

# 2016 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 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 11 individuals. A board member also represents our chapter on the Board of Directors for The Arc

Board Members
Brad Ancell
Terri Barnhart - President
Janis DeBaca
Tom Francen - Secretary
Karen Huber - CO Rep
Erin Jones - Treasurer
Joe McCulloh
Lisa Noar - VP
Catherine O'Brien Crum
Pam Valvano
Tim Yoakum - Past President

of Colorado. This year the board focused on prudent fiscal management and program development.

## Affiliations

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is affiliated with The Arc of Colorado and The Arc of the United States. We are members of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative and the Colorado Non-Profit Association.

## Staff

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas has eight full-time staff members who focus on Children's Advocacy, Adult Advocacy, and Systems Advocacy. We increased staff this year to expand our individual advocacy for adults. 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). Best estimates based on incidence ratios (2.3% with an IQ of 70 or under) indicate there are 6,438 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in Arapahoe County (excluding Aurora) and 7,526 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
- **Silver Partner**  
Liberty Gives Foundation  
Ty Kearns  
Elsa McTavish  
Joe Wuest/Lockheed Martin
- **Bronze Partner**  
Merck Partnership for Giving  
Jeffrey Kounter

## Contributing Partners

Aarestad, Dean & Emily  
Abe, Aaron & Sandra  
Ability Specialists  
Accame, Guillermo & Jill  
Amazon Smiles  
Anzell, Brad & Holly  
Armstrong, Carolyn & Tara  
Austin, William & Stephany  
Ayres, Brad & Laura  
Baesman, Bill & Nancy  
Barenberg, Phil  
Barnhart, Ben  
Barnhart, Teresa  
Batz, Timothy & Suzanne  
Becker, Wayne  
Bertram, Joyce  
Best, Cherie  
Buddeke, Conor  
Buesch, Alyssa  
Carr, Susan  
Chalfant, Lola  
Clouse, Jack & Carol  
Coleman, Brad  
Collins, Tona M  
Cooney, Shawneen  
Cooper, Peter  
Cottonwood Community  
Covington, Douglass & Frances  
Dangremond, Hope or Richard  
DeBaca, Janis  
Delponte, Jim & Frances  
Despres, Patricia  
Dillon, Cynthia  
Duran, Judy  
Fiedler, Kirsi  
Field, Sheara  
Forrester, John  
Francen, Tom  
Francis, Dan & Marcia  
French, Allen & Lorraine  
Frohne, Gerri  
Frumkin, Martin & Jane

Gilbert, Steve & Cindy in honor of Karen Huber  
Glenn, John & Karen  
Gray, Karen  
Gross, Barb  
Gumm, Steven & Mary  
Guthals, Bruce & Laura  
Hageman, Betty  
Hageman, Kathy in honor of Nick Huber  
Hanes, Gary  
Harris, Maya  
Hayes, Ryan  
Head, Jamie  
HighPointe Services  
Holscher, Dianne  
Hunter, Charles & Dawn  
Jensen, Wesley  
Johnson, Gary  
Jones, Erin  
Jordan, Stephanie  
Kennedy, Peggy  
Kimble, Janet  
Kirkemo, Betsey  
Klaus, Walter & June  
Klotzbach, Renee  
Kreider, Elizabeth in honor of Karen Huber  
Kremers, Jacqueline - Memory of Frank Hefestay  
Kruger, Robert & Joyce  
Kulinski, Allyson  
Ladd, Janet  
Lanton, Steve and Bonnie  
Larson, Theodore & Susan  
Lasher, Heide  
Lawson, Carl  
Leichty, Margaret  
Lewis, Andrew  
Lundstrom, Michael & Leslie  
Lytle, Doug  
Malone, William & Thadene  
Manly, Carolyn in honor of Karen Huber  
Martinez, Ralph & Nancy  
Maw, Logan  
Maw, Penny  
Oshel, Ilse  
Pasterkamp, Dirk & Janet  
Phair, Kian  
Phipps, Thomas & Laurie

Plybon, Jerry or Ruth  
 Preston, Deanna  
 Pulido, Maria  
 Rangell, Alison  
 Rivero, Francisco & Christine  
 Robinson, Christine  
 Robinson, William & Doerr, Barbara  
 Rosanova, Forrest & Wendy  
 Roschewski, Donald & Margaret  
 Rymer, Marijo  
 Sabin, Eddie  
 Schoonover, John  
 Secrist, Stephen & Leslie  
 Sieber, Alicia  
 Silvestain, Michael & Carol  
 Special Olympics  
 Stahlman, Bruce & Kelly  
 Surfes, Geri in honor of Patrick Conklin  
 Surfes, Geri in honor of Karen Huber  
 Surfes, Geri in honor of Nick Huber  
 Sustainable Life Supports  
 Sutliff, Christopher & Mary  
 Telford, Kaia  
 Thomas, Blake & Anne  
 Trade Pay MHUW  
 Valenti, Alan & Mary  
 Valvano, Pam  
 Van Bruwaene, Ron & Carrie  
 Vaughan, Barbara  
 Vaughn, Mychal  
 Velazquez, Rafaelina  
 Waggett, Samantha  
 Walkabout Village  
 Walker, Bob  
 Watkins, Janna  
 Watkin, Justin  
 Wedgewood, Ralph & Frances  
 Wilburn, Harry  
 Williams, Heather  
 Wilson, Martha  
 Wuest, Joseph & Liz  
 Wyckoff, Ben  
 Yoakum, Mark  
 Yoakum, Tim & Bev  
 Zimmerman, Daniel

