

SUMMER 2024

# THE ARCHIVE



SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1964





# LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



It's been a very busy summer, but an exciting time to be a part of The Arc of the Ozarks! Our annual No Limits Summer Recreation program is already halfway through the summer as the fall months are quickly approaching. The new Kansas City Office location in Lee's Summit is close to completion, and we will be moving into the new facility in the next few weeks. Another recent addition to our services is the purchase of Infinity Academy, an autism school in Ozark that will be finalized by the end of July.

The Board and leadership team are also excited to announce our 60th Anniversary celebration that will be held in the Timothy Grant Newport Activity Center in Springfield on August 8, 2024. We invite everyone to join us from 10 am to 12 pm on that date to help us celebrate 60 years of supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in SW Missouri. You can read more information about this event in the newsletter.

Our leadership team continues to expand employment, day services, therapy, autism services, and community integration throughout our geographic service area to ensure that all individuals have opportunities to learn, grow, and become active participants in their communities.

Thanks for being a part of The Arc of the Ozarks and we hope all of you have a safe and enjoyable rest of the summer!

Mike

**THE Arc OF THE Ozarks**

## THE AUTO DETAIL Shop

**FULL DETAIL \$40**

**Monday - Thursday: 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**  
**Friday: 1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

Contact: Amanda Whited 417-324-7011  
awhited@thearcoftheozarks.org  
or Richard Lara - 417-427-2557

- A conference room may be available to reserve during time of your detail, must be reserved at time of booking the detail
- Closed for most traditional holidays. Call for availability
- Average time for detail is 1-2 hours per vehicle

**AM**

**DONUTS & COFFEE**

## A.M. DONUTS & COFFEE

*Your local ozarks food truck*

Established in 2021, the A.M. Donuts & Coffee Food Truck is staffed by people with disabilities who cook and serve delicious coffee and donuts to the community, made fresh daily from a special recipe.

**SERVICES OFFERED**  
We travel to various locations across the Ozarks each month to serve up fresh specialty donuts, hot drinks, cold drinks, and specialty coffee.

**OUR MISSION**  
To support individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives as valued members of the community.

417-874-1951 A.M. DONUTS & COFFEE  
 [AMDONUTSANDCOFFEE.COM](http://AMDONUTSANDCOFFEE.COM)  
 [AMDONUTSANDCOFFEE@THEARCOFTHEOZARKS.ORG](mailto:AMDONUTSANDCOFFEE@THEARCOFTHEOZARKS.ORG)





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LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?

# COME WORK FOR

**THE Arc OF THE Ozarks**

CHECK OUT OUR OPEN POSITIONS!

[HTTPS://THEARCOFTHEOZARKS.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/JOIN-OUR-TEAM/](https://thearcoftheoazarks.org/get-involved/join-our-team/)



## Congratulations Melonie!



*Melonie with her Program Supervisor, Sheri.*

Several months ago, Melonie expressed her desire to improve her reading skills to her team of staff in the Arc's Renovations program. Being a fan of the Harry Potter movies, she and her team set a goal to read the entire Harry Potter book series. Melonie diligently worked towards this goal, reaching the point where she could read aloud to her staff from one of the books.

To celebrate her remarkable achievement, her team decided to honor her in a

special way. Since Melonie had never attended a high school graduation, they threw a special graduation party just for her. Melonie celebrated this milestone with her staff and her grandfather. Adding to the joy, her program supervisor gifted her the entire Harry Potter book series, ensuring she has plenty of new reading material to continue her journey.

We are so proud of you, Melonie!

## Andy Rue

Andy Rue is a devoted self-advocate and participant in The Arc's SOAR program. His journey into self-advocacy began in the 8th grade at the Disability Legislative Rights Rally, and he returned in 2023. Andy is hopeful for the opportunity to return next year to engage with legislators again.

As a registered voter, Andy participates in presidential elections every four years, showing his commitment to civic duty. For the past three years, he has thrived in The Arc's SOAR program, where his favorite activity is hanging out with his friends, Conner and Brad. Andy also enjoyed the People Educating and Empowering People (PEEP's) program, where he learned about his rights and the importance of self-advocacy.

