

Profiles



The Arc
Oakland County

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NEW MEMBERS

AS OF 4/21/20 WE HAVE 548 MEMBERS!

MARCH MEMBERS

SHIVONNE DEBOER • NICHOLAS GRISAK • ALBERT J. HADDAD • ANDREW HAI
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PHILLIPS • SUE SHILLING • FREDERICK VONDRAK

APRIL MEMBERS

CHRISTOPHER CAPALDI • VAN HUNT • KAREN LABENSKY • LANCE SCRAM

2020 Membership Goal
2,000

Calendar

May

25 – Memorial Day

June

2 – The Arc of Oakland
County's VIRTUAL Annual
Meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.
(more information on Page 2 of
this newsletter)

July

4 – Independence Day

IN MEMORIAM

Josephine Bosetti
Michael T. Etheridge
Gregory Monacelli
Daniel Richart

The Arc of Oakland County Staff

Thomas F. Kendziorski, Esq.
Executive Director

Beth M. Lafata
Comptroller / Office Manager

Allison M. Murowany
Director, Public Relations &
Development

Patricia D. Luker
Senior Staff Advocate

Kiesha D. Lawton
Administrative Assistant

Monica P. Goerg
Director, Fiscal Intermediary

Monica M. Knoblock
Program Development,
Fiscal Intermediary

Megan L. Arnold
Fiscal Intermediary

Ashley L. Ball
Fiscal Intermediary

Larry W. Bizon
Fiscal Intermediary

Megan E. Brosky
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Diane M. McDaniel
Fiscal Intermediary

Leanne E. Mayes
Fiscal Intermediary

Garret C. Van Drunen
Fiscal Intermediary

Linda M. Yucha
Fiscal Intermediary

2020-2021

Board of Directors

Tom Quakenbush, President
Jerry Rubin, 1st VP

Tom Lias, 2nd Vice President
Lisa Kowalski, Secretary

Suzanne Marquardt, Treasurer
David Loeffler, Past President

Delegates-at-large

Ron Cheli
Tim Hatfield
Linda Knox
Julianne Lalik
Randall Meono
Nadine Milostan
Barbara Scott
John Torrone
Ann Wiedelman

Designer & Editor, PROFILES

Allison M. Murowany



The Arc
Oakland County

Profiles

Achieve with us.

The Arc of Oakland County's 50th Annual Dove Awards Program

The Arc of Oakland County's 50th Annual Dove Awards Presentation and Silent Auction that was scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2020 at the San Marino Club was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis and Governor Whitmers "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order. We were saddened to make this announcement, but the safety and health of our staff and members is always our top priority.

We are pleased to say that despite having to cancel our in-person celebration this year, we were still able to execute an online auction with the items we had already received. The online auction ran from 3/23-3/30 through Charity Auctions Today. The online auction was a great success as we raised over \$7,000! Thank you to everyone who took the time to view the online auction, bid on an item, and share our social media posts with family and friends. We greatly appreciate your support in our fundraising efforts!

We would also like to thank all of the individual donors, organizations and local businesses that graciously sponsored our event this year. We raised over \$25,000 in sponsorships -- the most ever! THANK YOU! Please see the full list of our amazing sponsors and auction donors on page 4.

We are looking forward to celebrating our deserving 2020 Dove Award recipients at our Annual Dove Awards Program next year in 2021.



"From The Director's Chair"

By: Tom Kendzierski

Since I last wrote my column for this newsletter, the world has turned completely upside down --- for all of us! I am hoping and praying that by the time everyone reads this, we will have returned to some sort of normalcy, whatever the heck that will now mean.

The COVID-19 health crisis closed down The Arc offices to all visitors, by order of Governor Whitmer and me. All new advocacy intake meetings were cancelled and will be rescheduled as soon as possible in the future. A few telephone intakes were completed and participation in a couple virtual I.E.P. meetings proved interesting. We have been trying to reach out as best we can. Our office administrative and financial management staff kept all of the bills paid while trying to facilitate all of the requests for unemployment compensation coming from direct care workers who lost their jobs. The state's on-line system was not set up to accept so many applications. However, we pressed forward.