Two people donated through “Vehicles for Charity” and we received \$498.76 in car donations. We are also happy to report that this year we received a 6% increase in allocations from arc Thrift stores. We are very grateful that our funding has increased, allowing us to better serve our constituents. In 2016, 94.6% of our revenue came from the arc Thrift stores.

An independent auditor reviews our finances every year. Our audit report for 2016 and 990 will be available for inspection in our offices and on our website.



In 2016 we acquired a total of \$1,085,653; our expenses were \$805,595, which gave us a net income of \$280,058. Our board decided to pay off the mortgage on the building allowing us to have a stable “Home for The Arc” and free up funding to expand our important programs. Through a deliberative process, the board decided to invest a portion of our reserves in a conservative investment account to build an annuity for the future.



## 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 2016:

- **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 Colorado, and many other organizations, we monitored the implementation of the pilot project to ensure that Colorado

receives accurate information regarding the significant gaps in treatment for people with I/DD and co-occurring mental health conditions.

- **Community Living Advisory Group**  
This group finalized their report in 2014 and it can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/1T6V0XC>. Our staff continues to work on the implementation of this important work.
- **Community First Choice Council**  
Staff participates on this council to assist in the development 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.**  
This conference provides the opportunity to influence federal legislation as well as collaborate and learn from disability organizations nationwide.
- **Colorado Consumer Health Initiative**  
We are involved with the public policy group that reviews health care issues for all Coloradans.
- **Transportation Interagency Councils in Arapahoe & Douglas Counties**  
Staff participates in both groups to represent the needs of people with I/DD as they relate to public transportation.

- **Metro-Interagency Transition Team (MITT)**  
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 board to support the effort to develop higher education opportunities for people with I/DD in the State of Colorado. This program is now operational in three Colorado Universities.
- **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 Implementation Council**  
Staff serves on this workgroup to develop a single Medicaid waiver for adults with I/DD.
- **Colorado Respite Coalition**  
Staff serves on this board to enhance opportunities for respite in Colorado.
- **State Innovation Model**  
Staff serves as a consumer representative on the Statewide Advisory Council for this project. This is a grant funded program from the federal government to integrate behavioral and physical healthcare.

interventions because of behaviors that are out of the control of the parents due to their disabilities. We pressured the systems to fill this gap; however, this disparity still affects multiple systems: Health First CO (Colorado’s Medicaid program), Departments of Human Services, school districts, commercial insurance, hospitals and mental health systems. We will continue to work for a resolution to this pressing problem in our community.

Our staff is also carefully monitoring the implementation of Conflict Free Case Management and the Home and Community Based Settings rules.



In 2016 we noticed a trend in our community that a gap exists in the systems of care for children with I/DD who need access to intensive therapeutic

## Individual Advocacy

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas continues to aid 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.



## Children's Advocacy

The need for advocacy for children continues to require a great deal of our time and attention. Advocacy includes 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.

This year we noticed a trend with families asking for out-of-home placement for their child due to problematic behaviors that make the child a danger to self or others. 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 six school districts in our catchment area. This year we worked with more students who were in out-of-district placements.

As reported the last few years, the 2008 recession and ensuing budget cuts to education continue to challenge districts in our area. Psychiatrists for children are very hard to find and if the child only has Medicaid to pay, it is extremely difficult to find providers. For children with complex medical conditions, it is difficult to find consistent nursing staff in the home - especially overnight.

The Colorado Legislature fully funded the Children's Extensive Support Medicaid Waiver again this year. We have been helping families gain a better understanding of this waiver and the supports that their child and family can access. Since the department of Health Care Policy and Financing changed to EQ Health as the prior authorization request agency for this waiver, we have seen several children that no longer qualify for the waiver.

Behavioral services are now available under Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT). Staff at The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas has been working diligently to keep people informed and help the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing get these services operational under Medicaid.


## Adult Advocacy

This year resources were easier to access for adults with I/DD. The legislature allocated enough resources so that everyone who needed Supported Living Services (SLS) could get them.

Unfortunately, this put a huge burden on case management to get people through intake and eligibility and into services.

With the higher demand for services, the providers in our area also had to expand. Although “person-centered” approaches to planning and service delivery are now required for all long-term care, we still see people with disabilities trying to fit into programs rather than programs creating services to meet individualized needs.

