The Arc™

Arapahoe & Douglas Counties

2012 Annual Report

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For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization. We are guided by our mission, which says:

> The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas uses advocacy and education to include all children and adults with disabilities and their families in their community.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas consists of 11 individuals. One board member also serves on the Board of Directors for The Arc Colorado. This year the board has focused their work on the New Home for The Arc. Over the past 50+ years our chapter offices have moved many times because of the volatility of rent costs in our area. With stable funding from Arc Thrift and a down commercial real estate market, our board decided to explore the possibility of buying an office building. We know that a stable location is important to our members and the people we serve. Board and staff have been busy researching locations, writing grants, and on November 30, 2012 we signed the paperwork to purchase 6538 South Racine Circle, Centennial CO 80111.

Board Members

Mike Bates
Susan Carr
Janis De Baca – V.P.
Scott Forlenza
Tom Francen – Secretary
Joe McCulloh
Dave Mittan – Treasurer
Lisa Noar
Anne Thomas
Pam Valvano
Tim Yoakum – President

Tom Francen, Tim Yoakum and Joe McCulloh

Staff

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas has 4 full-time staff members who focus on Children's Advocacy, Adult Advocacy, and Systems Advocacy. Our Office Manager and Community Outreach Coordinator are part-time. Due to the small number of staff, many volunteers support our mission through: fundraising, group leaders, participation on various taskforces and committees, office work and facilitating social activities.

Geographic Area

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas serves people with disabilities and their family members in Arapahoe and Douglas counties, excluding the City of Aurora (which is served by another chapter). The population in this area continues to grow. Best estimates based on incidence ratios indicate there are 6,728 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities living in Arapahoe County (excluding Aurora) and 6,787 in Douglas County.

Funding

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas receives funding through a variety of sources including Arc Thrift Stores, membership dues, contributions from individuals and businesses, fundraising activities, and grants for specific projects. This year we recognized donations in the following categories:

Diamond Partner
- Arc Thrift Stores
- Arapahoe County Community Developmental Block Grant
- Douglas County Community Development Block Grant

Gold Partner
- Bob Walker

Silver Partner
- Magic Moments
- Advanced Solutions
- Knights of Columbus

Bronze Partner
- Dave Mittan
- Marjie Shulsinger
- Liberty Gives Foundation – Ty Kearns
- Elsa McTavish
- Merck Partnership for Giving – Jeff Kounter
- Joe & Elizabeth Wuest

Contributing Partners

William & Stephany Austin
Pamela Bailey
Teresa Barnhart
Christine T. Bowman
R. S. Carr
Rebecca Carr
Susan Carr
Lola Chalfant
Marco Chayet
Betsy Choate
Combined Federal Campaign
Peter Cooper
Veronica Crowell
Janis De Baca
Gene Delhaie
Melina DePasse
Jim & Frances Delponte
Kathleen Digiulio
Daniel & Julie Dobler
Laura Dorricott
Robert & Louise Dudley
Gary & Susan Engel
Scott & Eileen Forlenza
Tom Francen
Allen & Lorraine French
Martin Frumkin
Giving First Community Foundation
Carolyn Gordon
Steven & Mary Gumm
Bruce & Laura Guthals
William Hall
Tom & Patty Harding
Jamie Head
Joseph & Helen Helmkamp
William & Emily Henry
Dianne Holscher
Franz & Karen Huber
Randell & Martha Huckaby
Jimmy Johnston
Walter & June Klaus
Kara Konecne
Debra Kovacs
Cg LaScala
Betty Lehman
Liberty Gives Foundation
Ralph & Nancy Martinez
Ron & Terra Marquette
Penny Maw
Lorraine May
Kathy McAdoo
John & Doris McGregor
Dianne McNamara
John & Carol Meredith
Mile Hi United Way
Barbara Mulqueen
J.L. & Terry O'Connell
Craig & Regina Olsen
Dirk & Janet Pasterkamp
Thomas & Laurie Phipps
Bill & Regina Richardson
Jim & Nancy Richardson
Laurie Ritchie
Lori Roach
William Robinson & Barbara Doerr
Greg * Jacqueline Rodriequez
John & Jane Roeske
Marijo Rymer
Camille Schiraldi
Leslie Secrist
Albert & Virginia Selke
Barbara Silbernagel
Michael and Carol Silvestain
Marla Smith
Kelly Stahlman
Else Stall
Cindy & Robert Stevens
Barbara Superka
Geralynn Surfas
Peter & Helen Swaving
Blake & Anne Thomas
Richard & Carol Thompson
John and Loretta Tripp
United Way
Alan Valenti
Pam Valvano
Matthew & Barbara Willitts
Michael Yavich
Tim & Bev Yoakum
Patricia Zartman