The 50th Annual Dove Awards and Silent Auction was cancelled back in March, but we held an on-line auction and you all came through by bidding on Silent Auction items. We cleared over \$7,000! Our awesome financial sponsors of the Dove Awards told us to keep their respective donations, and most of the admission ticket holders allowed us to keep that money as well. I am eternally grateful to all of our

Continued on Page 3

SAVE THE DATE!

**2021 Dove Awards
Presentation & Silent Auction
Friday, March 19, 2021
San Marino Club, Troy**

Mission Statement

The Arc of Oakland County advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We strive to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire our community, and influence public policy.

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2020 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIRTUAL MEETING via ZOOM
Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7 P.M.

Video and/or Audio:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3666460580>
Meeting ID: 3666460580
Password: 727438

or by Telephone (Audio Only):
1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER & TOPIC

Tricia Luker – Senior Staff Advocate, The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.
“Special Education Advocacy and COVID-19: What You Need to Know”

OFFICERS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
President	Tom Quakenbush	June 2021*
1st Vice President	Jerry Rubin	June 2021*
2nd Vice President	Tom Lias	June 2021*
Secretary	Lisa Kowalski	June 2021*
Treasurer	Suzanne Marquardt	June 2021*
Past President	David Loeffler	June 2021*

DELEGATES-AT-LARGE

Ron Cheli, Esq.	June 2021**
Tim Hatfield	June 2021**
Linda Knox	June 2021**
Julianne Lalik	June 2021**
Randy Meono	June 2022
Nadine Milostan	June 2022
Barbara Scott	June 2022
John Torrone	June 2021**
Ann Wiedelman	June 2021**

All names in BOLD are up for election

*All officers have one-year terms and each is re-electable in June 2021

**Not up for re-election in June 2020

Team meetings once school reconvenes, probably in the fall. Parents will be asked to update school personnel on their student's educational activities during the closure. The school will use this information for the following reasons:

- to determine the student's Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance [PLAAFP] when the student returns to school;
- to understand and document the student's educational activities during the closure;
- to assess the student's progress on IEP goals and objectives;
- to identify the student's goals and objectives moving forward; and
- to determine whether the student has regressed or requires compensatory education as a result of the school closure.

As the student's primary educational provider during the closure, the parents will be the principal source for data describing the student's educational activities during the closure. This is the parent's opportunity to share methods and resources they used [including community resources] with their child.

What follows are suggestions parents might use to help guide their efforts to document their child's educational activity and progress during the closure. The four areas of documentation are:

- **Student's baseline status at the time school closed** – this is the parents' opportunity to describe their observation of their child's level of performance at the time school closed. The parents may wish to describe their perception of the following areas:

- o IEP/transition/related service goals;
- o Academic areas;
- o Social/emotional/behavioral;
- o Communication;
- o Motor skills/sensory needs;
- o Personal care/safety; and,
- o Any other areas of concern identified during the closure.

- **District-provided educational and related service activities** – Parents should keep notes on the child's participation in district-provided learning activities and related services. Areas to document include:

- o **Internet learning** – how often and how well the student participated in computer or internet learning activities;
- o **Face-to-face contacts with school personnel** – times, dates and description of activities and outcome for the student;
- o **Related services** – How, when, where and for how long the services were provided;

- **Home/parent-led educational and related service activities** – This is the parents' chance to describe what they did to educate their child and how the child responded. Parents should consider documenting each interaction or activity and describe the following:

- o **What activity** – what parent did with child;
- o **Methodology** – how parent presented the activity and assisted child in completing it;
- o **Resources used** – computer; outside resource [tutor, learning center, etc.];
- o **Time/place** – Where and for how long did the activity take place;
- o **Student performance during activity** – Did s/he participate? Any challenges during activity? etc.; and,
- o **Student outcome** – What student got out of activity?

- **Student's progress and status at time of return to school** – This is the point at which the parent's data collection becomes most important to the student's future educational programming. At that time the district will determine the following:

- o The student's present level of performance [PLAAFP] at the time of return to school – the parent's data may vary from the district's perspective;
- o What IEP mandated services were not provided during the closure period;
- o Whether and how much the student's educational status regressed during the closure period;
- o Whether the student should receive ESY or Comp Ed services; and,
- o The student's, goals and objectives moving forward.