Andy is proactive in his job search and has been applying and interviewing for positions independently. A passionate sports fan, Andy cheers for the Mizzou Tigers, Kansas Jayhawks, and Oklahoma Sooners. He also loves tap dancing and takes classes to improve his skills. Andy recently won first place for his Lego creation which he called, "Dad's Special".

Andy Rue's journey with The Arc of the Ozarks highlights the power of supportive environments and self-advocacy, inspiring others to follow his lead and thrive.



*Andy with his first place Lego creation.*





*Rivendale student in the classroom.*

## Rivendale Spotlight

Rivendale Institute of Learning and Center for Autism is a year-round school and is dedicated to the growth and development of children with disabilities ages 7-21. In addition, the school provides applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy and early intervention services to children ages 2-6. The staff at Rivendale understands the unique social and educational needs of children with disabilities and offers each student the individual tools they need to enhance their natural gifts.

"We have the ability, time, and staff to focus our attention on exactly what each student's needs are. If it takes three hours to make a sandwich or learn how to, we are able to provide that space," said Mary Margreiter, Assistant Director of Rivendale.

A year ago, a new student was introduced to the program. This student struggled with focus and had an attention span of just a few seconds. She spent most of the day in a classroom with padded floors and walls due to her destructive behavior and self-inflicted injuries. In addition, she had little to no muscle tone and was unable to stand up or walk without holding an adult's hand. Now, the student is in a classroom with two other students, and the staff have developed a communication system for her to communicate her needs.

She is able to walk by herself and can run and play alongside her classmates. Her self-inflicted injuries have significantly decreased, and her attention span is consistently improving. This student's incredible

transformation is just one example of the many success stories at Rivendale.

Students that are referred to Rivendale through their home school initially need 1:1 support. As they progress, they transition from that 1:1 support to a classroom with 2-5 students with the goal of returning to their home school within 1-3 years.

Dr. Colleen Quinn, Director of Rivendale, recently had the opportunity to visit one student's home district. The student has been at Rivendale for many years and has met his goals to soon be back in his home district part-time. When asked about returning to his home district, the student told Dr. Quinn, "Rivendale has changed my life, but I'm ready for new challenges."



*No Limits campers on their way to a daily field trip.*

## **Empowering Adventures: No Limits Summer Camp**

The Arc of the Ozarks launched right into summer as our No Limits Summer Camp first session started at the beginning of June. Camp provides inclusive experiences through a wide variety of activities that are designed to promote the educational and recreational interests of all children and young adults who participate.

Our camp works with campers ages 6-21 on soft skills such as socialization, self-esteem, and independence. This year, the campers got to dive into their adventurous spirits through the theme of the great outdoors and camping. During the first session of camp, we had 45 happy campers, and 16 of these participants were new to The Arc.

Our campers got to experience numerous community integrated outings and activities to learn and play throughout the session. Activities for our summer camp include

swimming, arts and crafts, cooking, and daily field trips. Some of the field trips this session included Dickerson Park Zoo, Rutledge-Wilson Farms, Natural Science Museum, bowling and many other engaging activities.

At the end of the first session, a banquet was held for parents and guardians to see first-hand all the fun and exciting things their campers participated in throughout the session with a slideshow presentation. Session one of No Limits Summer Camp was filled with new and lasting friendships, fun, and countless special memories.

We want to welcome our second session group that started July 8th and are excited for the adventures you will be a part of throughout the session. The Arc extends a special thank you to our community partners at Abilities First for their continued funding support for our No Limits Summer Camp.





*The Arc Diagnostic team celebrating 100 evaluations.*



*The Arc Diagnostic team with Dr. Perkins's therapy dog.*

## The Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center is Off to the Races!

It has been an exciting few months at The Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center and Behavioral Health Services. We have completed over 100 assessments and have seen record numbers for therapy, counseling, and behavioral health services. "We knew there was a huge need in our community but have been amazed by the numbers seen every day at the clinic," said Dr. Kyle John, Medical Director.

The center will soon begin holding educational classes for children and their parents as they navigate through the

autism journey. "Classes are a great way for kids to get involved in their treatment and a good way for parents to network with each other," said Jamie McGranahan, Autism Resource Specialist. Jamie came to The Arc with experience in the arts and will begin teaching a movement class this summer.

