The Arc of Oakland County’s 2022 Annual Run Challenge

We are excited to announce our 2022 Annual Run Challenge is officially underway!

The Arc of Oakland County presents an annual donation challenge to our members and friends every year and this year we are determined to meet, and hopefully, exceed, our goal of $20,000! We can do it with your help!

The Brooksie Way Half Marathon is no longer so this year our Annual Run Challenge will center around the Detroit Free Press Half Marathon which will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2022.

Kevin Knoblock, a Secondary Autism Instructor, will again participate this year and continue in the tradition of running and raising money for The Arc of Oakland County! We are grateful for Kevin’s enthusiasm and dedication!

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated! Donations may be made by using the form on pages 4-5 of this newsletter or made online through our website at www.thearcoakland.org. You can also make a donation over the phone or send in a donation through the mail. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

2022 GOAL IS $20,000!

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.

"From The Director's Chair"
By: Dawn Calnen

I hope you are all having a great summer! For me, it has been an eventful time. My youngest son just graduated from high school, and we have been celebrating with several events over the past month. I have spent a lot of time reflecting on the opportunities all three of my boys have been afforded growing up in communities that have encouraged inclusion for all.

While there are so many great memories and instances where I have seen a true sense of belonging in my life, I am also keenly aware of instances where exclusion happens within our community. One such example was brought to my attention a few weeks ago wherein one of our very own members was unjustly singled out and made to feel unsafe and unwelcome in his own neighborhood. While we will do all we can on his behalf in that specific instance, we also promise to stay true to our mission and work to normalize community integration.

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We Want to Hear From You!

Profiles is The Arc of Oakland County’s award-winning newsletter and the primary communications link with our large membership. We want to hear what you’d like to read about!

Please scan the QR code to complete a short one question survey.

We are looking forward to sharing impactful and timely information that matters most to you and your family!

ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORY

We had the pleasure of participating in a guardianship review hearing wherein the individual desired to have her guardianship lapse. We wrote a letter to the judge and her rights were restored!

The backstory - This 23-year-old young lady’s mom had met with The Arc a few months prior and explained that, when her daughter turned 18, she was told she had to have guardianship in order to receive government benefits. Parents are told many myths, and this was one of them.

The family heard us speak at an event and learned there were other ways they could support their loved one. We met with the young lady and discussed the alternatives. At the hearing, she explained to the judge that she wanted to make some decisions for herself and also have her parents help her in other matters. We came up with a plan that she would have a power of attorney instead. She is now thriving!

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, September 22, 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!
Meet Christie Kay!
The Arc's New Director of Programs & Operations!

Christie is a licensed master’s Clinical Social Worker with 9 years of experience in the field of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Christie became a Social Worker due to her interest in Psychology, and desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others. She previously worked at MORC where she held the roles of Support Coordinator, Intake Assessment Coordinator and most recently, Support Coordination Supervisor.

Christie has a passion for serving families and individuals with Developmental Disabilities and specializes in navigating the Behavioral Health Services network. Christie has a broad knowledge of community mental health services, Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) processes, community resources and advocacy.

Christie is widely respected in our community and has already made an immediate impact in helping our members thrive.

Christie is kept busy outside of work, caring for her infant son and spending time with her husband and their dog, Chicken.

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.
THE ARC OF OAKLAND COUNTY
ANNUAL RUN CHALLENGE

GOAL
$20,000

PLEASE CONSIDER PLEDGING A DONATION

SUNDAY
OCT. 16 2022

DETROIT FREE PRESS
HALF MARATHON

JOIN THE RACE! DONATE NOW! CHEER US ON!

FOR INFORMATION VISIT WWW.THEARCOAKLAND.ORG
Please support The Arc of Oakland County’s Annual Run Challenge!

Every year, The Arc of Oakland County presents a donation challenge to all of our members and friends. As in previous years, we are Requesting that you consider donating to The Arc of Oakland County’s Annual Run Challenge.

You can be a sponsor by pledging and donating dollars that will support the programs and services of The Arc of Oakland County! You may also donate directly online through PayPal at www.thearcoakland.org.