We did not receive any vehicle donations in 2012. This year we received a 31% increase in allocations from Arc Thrift stores. We are very grateful that our funding has increased so dramatically allowing us to better serve our constituents. In 2012, 71% of our revenue came from the Arc Thrift stores. Our chapter was awarded $225,000 in Community Developmental Block Grants from Arapahoe and Douglas counties to assist with the purchase of the new building.

An independent auditor reviews our finances every year. Our audit report for 2012 and 990 will be available for inspection in our offices and on our website by April 15, 2012.

In 2012 we raised a total of $861,574; our expenses were $465,616, which gave us a net income of $398,582. The Block Grant funding and some cash were applied to the purchase of the building to total $326,000, and we secured a mortgage of $487,500. The purchase price of the building was $775,000.

Systems Advocacy

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas works to ensure the rights of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities are protected and recognized through participation in and facilitation of many different activities. Opportunities for influencing appropriate supports for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities are many. Here is a partial list of the activities in which we participated in 2012:

- CANDO - Colorado Collaborative for Autism and Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Opportunities – this group is working to implement the strategic plan from the Colorado Autism Commission

- Community Living Advisory Group – appointments by the Governor included the Executive Director of our chapter. This committee is working to increase efficiency, reduce complexity, and "get the right services to people who need long-term care services when and where they need support. Staff and members also serve on the Waiver Simplification sub-committee of this group.

- The Family Support Council at Developmental Pathways – staff and members attend these meetings to advise the development of Family Support in our community.

- Parent to Parent of Colorado – staff serves on the Advisory Board of this statewide group that focuses on the organization of mutual support, inclusive community building, and constructive group action for parents who have sons or daughters with disabilities.

- Parents of Adults with Disabilities in Colorado – Staff and members collaborate with this active group of parents who provide mutual support to each other and work on systems change issues affecting adults.

- Disability Policy Collaborative, Washington D.C. – an opportunity to influence federal legislation and collaborate and learn from disability organizations nationwide.

- Colorado Consumer Health Initiative – we serve on the Public Policy group that looks at health care issues for all Coloradoans.

- Colorado Reform Roundtable – this group of organizations and individuals have come together to attempt to create policy to solve the state's fiscal crisis

- Statewide Charter School Special Education Advisory Committee

The Arcs working in Washington DC

Our chapter continued to influence federal policy to ensure that Medicaid, which funds most of the long-term services and supports for people with disabilities, is not cut at the federal level. Action alerts went out to our constituents and staff provided information to help congress understand the long-term support needs of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Medicaid Buy-In programs for adults and children with disabilities were both implemented in our state this year. This chapter was very involved in some legislative changes to the Children with Autism Waiver and the implementation of this law. There were several opportunities for our staff to participate in "Benefits Collaborative" at Health Care Policy and Financing. We provided input into the Pediatric Acuity Tool for Home Health, medical necessity, and monitored Consumer Directed Attendant Support and Community First Choice. The Colorado Executive Branch continued to implement changes to the way government functions to make it more "efficient, effective and elegant", staff was there representing our members at every opportunity. Our chapter participated on the Special Education committee of the School Finance

partnership in hopes of creating funding streams that can appropriately serve children with disabilities in public schools. State Medicaid has created "Regional Care Collaborative Organizations" which will attempt to coordinate care and reduce costs. The "Focus on the Future" taskforce continued to implement their strategic plan and staff from our chapter chaired the Behavioral Supports committee. Medicaid and the Department of Human Services continued to update many of their rules, so we spent a good deal of time reading and providing testimony based on our knowledge of the system.

The Community Centered Board in our area, Developmental Pathways, made significant changes at the management level. They also created a new service provider agency called Continuum. This created some issues in the service delivery system. Our chapter researched the issue in collaboration with The Arc of Aurora and hosted and participated in several community meetings to minimize the effects of these changes on services in our community.

