Season's Greetings and my very best wishes to you and yours for 2021.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Tom Kendziorski, Esq. — Executive Director, The Arc of Oakland County



www.thearcoakland.org