Conclusion:

Covid-19 continues to threaten the very lives of Michigan citizens. It also threatens the ability of the schools to return to "normal" once schools reopen. Parents have every right to be concerned about their child's education. This article has focused on the more substantial issues created by the school closure and how parents can prepare themselves to advocate for their children during and after the closure. Throughout the coming months The Arc of Oakland County will monitor state and federal actions taken to address the closure. Parents are encouraged to contact The Arc of Oakland County staff with questions, comments or concerns.

Every family faces challenging circumstances, especially now. The Arc of Oakland County is here to provide services and supports to help lighten the anxiety and workload created by the crisis.

Covid-19 Michigan Special Education Update

by Tricia Luker, Senior Staff Advocate

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's order closing Michigan public schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year poses significant challenges to parents of students who receive special education services. The Arc of Oakland County offers this short article summarizing how the school closing may impact the delivery of special education services to our member families and students.

Introduction:

The coronavirus [Covid-19] has created challenges not encountered in over 100 years. Governmental, educational and health officials are still in the learning stages. The Michigan economy is significantly disrupted, and no family has escaped the impact of the virus. It truly seems like everyone has been forced to jump and then to build wings on the way down. It is that way, too, with how special education services are going to be provided over the next several months.

Here are some general facts that will apply to special education services in Michigan while schools remain closed:

- Individual public-school districts, intermediate school districts [ISD] and public charter schools [district] will create and implement plans to deliver general and special education services to their districts for the remainder of the school year.
- Districts are to make individualized efforts to decide how to meet a particular student's special education/IEP needs during the closure without requiring IEP meetings to amend an IEP.
- If a district chooses to provide online access to its general education students, the district or ISD must make the same access and services available to students who receive special education services.
- Districts are encouraged to use internet, phone or other available electronic resources to meet with parents and to perform annual IEP team meeting functions or meetings required by special circumstances.
- The general consensus is that the process of providing special education services is going to require flexibility and communication from all participants. Problems that arise during the closure may need immediate, temporary adjustments and require curative actions after school begins again.

The Arc of Oakland County has identified four areas of concern for special education students and their families that may arise during the school closure. These areas are:

- **Extended School Year [ESY]/Compensatory Education [Comp. Ed.]** – It appears inevitable that special education students cannot and will not receive the same educational services during the closure that they would have received had school remained in session. Students might experience some loss in previously acquired learning or not show the expected growth and development anticipated in the students' IEPs. Many students may show both regression and slower than expected growth. During the closure parents and educators will not have access to the resources necessary to remedy the problems that might arise. Parents should expect that a first order of business for their child's IEP Team once school has returned will be to evaluate the student's educational level of performance given the extended time out of school. Parents should anticipate that ESY and Comp. Ed. services will be a large part of the first IEP held after the closure.
- **Related Services** – While educational personnel will be expected to provide all related services required by a student's IEP, it is likely that not all services will be available off-campus or in group settings typically used at school. Once school resumes, the student's IEP Team will evaluate the type and amount of services delivered during the closure and consider what remedial actions are required.
- **Internet/Electronic Learning** – Some districts may choose to offer online or electronically-based learning programs to help students with disabilities make progress on their curriculum or IEP goals and objectives. Many computer-learning programs are not specifically developed for students with disabilities. Not all students with disabilities will have computer abilities that will allow them to access the programs. This issue must be evaluated as the student is engaging in the electronic learning. It might be necessary to modify or terminate electronic learning programs to preserve the student's self-esteem and self-confidence.
- **Suspension and Expulsion** – Some students with disabilities may have been suspended from school at the time of the school closure. The Michigan Department of Education has not yet issued rules or guidance stating how those who are suspended will receive educational services during the closure. The Arc of Oakland County will provide information on this issue as it becomes available.

Michigan students and their parents are living through an experience like none they have ever seen. The borders of conventional school education, including supports and services provided in that setting, have suddenly been removed. Neither the students nor the parents have been prepared for what education should look like given this new environment. Nobody, student, parent or educational professional, has any idea of what school will look like once it reopens.

During the Covid-19 closure, the parents will become de facto home schoolers. The school district likely will hold a formal or informal IEP

Continued on Page 7

wonderful benefactors. Our next Dove Awards is scheduled for March 19, 2021 at the San Marino Club, which has allowed us to move our event deposit into the next year.

