



The Arc[™]

Arapahoe & Douglas Counties

2014 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 driven by our mission, which states:

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 10 individuals. A board member represents our chapter on the Board of Directors for The Arc Colorado. This year the board has focused their work on prudent fiscal management and program development.

Board Members

Brad Ancell
Terri Barnhart
Janis DeBaca
Tom Francen - Secretary
Erin Jones, Treasurer
Joe McCulloh
Susan Mooney
Lisa Noar
Pam Valvano V.P.
Tim Yoakum - President



Staff

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas has 4 full-time staff members who focus on Children's Advocacy, Adult Advocacy, and Systems Advocacy. We increased staff this year with a full-time Education and Community Outreach Coordinator and Communications Coordinator. Our Office Manager works part-time. Due to the small number of staff, many volunteers support our mission through: participation on various taskforces and

committees, office work, building and grounds maintenance 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 The Arc of Aurora). The population in this area continues to grow. Best estimates based on incidence ratios indicate there are 5900 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in Arapahoe County (excluding Aurora) and 6860 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
- Anonymous

Gold Partner

- Thomas & Margaret Boyd

Silver Partner

- Colorado Knights of Columbus
- Knights of Columbus - Council 10937
- Knights of Columbus - Littleton
- Myron & Beatrice Kyser
- Elsa McTavish

Bronze Partner

- Thomas J. Doyle
- Caring Connection
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Merck Partnership for Giving
- Dirk & Janet Pasterkamp
- Blake & Anne Thomas

Contributing Partners

Dean & Emily Aarestad
Aaron & Sandra Abe
Brad & Holly Ancell
Carolyn & Tara Armstrong
William & Stephany Austin
Bill & Nancy Baesman
Pamela Bailey
Darlene Bandy
Barry Bandy
Phil Barenberg
Ben Barnhart
Teresa Barnhart
Timothy & Suzanne Batz
Wayne Becker
Ulla Berringer
Bethesda Lutheran Communities
Ed & Barbara Biegel
Risa Billingsley
Christophe & Barb Boodell
Christine T Bowman
Conor Buddeke
Robert Bush
Andrea Carlson
Susan Carr
Joseph Catalano
Lola Chalfant
Marco Chayet
Jack & Carol Clouse
Jennifer Coley
Terry & Patricia Colip
Shawneen Cooney
Peter Cooper
Douglass & Frances Covington
Hope & Richard Dangremond
Samuel Dangremond
Neal & Fran Davidson
Janis Debaca
Gene Delhaie
Jim & Frances Delponte
Kathleen DiGiulio
Lynda & Fred Drake
Robert Dudley
Chad Engel
Rose Fagan
Holly Fiscus
Scott & Eileen Forlenza
John Forrester
Kimberly Foster
Tom Francen
Dan & Marcia Francis
Veronica Fratta
Allen & Lorraine French
Martin & Jane Frumkin
John Glenn
John & Anita Gollan
Christine Gootee
Barb Gross

Steven & Mary Gumm
Bruce & Laura Guthals
Betty Hageman
Gary Hanes
Tom & Patty Harding
Jamie Head
Becky Henrekin
Stephanie Herdahl
HighPointe Services
Dianne Holscher
Franz & Karen Huber
Martha Huckaby
Jon & Ann Intravia
Gary Johnson
Lois Kinney
Betsey Kirkemo
Walter & June Klaus
Renee Klotzbach
Robert & Joyce Kruger
Kelie Kyser
Janet Ladd
Theodore & Susan Larson
Tristan Lawrence
Carl Lawson
Betty Lehman
Jeanine Lemajeur
Andrew Lewis
Pam Lomeo
Phillip Lomeo
Karen Lozow
Heather Luehrs
Doug Lytle
Nancy Lytle
Kathy McAdoo
William & Thadene Malone
Michele Manning
Ralph & Nancy Martinez
Penny Maw
Joe McCulloh
John & Doris McGregor
David & Renee McIver
Heather McNamara
Joseph McReynolds
Margaret Means
Louise & Mary Meis
Mile Hi United Way
Susan Mooney
Lisa Noar
Jenny O'Donovan
Ilse Oshel
Thomas & Laurie Phipps
Jerry & Ruth Plybon
Richard & Terri Powell
Lee Ray
Robert & Margaret Richardson
Francisco & Christine Rivera
Christine Robinson
William Robinson

John Roeske
 Forrest & Wendy Rosanova
 Donald & Margaret Roschewski
 Denice Rutherford
 Marijo Rymer
 Eddie Sabin
 R. J. & Elinor Sanderson
 Lisa Scheffel
 Mary Scheffel
 John Schoonover
 Stephen & Leslie Secrist
 Albert & Virginia Selke
 Cher Serhal
 Bret & Juanita Siegrist
 JR Sietsema
 Barbara Silbernagel
 Bruce & Kelly Stahlman
 Cindy Stevens
 Susanna Sontoni-Telford
 Andrea Suhaka
 Geralynn Surfas
 Kimberly Tenure
 The Arc of the United States
 Sherri Trudeau
 Ron & Carrie Van Bruwaene
 Mychal Vaughn
 Thomas & Caroline Venglar
 Antonio & Deanne Vizurraga
 Suzanne Vonspeigel
 Samantha Waggett
 Bob Walker
 Lara Waters
 Ralphe & Frances Wedgewood
 Barbra Winkler
 Joe & Liz Wuest
 Molly Wyckoff
 Mark Yoakum
 Tim & Bev Yoakum