Individual Advocacy

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas continues to offer assistance in accessing services for children and adults with disabilities who may be entitled to one or more of the following: educational services, residential services, vocational services, Social Security benefits, and other local, state and federal benefits. Our advocates assist families and individuals with disabilities to access these services through education and individual support. Advocates counsel by telephone, email, or in person, attend meetings with the family or individual, and review documents for accuracy and services appropriate to meet needs.

This year we were able to assist 125 children or adults with developmental disabilities and their families who were new to our organization. On average, our organization works with 94 individuals with disabilities and their family members per month.

Children's Advocacy

The need for advocacy for children continues to require a great deal of our time and attention. Advocacy is defined as: reviewing documents, attending school meetings, working with parents and students so that they understand the laws, assisting parents with accessing SSI, Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers and other services that their child might need. Many of these advocacy cases are on going and require support from our chapter for several months, or even years.

Again, this year we saw a trend in families seeking to understand how progress is being measured for their students with disabilities. Accountability measures continue to dominate educational settings for typical students, parents of students with special needs are looking for similar measures. Several school districts are now reporting through rubrics and more data-driven reporting on goals and objectives; however most families do not understand the reports. We are also hearing from parents who are interested in more inclusive educational opportunities for their students. We see good inclusion models in early elementary, but in middle and high school the opportunities for quality inclusive education are few in our area.

Kaia Telford entertaining at our Annual Meeting

The recession and ensuing budget cuts to education continue to challenge districts in our area. Many services have been harder to maintain, teachers, Para-professionals and related

services providers are being asked to provide services to higher numbers of students. Speech therapists, occupational therapists and others are hard to find and those that are working for the schools have very large case loads. We continue to share these concerns at public policy tables to try to increase capacity. We have supported the work of Great Education Colorado to bring sanity to financing for school districts, and have been monitoring the Lobato Supreme Court case

Colorado has been "number one" in out of pocket expenses for families who have children with special health care needs for many years. Mental health services are very difficult to access for children with intellectual/developmental disabilities and behavioral disorders. Try as we might to refer people to resources, sometimes they just are not available. If they are available, often times they are not affordable. We have such deep respect for the families we support who receive very little assistance from the community to parent their children with complex medical and behavioral disorders.

Adult Advocacy

Continued changes to the Supported Living Services waiver, the Elderly Blind and Disabled waiver and the HCBS-DD waiver have been challenging to keep up with, and difficult for individuals and families to understand. Unfortunately, the statewide developmental disabilities budget has continued to be extremely tight. In 2012, we spent endless hours working with adults who needed emergency placements. Even people with intellectual disabilities suffering mistreatment, abuse, neglect and exploitation were unable to access emergency resources. Staff from our chapter testified extensively at the legislature regarding these serious issues. Our adult advocates look for creative solutions to meet needs, but for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, lack of access to services can be devastating. Caregiver's ability to work and get some much-needed rest has been highly compromised. In general, we have never seen stress levels this high in our community. Reductions in service for some adults will increase isolation and mental health or behavioral challenges. Times are very tough. Our mantra at the office has been "hang in there". The Governor's budget request for 2013, if passed by the legislature, will provide some much needed relief.

Lee Ray – Adult Advocate with his wife Mary Stall

Case Management turnover continues to be high and a problem for adults with developmental disabilities in our communities.

High unemployment has been an area of concern for individuals with I/DD in Arapahoe and Douglas counties for a long time. The downturn in the economy has made a bad situation worse. A majority of people we provide advocacy for do not have meaningful employment and do not have any support in gaining it.

Sadly, many adults with developmental disabilities who are clearly eligible for services continue to wait for the supports they need to live rich, full lives in the community. Many we fear are not even getting basic health and safety needs met. The Waiting List is still a high priority issue for our chapter. As the percentage of people with disabilities living with aging caregivers continues to increase as the baby-boomers move toward retirement, we believe we will see a higher number of emergency placements needed to care for people in our community.

Activities

- Picnic – every year The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas sponsors a summer picnic at a local park where members can network, play and share a meal. This year over 65 people attended the picnic. Gene Delhaie, exceptional volunteer, provided activities for the kids.

- Peaceful Valley – Twenty adults with intellectual disabilities and friends enjoyed a mountain trip to Peaceful Valley Ranch and Lodge. They enjoyed 48 hours of fun filled activities during this weekend.

- To increase public awareness of our organization in the community, we did presentations at several resource fairs in the past year. We also provided presentations to: LEND Fellows at University of CO Health Sciences Center, El Grupo Vida Conference (in Spanish); Creating Capacity Consultants, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Red Rocks Community College, Parker Chamber of Commerce and the Autism Society of Colorado.