The Arc of the Ozarks now offers Magnetic e-Resonance Therapy (MeRT), an innovative treatment combining repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS), along with quantitative

Electroencephalogram (qEEG) and Electrocardiogram (EKG). These allow providers to identify brain activity and create personalized neurostimulation plans for conditions such as autism, depression, TBI, anxiety disorders, OCD, and PTSD. While MeRT is FDA-approved for treating major depressive disorder (MDD) and OCD, its use for other conditions is currently considered "off-label" and is not yet approved.

Stay tuned for more new programs this fall!



## Charity Golf Tournament Success

Our 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefiting The Arc's Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center was a success. With support from our sponsors and participants, this tournament raised \$39,140 for the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center. The proceeds from this tournament help us provide evaluations to children in need, regardless of the family's ability to pay. This year's sponsors were Jack Henry, Marsh McLennan Agency, AECL, Q & Company, Mercy, SMC, Sumner One, Fishel Pools, KPM CPAS & Advisors, Thompson Sales, Crown Power and Equipment, Guardian Pharmacy, Pinnacle Sign, Freedom Bank, Vic Stuart State Farm, and Kiwanis Club of Downtown Springfield. We are thankful for their support!

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament on May 5, 2025.



*The Arc of the Ozarks thanks our supporters and participants.*



*Participant taking a swing.*

## Kansas City Facility Close to Opening

The new facility in Kansas City is slated to open this summer. Construction is on schedule and every day we are one step closer to our vision for a new location. "Every time I go into the new facility, I am in awe of what this will mean for those we serve. We will have more space for additional programs and services, as well as much needed office space," said Karen Kroenke, Director of Kansas City Division. The Lee's Summit facility is conveniently located near major highways and will be easily accessible to all in the area. Board member, Ford Galvin, recently toured the facility and was amazed by the potential for expanded services. Watch for more information about the grand opening.



*Ford Galvin touring the new Kansas City facility.*





*Q & Company golf team at the Charity Golf Tournament.*

## Q & Company

Q & Company has been partnering with The Arc of the Ozarks for over eight years. A construction company located in Springfield, Missouri, Q & Company's team holds a genuine appreciation for generating connections and solutions. This business philosophy intentionally works to create and cultivate strong relationships and has led Q & Company to success in the construction industry.

The company has assisted The Arc in the development of many of our buildings including Elfindale, Joplin, Pythian, and Nettleton. Currently, they are managing the construction project in Lees Summit slated to be completed this summer. "We at Q & Company have greatly valued our longstanding relationship with The Arc of The Ozarks, a partnership defined by mutual respect and shared goals. Your organization's dedication to its mission and

the exceptional quality of the people you serve have consistently made collaborations seamless and rewarding. We look forward to continuing our work together, building a brighter future for our community," said Darren Beck, Construction Manager.

"These guys have been the best to work with; their attention to detail and communication is outstanding. They always take time to understand the services we will provide in the building project. They have been incredibly supportive and work extremely hard to maintain the project budget," said Missy Young, Executive Administrative Assistant.

We are proud to have them as a partner as we grow together to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in the communities we serve.

*Lt. Bryan Welch**Dr. Luke Van Kirk**Matt Newport*

## New Members to the Board of Directors

The Arc of the Ozarks welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors in May and we are thrilled to have them. They bring years of experience and add value to our diverse board that is focused on fulfilling our mission to best serve individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential.

**Lt. Bryan Welch** comes to us from the Springfield Police Department. He has a heart and passion in serving the community with over 18 years of service in Springfield.

Throughout his law enforcement career, he has held multiple leadership roles. He is currently the Lieutenant of the Crimes Against Persons Section within the Criminal Investigations Division. This section completes follow-up on the most violent crimes that affect the lives in our community, and he works to ensure the successful prosecution of cases and provides the assistance to victims, along with their families.

Bryan was inspired to join The Arc board so that he could help strengthen the relationship between law

enforcement and those within The Arc of the Ozarks' organization.