Systems Advocacy

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas works to ensure the rights of individuals with I/DD are protected and recognized through participation in and facilitation of many different activities. There are many opportunities to influence appropriate supports for people with I/DD. Here is a partial list of activities we participated in during 2014:

- CANDO - Colorado Collaborative for Autism and Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Opportunities - this group is working to implement the strategic plan from the Colorado Autism Commission.
- Crisis Intervention and Prevention Project. In collaboration with JFK Partners, The Arc of CO, and many other organizations, we finalized the Gap Analysis Report and submitted it to the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado Legislature. The report thoroughly outlined the gaps in services for children and adults with I/DD and mental health conditions.
- Community Living Advisory Group - appointments by the Governor included the Executive Director of our chapter. This committee worked to increase efficiency and reduce complexity, in an effort to get the right services to people who need long-term care when and where they need support. Staff and members also serve on the Waiver Simplification, Regulatory Reform, and Quality sub-committees of this group. This group finalized their report this year and it can be found at:

This year we received an 11% increase in allocations from Arc Thrift stores. We are very grateful that our funding has increased, allowing us to better serve our constituents. In 2014, 95% of our revenue came from the Arc Thrift stores.

An independent auditor reviews our finances every year. Our audit report for 2014 and 990 will be available for inspection in our offices and on our website by April 15, 2015.

In 2014 we raised a total of \$889,661; our expenses were \$632,185, which gave us a net income of \$258,476. Our board has a 3 1/2 year plan to pay off the mortgage on the building allowing us to have a stable "Home for The Arc" and necessary funding to continue our important programs.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/community-living-advisory-group-report>

- Community First Choice Council - staff participates on this council to assist in the development of this initiative of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado.
- The Family Support Council at Developmental Pathways - staff and members attend these meetings to cultivate the development of family support in our community.
- 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 reviews health care issues for all Coloradans. We also sit on the Advisory Group for the Consumer Voices for Change.

- Transportation Interagency Councils in Arapahoe & Douglas counties-staff participates in both of these groups to represent the needs of people with I/DD as they relate to public transportation.
- MITT - Metro-Interagency Transition Team - staff serves on this committee to create the best possible outcomes for students transitioning out of high school.
- IN! Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education - our staff serves on this committee to support the effort to develop higher education for people with I/DD.
- Children's Disability Advisory Committee (Medicaid & Kids) - this collaborative works to solve systemic problems for children that access Medicaid and other services.
- Waiver Re-Design - staff serves on this workgroup to develop a single Medicaid waiver for adults with I/DD.
- Great Futures - our staff participates in this collaborative endeavor to address school funding issues in Colorado with a focus on Special Education funding.

- RTD Task Force - staff brings knowledge of accessibility to public transportation to this entity.

We continued work on the Pediatric Acuity Tool for Home Health, Personal Care Benefit Standard for Children and monitored Consumer Directed Attendant Support, Care Coordination and Intake and Eligibility committees. 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.

This year we focused on developing relationships with the mental health service system, as many of our advocacy cases require access to these services and supports.

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 142 children or adults with developmental disabilities and their families who were new to our organization (4 % increase). On average, our organization works with 52 children with disabilities and their family members per month and 98 adults 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 may need. Many of these advocacy cases are ongoing and require support from our chapter for several months- even years.

Again, this year we are seeing a trend with families who have multiple children with special education needs. High quality inclusive education in middle and high school continues to be difficult to find in our area. Although we have seen a lot of improvement over the years, adequate supports for students with challenging behaviors is still an issue that we work on with the 5 school districts in our catchment area.

As reported last year, the 2008 recession and ensuing budget cuts to education continue to challenge districts in our area. We are hearing that nurses are in short supply for medically fragile students, as are psychologists for students with mental health needs.

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 I/DD 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.

The Colorado Legislature was again able to fully fund the Children's Extensive Support Medicaid Waiver. Our Community Centered Board, (Developmental Pathways) had the highest waiting list for this waiver in the state, so getting that many children enrolled on the waiver in a timely manner has been challenging. We have been assisting families to understand this waiver and the supports that their child and family can now access.

Celebrating 30 Years at The Arc



Cg LaScala has been working on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties since 1984. She has a file drawer full of thank you notes from parents who appreciated her dedication to our mission and their children.

Adult Advocacy

After several years of very tight budgets due to the recession, the statewide developmental disabilities budget loosened up. Emergency resources were easier to access for people in great need. This allowed our staff and community to focus on person-centered approaches to service delivery. We look for activities, places, and people that "excite and delight" our clients. No one wants to spend all of their day with people or in places that don't meet their personal preferences. Some of the day is fine, but not all day every day.

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

We continued to see slow, but steady improvement in the number of people in our community working at least part-time. High unemployment has been an area of concern for individuals with I/DD in Arapahoe and Douglas counties for a long time.