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City __________________ State __________ Zip ________________
Daytime phone # __________________ Evening phone # __________________
E-mail ____________________________________________________________

Please accept my donation of $ _________ for the 2022 Annual Run Challenge!

Payment Options:
Check; make payable to: The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.
Visa _____ Master Card _____; Card # ___________________________ 3 Digit CVV2 ___________
Expiration Date __/___; Authorized signature ____________________________
The name as it appears on the card ________________________________________

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

"Thank you so much for meeting with me last month to discuss future planning and resources for my son. I have been following up on the resources you have given me and am so grateful for the guidance and support. Thanks to you, we are officially our son's legal guardian. Also, I appreciate your reaching out to the court on our daughter’s behalf, and straightening out the details of our guardianship."

Inclusive Adaptive Recreation

The Arc of Oakland County recently received our second grant from the Troy Community Foundation in the amount of $500 to assist in inclusive adaptive recreation opportunities in our community.

Access to physical training and fitness programs are especially difficult for individuals with disabilities due to cost and access to facilities. The Arc’s core values include bringing health and wellness within reach of our community regardless of limitations and resources. Our goal is to teach positive habits and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

To learn more about our upcoming inclusive adaptive recreation programs, please visit our website at www.thearcoakland.org and our social media pages.
Preparation for the 18th Birthday

Birthdays are an exciting time, but when your special needs child turns 18, many legal and financial changes occur. Here are some things to keep in mind as you approach your child’s 18th birthday.

I.D. and Service
• Once the person with a disability turns 18, they should obtain a Michigan State I.D. from the Secretary of State.

• All males must register for the Selective Service System at 18. Men with disabilities that would not qualify for military service are still required to register for selective service.
  o Register at SSS.gov

Social Security and Medicaid
• The month after the person with a disability turns 18, you can apply for Social Security Income (SSI) with the Social Security Administration (SSA).
  o Apply on ssa.gov or by calling your local Social Security Office.
  — Receiving SSI will make the person with a disability eligible for Medicaid.

• Once Medicaid is established, you can apply for “Adult Home Help Services” with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The person must be deemed dependent on others for one or more activities of daily living.
  o Learn more at Michigan.gov/AdultServices.

• Apply for long-term developmental disability support services with the Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN). The person seeking services must be Medicaid eligible to receive services. Long-term developmental disability support can be received through MORC, Inc. or Community Living Services – Oakland.
  o Call OCHN at (248) 464-6363 to request an ACCESS screening.

Nutrition Assistance
• Apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
  o Apply by creating a MI Bridges account on NewMIBridges.Michigan.gov.

• Typically, SNAP is not available to a person with a disability who is under the age of 22 and still living at home with parent(s), but it is possible if they are enrolled in the Michigan Combined Application Project (MiCAP). This program allows you to receive food benefits when you receive SSI. To qualify for MiCAP, all of the following requirements must be met:
  – Age 18 or older
  – Receives SSI and no other type of income
  – Meets the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) definition of independent living
    (getting the full rate of SSI, currently $771 per month – federal; $14 – state)
  – Resides in Michigan
  – Purchases and prepares food separately
  – Is not currently an active case in the regular Food Assistance Program (FAP)

Other Considerations
• Consider if it is necessary to establish a Power of Attorney, a Patient Advocate Designation, or guardianship. The Arc staff are available to discuss alternatives to guardianship and supported decision making.

• Consider establishing an ABLE Act savings account or a Special Needs Trust.
  o The ABLE Act savings account allows for the person with a disability to have a savings account without it affecting government benefits.
  o A Special Needs Trust is an estate plan that will not affect government benefits.

• Regarding special education, this is the time plan for Transition Services (post-high school program). Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) is available for competitive employment support.

Your child turning 18 can be an overwhelming and exciting time. Keep these resources in mind to make the transition easier and remember The Arc of Oakland County is only a phone call away to help navigate it.
Board of Directors Update

Welcome to our new board members! We are so excited to work with each of you to increase membership and further our mission.

• Shashi Bihani
• Max Elliott
• Ellen Hulverson
• Patrick Kauffman

Thank you to our outgoing board members! We are grateful for your many years of service. You have truly helped us make a difference!