Case Management turnover continues to be high and a problem for children and



*This year we assisted 111 children or adults with developmental disabilities and their families who were new to our organization. On average, our organization works with 108 people with disabilities and/or their family members per month.*

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 number of people with disabilities living with aging caregivers continues to increase as the baby-boomers move toward retirement. We are seeing a higher number of adults with I/DD in our community who need more paid support as their parents age.

## Activities

- **Annual Meeting** - Each year our board of directors holds a meeting to elect new board members, share this report, make the audited financials available and honor our volunteers. This year, we voted on the by-laws, talked about new programs and celebrated Lee Ray's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



- **Peaceful Valley** - 16 adults with intellectual disabilities and friends embarked on a mountain trip to Peaceful Valley Ranch and Lodge. They enjoyed 48 hours of fun-filled activities during this weekend. We are grateful to have several volunteers who have been supporting this trip for several years and really know the ropes.
- **Resource Fairs**- To increase public awareness of our organization in the



community, we gave presentations at several resource fairs during the year.

- **The Giving Tree-** For the tenth 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 an excellent way to get the community involved in supporting our 12 wards and families during the holiday season. The community was extremely generous and for that we are thankful.
- **Achieve with Us Colorado Film Festival** - This event is sponsored by The Arc of Colorado each March for Developmental Disability Awareness month. Achieve with Us is a film festival of movie shorts featuring and produced by people with I/DD.
- **Annual Picnic** - This year our picnic was held in July. Participants enjoyed hot dogs, face painting, conversation and community building. For a special treat, staff and board members were submerged in a dunk tank that was loads of fun for everyone.
- **Winter Wonderland** -Over 80 people attended our celebration of the season and end to a great year. This year people decorated gingerbread cookies, had their faces painted, and enjoyed hot cider and snacks.



- **Wings for All** - This program is coordinated by The Arc of Colorado, Denver International Airport (DIA) and United Airlines. Families throughout Colorado were provided the opportunity to practice air travel procedures and simulate a flight with airport staff.

## Educational Programs

**Learning for Living** - This is a series of informative sessions for teenagers and young adults with I/DD that focuses 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-** This workshop is conducted by our chapter to assist parents and young adults with understanding resources and planning for life after high school. This year, The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties partnered with Littleton Public Schools and Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee (DCSEAC) to conduct two separate six week long trainings (fall and

spring sessions) and reached approximately 67 families.

**Waiver Workshops-** Approximately 30 participants attended workshops to receive guidance on how to utilize the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers in Colorado.

**Caregiver Wellness Workshop** - Seven participants attended this collaboration with The Colorado Respite Coalition and Easter Seals to provide parents and adult caregivers the resources they need to manage the demands of their daily routine.

**Fun Fridays** - Self-advocates (ages 15-30) with I/DD were invited to join this social group formed in the name FUN. Participants were encouraged to hang out and enjoy yoga, cooking competitions, open mic nights, dancing, and more! This program provides an excellent opportunity for young adults with I/DD to explore their community in a safely monitored setting.

**The Two-Way Street Project** -This group of self-advocates gathered once a month to give back to their community and learn leadership skills. Notable activities in 2016 included: a presentation at Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and volunteering at Project C.U.R.E and S.A.M.E. Café.



**Get Active with The Arc** - We recognize that obesity is a problem for many individuals with disabilities and learning about how to stay healthy is important for all. Our goal with this workshop is to turn individuals with disabilities into self-advocates for their health!

## Guardianship

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is guardian for 11 people in our community who 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 2016, our chapter supported 575 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 supported 598 people with education and counseling.

## Communication and Networking

Over the past few years, we have taken an earnest approach in revising our communication and networking strategies. We consistently strive to improve methods to earn the trust of our community showing we understand them and aim to meet their needs. Many of the organizations that serve individuals with disabilities and their families are advancing their online presence.

For example, opportunities like the Housing Choice Section 8 Lottery, updates on ABLE accounts in Colorado, and employment opportunities are only available online. Accordingly, we work to keep up with trends by educating families on how to utilize both traditional and online media to stay in the know. Online mediums such as Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact and The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties' Blog have allowed us to share resources and information with individuals we may not otherwise reach.

## Grassroots Organizing

We believe that an 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, Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association, Parent to Parent of Colorado, Developmental Pathways, Six School Districts, The Colorado Department of Education, Disability Law Colorado, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, and PEAK Parent Center.

## Members

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas currently has 156 active members. There are 1029 people on our mailing list who receive information from us throughout the year.

## Volunteers



Finally, our volunteers are the greatest! Whether working on our Board of Directors, office activities, or wrapping gifts for our wards and 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 743 hours of volunteer time by 31 people. We really appreciate our volunteers for their commitment to The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas.

### **In Memoriam**

This year we said farewell to Dick Drake, Veronica Brennan and Jeanette Golovanof.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol Meredith, Executive Director  
December 31, 2016

*Achieve with us.*