The state legislature was able to provide resources to clear the waiting list for the Supported Living Service waiver in July 2014, so our chapter geared up to support individuals and families who could finally access services. Our Education and Community Outreach staff provided workshops on the waiver and the Supports Intensity Scale in hopes that this information may accelerate the enrollment process. Unfortunately, the pace of enrollment continues to be slower than we would like. 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 people in our community who will need more paid support as their natural supports age.

Activities



- Picnic - every year The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas sponsors a summer picnic where members can network, play and share a meal. This year over 100 people attended the picnic at our new building. Gene Delhaie, (an exceptional volunteer) provided activities for the kids. We played basketball, sang Karaoke, enjoyed the beautiful weather and reconnected with friends.
- Peaceful Valley - 13 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. This year the group discussed what activities and classes that they would like to attend at The Arc.

- In an effort to increase public awareness of our organization in the community, we gave presentations at several resource fairs during the course of the year.
- Candidate's Forum - In collaboration with Developmental Pathways and The Arc of Aurora, we sponsored an event at Cherry Creek High School prior to November's state legislative election. The purpose of the event was to provide voters in our area with knowledge of the local election and provide an opportunity for them to hear from candidates about issues that affect the disability community.
- For the eighth year in a row, the King Soopers at County Line and Holly made The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas the beneficiary of their giving tree over the holidays. This is a tremendous way of getting the community involved in supporting our 13 wards and families in our community during the holiday season. Again, 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 the 11 Arc advocacy chapters, The Arc of Colorado and The Arc Thrift Stores. It is a film festival of movie shorts starring people with I/DD, about people with I/DD and some are filmed by people with disabilities. Festivals were held in Denver and the Pikes Peak region.
- Winter Wonderland is a party to celebrate the season and a great year. Over 65 people attended. This year people could make a scarf to take home and put their dreams for the New Year on a ribbon that was attached to a fresh evergreen.

Educational Programs

Learning For Living - This is a series of informative sessions for teenagers and young adults with I/DD 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.

- Step Up Into Life After High School is a workshop conducted by this chapter to assist parents and young adults with understanding resources and planning for life after high school. 35-40 people attended with event. Through a grant from the Douglas County Commissioners, we are working on getting this workshop on our website.

“Absolutely fantastic- Please continue more of all of this. I loved it - so informational. I cried, I laughed, but most importantly I LEARNED! Thank you.”

Step Up Participant

this waiver. This workshop helped families and self-advocates understand how this important resource can support living in the community in adulthood. 112 individuals attended this workshop.

- Preparing for the Supports Intensity Scale - this workshop was all about understanding the SIS. We had heard that families needed information and given the resources for SLS, we knew a lot of families needed to know how this assessment worked and what it measures. 60 families attended this workshop.

“The panel was excellent. It was great to hear about other experiences. Lee Ray did very well and I appreciate his honest opinion. Thank you!!”

SIS Workshop Participant

- “How Do I Get There? - This workshop is a great hands-on learning experience for our self-advocates and families about using public transportation. 23 people attended.



- Family Leadership Training Institute - this year we hosted this award-winning, evidence-based parent training program that was developed in Connecticut. Although the training doesn't focus on disability, the curriculum was developed to create civic leaders. Understanding our government and how it works is critical for parents who have children with special needs. We are proud to announce that 17 community members graduated from the 20-week session this year and presented their community projects.
- Understanding and Preparing for the Supported Living Services Waiver - the Colorado legislature was able to appropriate significant resources this year to fund the waiting list for

- Get Active with The Arc - we know that obesity is a problem for many individuals with disabilities and learning about how to stay healthy is important for all. This was collaboration between our chapter and two medical schools in the area. Participants learned from the medical students, and the medical students learned from the participants.

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. 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 2014, our chapter supported 648 people with information and referral.

Education and Counseling

We also assist families with communication and advocacy strategies that can help them in accessing various systems. Our efforts include but are not limited to extensive telephone and/or email conversations. This year we were able to support 590 people with education and counseling.

Communication and Networking

- Newsletters - Our quarterly newsletter is available by mail and email to our members -archives are also available on our website. This newsletter provides information about resources and policy changes as well as inspirational stories.
- Weekly Update - is an email summary of events and resources. We share information that comes into our office about classes, resources, and a wide variety of activities that welcome people with disabilities and their families.
- Facebook - our page is starting to take off as we now have staff that can focus on social media communication.
- Blog - check out book reviews and other items of interest to our population.
- Twitter - we are establishing a following and learning to share information on this medium.

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, JFK Partners, Family Voices, The Autism Society of Colorado, Rocky Mountain 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 158 active members, a 6% increase over last year. There are over 1,000 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 759 hours of volunteer time by 47 people. We really appreciate all of our volunteers for their commitment to The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas.

In Memoriam

This year we said farewell to several members and dear friends of our organization. They will always be in our hearts.

Clarence Miller
Senator Ken Gordon
Mark Stahlman
Austin Ziel
Todd Armstrong
Mac and Doris McGregor

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Meredith, Executive Director
December 31, 2014

Achieve with us.