- For the sixth year in a row, the King Soopers at County Line and Holly made The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas the beneficiary for their giving tree over the holidays. This is a tremendous way of getting the community involved in supporting our 14 wards and families in our community during the holiday season. This year our community was extremely generous and for that we are thankful.

- Achieve with Us Colorado Film Festival – This event is a collaboration of all eleven Arc advocacy chapters, The Arc of Colorado and The Arc Thrift Stores. It is a film festival of movie shorts staring people with I/DD, about people with I/DD and some are filmed by people with disabilities. We had 450 attendees in the festival held in Denver and 150 attendees in the Grand Junction festival.

- Transportation – our chapter is participating in local interagency transportation councils in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

- Candidates Forum – The Arc of Arapahoe & Douglas and Developmental Pathways co-sponsored a forum at the Wildlife Experience so families and self-advocates could hear from candidates on our area about disability policy.

Educational Programs

Learning For Living – This is a series of information sessions for teenagers and young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities that focus on learning about relationships. The curriculum explores friendships, boyfriends/girlfriends, and community safety. We believe that this program provides a very important service to our community and look forward to continued growth in this area.

Mobilizing Families is a workshop that is now available on our website to assist families who have young children with disabilities to understand the educational system, state and federal resources, and learn how to be effective advocates for their children through building communication and negotiation skill sets.

Step Up Into Life After High School is a workshop conducted by this chapter every spring to assist parents and young adults with understanding resources and planning for life after high school. Through a grant from the Douglas County Commissioners, we are working on getting this workshop on our website.

Family Caregiver Workshop – this workshop was co-sponsored by Parent to Parent of Colorado and focused on the opportunities that this service delivery model can bring to families and self-advocates.

Guardianship

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is guardian for 14 people in our community that have no family or friends who are willing or able to serve in this important role. Lee Ray, our adult advocate, gave the eulogy for Jeffrey Mayhew at a memorial service for him in May. We were Jeff's guardian for many years. We have many resources available that provide information to families to learn about guardianship, Power of Attorney, and Conservatorship. Our organization also provides Power of Attorney services for adults with disabilities when their guardian lives out of state.

Information and Resources

Every day, we receive calls in our office from individuals and families looking for resources or information. All of our staff members are very knowledgeable about the existing systems that support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We connect families to supports and services that could be helpful. In 2012, our chapter supported 866 people with information and referral.

Education and Counseling

We also assist families with communication and advocacy strategies that can assist them in accessing various systems. These are usually extensive telephone and/or email conversations. This year we were able to support 619 people with education and counseling.

- Newsletters and Resources - Our quarterly newsletter is available by mail, email to our members and on our web page. This newsletter provides information about upcoming events, resources and policy changes. Our email based "Weekly Update" is very popular (640 people) and goes out to people who have expressed an interest for information that comes into our office about classes, resources, and a wide variety of activities that welcome people with disabilities and their families.

Grassroots Organizing

We believe that an informed educated parent is a great resource to our community, and along with our educational workshops, we keep people informed of legislative and public policy initiatives that affect the lives of people with disabilities through our E-Alerts, Facebook and Twitter.

Collaboration

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas works with many other organizations to reduce duplication of services and to increase supports to individuals affected by disabilities. Here is a partial list of the organizations that we collaborate with: Chapters of The Arc throughout CO, Family Voices, The Autism Society of Colorado, Mile-High Down Syndrome Association, Parent to Parent of Colorado, Developmental Pathways, Six School Districts, The Colorado Department of Education, The Legal Center, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, and PEAK Parent Center.

Members

Currently The Arc of Arapahoe & Douglas has 147 active members, a slight decrease over last year. There are 1,082 people who are on our mailing list and receive information from us throughout the year.

Volunteers

Finally, our volunteers are the greatest! Whether working on our Board of Directors, the Newsletter, office activities, or wrapping gifts for our Wards and some families. They are willing to give of their time and selves to make sure our organization runs smoothly. This year we have been able to document over 548 hours of volunteer time by 29 people. We really appreciate all of our volunteers for their commitment to The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas.

Right - Janis De Baca and Anne Thomas Board Members

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Meredith, Executive Director
December 31, 2012

Our Staff: Lee, Carol, Jeanette, Pam, Veronica and Cg

Achieve with us.