Another wonderful success story of our office closure came by way of The Arc staff that was instructed to work from home. If you who know me well, I am not a great fan of this practice, but our entire Fiscal Intermediary (FI) staff has performed brilliantly and made sure that all timesheets were paid correctly and on-time. I must also extend similar kudos to our partners at MORC who made this all possible since they too were working from home to keep the FI process functioning.

The Arc board held its first-ever ZOOM-Pro virtual meeting, which came off quite well. We look forward to the day when we will be able to meet again in-person. However, I may have created a monster with this virtual meeting capability.

I will be forever indebted to each of my staff team members for keeping things moving forward at The Arc. I could not ask for a more dedicated and motivated group of people to lead. Thank you! Well done!

Welcome summer! Continue to stay healthy and safe. So long quarantine! TFK

UPDATE: TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE 2020

by Thomas F. Kendzioriski, Esq.

Greetings! Most of you know of me in my role at The Arc. However, I also participate in the annual Tootsie Roll Drive for children and adults with intellectual impairments sponsored by local councils of the Knights of Columbus. I currently serve as the Grand Knight (president/chairman) of council #5436 located in Waterford, but I still have a close relationship with my former council (#2569) in Royal Oak. The Arc of Oakland County receives about \$9,000 each year from the Knights of Columbus.

Due to the COVID-19 "social-physical distancing" limitations placed on us by the state of Michigan during March and April, the traditional spring Tootsie Roll Drive dates were cancelled. But we have rescheduled this annual event for October ... on ... wait for it ... "Columbus Day" weekend! We will need as many of our members of The Arc as possible to volunteer a few hours of time on the weekend of **Friday-Saturday-Sunday, October 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2020**. I will send out another notice during August asking for your help.

This traditional community service project has financially supported our local chapter of The Arc for several years. Unfortunately, the membership of both councils has significantly dwindled over time, along with the number of workers who are able to work the streets and the designated storefronts during this 3-day event. I humbly request the help of The Arc of Oakland County membership to assist with soliciting donations featuring the all-American Tootsie Roll!

Please contact me and let me know 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. I will keep your name and call you in early September to arrange your date and place to solicit.

So, to sign up to work this fall's Tootsie Roll Drive and help out The Arc, simply fill out the sign-up sheet below and return it to me at The Arc office by October 7, 2020. You may also e-mail me at The Arc office: tfk@thearcoakland.org, or by telephone: 248-816-1900 to sign up for a particular time and place. The "early birds" get the best spots and times!

.....
Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Location Preference (please check one): Royal Oak Waterford/Clarkston

Time/Date Preference: _____

Please mail to: The Arc of Oakland County, 1641 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48084 or Fax: 248-816-1906

The Arc would like to thank the following individuals, companies, & organizations who generously contributed

2020 Sponsorships

Knights of Columbus Select Councils from
Oakland County

PRESENTING SPONSOR — \$1,800

Patrick & Julia Heider

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Rajput-Dasgupta Family
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Don L. Rosenberg, Esq. of Barron,
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John Keegan on behalf of CIBC Bank (\$750)
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Mark & Ann Wiedelman (\$750)

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Tom & Christine Lias (\$300)
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Springhill Pooled Accounts Trust
Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rexin & Perry Rexin
(\$200)

Robert & Francine Stern (\$200)
Genesis In-Home Care, LLC. (\$150)
Joe & Lisa Kowalski (\$150)
Dolores Baran DDS PC (\$145)

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Stacey Farmer
Tim Hatfield
Suzanne Marquardt
Nadine Milostan
Simply Good Kitchen
John Torrone
Milton Wohl, CPA, P.C.