• Ron Cheli — (Board Member 2005 - 2022)
• Barbara Fischer — (Board Member 2010 - 2022)
• Nadine Milostan — (Board Member 2018 - 2022)
• John Torrone — (Board Member 2009 - 2022)

Backpacks & School Supplies

Thank you to Maria Kopicki with Evolvek12 for donating several backpacks filled with school supplies! As the next school year is quickly approaching, please contact The Arc of Oakland County if you, or someone you know, is in need of these items.

Evolvek12 is a non-profit and their goal is to provide every K-12 student with equal access to resources and opportunities that support and promote academic achievement. To learn more please visit their website at www.evolvek12.org.

Sexuality Education Curriculum Series

When it comes to talking about sexuality, people with disabilities are often excluded; almost as if they are incapable of having sexual thoughts, feelings, and needs. In reality, they too are sexual beings who need the information and skills for making healthy decisions about sexuality. Sexuality Education in Oakland County

In conjunction with support from the MI DD Council and The Arc of Oakland County, Mary Shehan-Boogaard, Community Inclusion Coordinator with the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, Frank Vaca, Peer Educator and Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Coordinator of Leaders for Inclusion and Susan Rogers, LMSW, ACSW, have spearheaded a sexuality training in Oakland County.

The consensus of individuals and families experiencing the lessons is that accessing and learning accurate information is needed. An NPR report from 2018, The Sexual Assault Epidemic No One Talks About, stated that “people with intellectual disabilities are the victims of sexual assault at a rate seven times higher than those without disabilities”. Disabilityjustice.org reported that “a 2005 survey of people with disabilities indicated that 60 percent of respondents had been subjected to some form of unwanted sexual activity”. The statistics of other studies unfortunately are just as high or higher, in terms of people with disabilities being victimized. We know that providing education about boundaries, health, understanding the function of the body, and of course, relationships will help to prevent the victimization cycle.

The last sexuality education series was in January. We are hopeful that a new series will begin in August. Please continue to check our website (www.thearcoakland.org) and our social media pages for more details!
AS OF 6/28/2022 WE HAVE 1,033 MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS

APRIL MEMBERS
Jeffrey Malin • Tina Stafford • Susan Weinrauch

MAY MEMBERS
Peter Bauman • Lisa Bristol • Danielle Gillman • Elizabeth Juve • Richard Kline • Jay Rasmussen

JUNE MEMBERS
Carrie Bloink • Annette Bogden • Max Elliott • Jeremy Harvey • Kristin Kostan • Robin Maloney • Sandra Morgan • Armando Cueto and Rocio Sanchez • Core Litigation Support LLC

The Arc of Oakland County Staff
Dawn Calnen, J.D. Executive Director
Beth Lafata Comptroller
Christie Kay Director of Programs & Operations
Allison Murowany Director of Marketing & Communications
Klesha Lawton Forever Plan Coordinator and Member Services
Jill Skomick Advocate
Jessica Showers Advocate
Karen St. Anne Bookkeeper
Serena Kulaga Office Administrator

Monica Knoblock Director of Financial Management Services
Megan Arnold Financial Management Services
Ashley Ball Financial Management Services
Larry Bizon Financial Management Services
Jessica Habbi Financial Management Services
Michelle Larzelere Financial Management Services
Diane McDaniel Financial Management Services
Leanne Mayes Financial Management Services
Garret Van Drunen Financial Management Services
Linda Yucha Financial Management Services

Board of Directors
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Max Elliott
Tim Hatfield
Ellen Hulverson
Patrick Kauffman
Julianne Lalik
Paul O’Meara
Kara Sprague, Esq.
Ann Wiedelman

Calendar

July
4 – Independence Day

August
9 – The Arc of Oakland County Board Meeting, Zoom, 7 PM

September
22 – Community Conversations with The Arc of Oakland County, Zoom, 6 PM

IN MEMORIAM
Phil Hunter

NEW STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS
Christie Kay joined our team in April as the new Director of Programs & Operations
Jessica Showers joined our team in May as a new Advocate
Serena Kulaga joined our team in June as the new Office Administrator

WELCOME!

Designer & Editor, PROFILES
Allison M. Murowany