2020 Silent Auction Donations

Anonymous
The Art Experience
Arthur Murray
Royal Oak Dance Studio
Astrein's Creative Jewelers
Bigalora
Big Rock Chop House
Bill's
Bonefish Grill
Bordine's
BRIO
Buddy's Pizza
Carl's Golfland
Carol Lewis Day Spa
Dan & Linda CasaSanta
Cookies by Design
Costco
Cranbrook Academy
of Art & Art Museum
Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit Lions
Detroit Pistons
Detroit Princess Riverboat
Detroit Red Wings
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Detroit Tigers

Detroit Zoo
Emagine Entertainment
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Fieldstone Winery
Frames Unlimited
Fringe Full Service Salon
John & Lynn Gideon
Gordon Food Service
Gorman's
Griffin Claw Brewing Company
Tim Hatfield
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Beatrice Hill-Pack
Holiday Market
Home Depot Madison Heights
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Tom & Mary Kendziorski
Linda Knox
Joe & Lisa Kowalski
Kruse and Muer
Beth Lafata & Craig Gale
Leon & Lulu

Tom & Christine Lias
Loccino
Lowes
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Suzanne Marquardt
Meadow Brook Hall
at Oakland University
Meadow Brook Theatre
Michigan Science Center
Nadine Milostan
Miner's Den
MotorCity Casino Hotel
Joe & Allison Murowany
New Horizons
Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Oakland County
Parks & Recreation
Paint a Miracle Art Studio
Paint Creek Center for the Arts
Painting with a Twist, Ferndale
The Parade Company
Perske
Pewabic Pottery
Prestige Portraits
PRP Wine International
Tom Quakenbush

Roadside B&G
ROAK Brewing Co.
Royal Oak Golf Center
Jerry & Judy Rubin
Sanders
School of Rock Rochester
Sea Life Aquarium &
LEGOLand Discovery Center
Simply Good Kitchen
Skate World of Troy
Slows BAR BQ
Somerset Inn
Stagecrafters
Starbucks
Streetside Seafood
Toyology Toys
Trader Joe's
Wayne State University
Maggie Allesee Department of
Theatre and Dance
Westin Book Cadillac Detroit
Robert White
The Whitney
Mark & Ann Wiedelman
Wolverine Solutions
Lee Yambura

Congratulations to the 2020 Dove Award Recipients!

ADVOCACY HALL OF FAME AWARD

Mabel Higgs, Founder, Family Living Center, Inc.

JANET and PAUL MacCORMACK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jerry Rubin, Board of Directors, The Arc of Oakland County

ARC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Kimberly Pietrylka-Miller, Vice President,
New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Lynn Maginity, Executive Director, New Gateways, Inc.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Lisa Murrell, Executive Director, Community Living Centers, Inc.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Lee Yambura

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Kevin Knoblock

SHELDON DUNN INSPIRATION AWARD

Amie Kupovits

AL CARTER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ehrhardt Family

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dustin Bramblett

LEONARD CERCONE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tara Marchand, Special Education Teacher, Clarkston High School,
Clarkston Community Schools

LEONARD CERCONE POST SECONDARY

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Shea Seckel, Teacher,
Waterford Lifetracks Adult Transitions Program,
Waterford School District

GOLDEN DOVE AWARD

Ray Hooton, Retired Special Education Teacher,
Wing Lake Developmental Center, Bloomfield Hills Schools

PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

New Gateways, Inc.

INCLUSION LEADERSHIP AWARD

Brett Hanna, Physical Education & Health Teacher,
Waterford Kettering High School, Waterford School District

ROBERT THOMAS SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Patricia Christian, Campaign for Self-Determined Transitions Grant
Coordinator, Community Living Services, Inc.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Daniel Maselli, Customized Employment Facilitator,
JVS Human Services

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD

Bonnie Cowan, Assistant Home Manager,
Holcomb Haven Home & Olde Sturbridge Home

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Santos Perez, ESL Parent Resource Para-Professional,
Waterford School District

2020 TAX GUIDE

PLEASE NOTE — THE TAX DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JULY 15, 2020 TO DUE TO COVID-19.

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

This FREE 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 for more than three decades, the 2020 INCOME TAX GUIDE was prepared by Thomas F. Kendziorski, Attorney at Law, and Executive Director of The Arc of Oakland County. The 2020 INCOME TAX GUIDE was written for The Arc Michigan and is copyrighted. The guide is available online.

Visit our website at www.thearcoakland.org and simply click on "Resources" and "Income Tax Guide" on the homepage. You may also view this tax guide on The Arc Michigan's website at www.arcmi.org. Please call The Arc of Oakland County with any questions at 248-816-1900.