Bryan states, "We can learn from each other through great communication, and I want to be a part of the building blocks of that interaction." It is his hope to help strengthen the confidence of the members in the Springfield community with disabilities and help them get assistance when they need it.

When asked what the best advice he would give a new board member, Bryan responded with "As a community, we need to come together for a great cause. Soak up the information that is given to you and inspire those around you. Use the information you gather to benefit those that need assistance."

Bryan continues, "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board of The Arc of the Ozarks, and I feel this organization will continue to grow within our community. Use resilience and adaptability to navigate challenges that we are faced with daily. These traits will help with the growth which will assist in the quality of life for those with disabilities. Lastly, we cannot do it alone, use teamwork to achieve greatness and promote trust within our community."

Bryan has the support of his wife and two daughters to keep him grounded in a tasking career. His daughters keep him busy driving them around playing sports and dance functions.



**Dr. Luke Van Kirk, MD**

founder/CEO of Command Family Medicine PC joins The Arc's Board of Directors with an interest in the development and growth around autism and neurodevelopmental services. As a medical practitioner, he brings years of experience and expertise with a patient centered focus.

He states he is impressed with our growth as an organization and cannot wait to see the impact the autism center will have on reducing wait time and bringing services closer to families in our community.

Command Family Medicine PC was recognized in Springfield Business Journal's 2024 Dynamic Dozen as one of the twelve fastest growing companies in Springfield. With two clinics in Springfield and one in Branson, he continues to expand services under the direct care model that offers alternatives to medical care for families. Luke pursued this model of primary care to ensure that he was able to provide his patients with the time and quality of care to meet their needs.

Luke would advise new board members to analyze opportunities to find the best place and fit for your strengths to find areas to serve that you can truly help and add value.

He and his wife have been married for 13 years. They have four children that keep them busy with homeschool, sports, and extracurricular activities. He enjoys spending his free time doing CrossFit or playing golf.

**Matt Newport's** inspiration for joining The Arc is part of a family legacy. Members of his family have been involved with providing individuals with disabilities and their families services for decades.

"For me, it is a meaningful way to give back to my community".

Matt's hope for those served by The Arc of the Ozarks is for individuals to become as independent and as productive as possible. He realizes that it is important for each person to have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a variety of areas. Those may include physical needs, life skills, mental health, recreation, academic, speech, language, and occupational skills.

Matt is the owner of Hail Corp dent repair and of Springfield Auto Pros serving the Springfield area. The highlight of his career is getting to meet people from all walks of life. He has met them in big cities, small towns, and rural areas

of our country. He has been privileged to see this county from "sea to shining sea", and from border to border.

His family is the best part of his life, he reports. He is a husband to Katie and father to three young girls. Their lives center around soccer games and practice, (he coaches whenever he can) softball, birthday parties, and extended family activities. They like to snow ski in the Rocky Mountains – once a year, if possible. Matt states, "being a dad is the best!"

Striving to keep up with a young family and a business doesn't leave much time to acquire "fun" qualities, but he does enjoy being responsible for the grilling at family get togethers. All of Matt's in-laws live within a few blocks of each other.

**Grants Received**

**Bass Pro Shops Explore the Ozarks Fund**

\$343 was awarded to support The Arc of the Ozarks Education and Recreation No Limits Summer Camp field trip to Wonders of Wildlife.

# THE Arc OF THE Ozarks 60 Years

Expanded services to Kansas City.

The Arc, Mercy, and Missouri State University initiated autism services collaboration efforts.

The Arc Board established the Tipsword Scholarship for the MSU Bear Power students.

The first annual "Wings for Autism/Wings for All".



## 2014

## 2015

## 2017

## 2018

The Arc celebrates 50 years of service.

Rivendale Institute of Learning and Center for Autism was established.

Expanded Employment Services for summer work experience to assist high school junior and seniors in attaining work skills.

# ENRICHING LIVES.



Join us on Thursday, August 8, 2024, as we celebrate 60 Years of enriching lives and building community. This come-and-go event will be held at the Timothy Grant Newport Activity Center from 10:00 – Noon with a program at 11:30. Light refreshments will be served. Our 60 year anniversary would not have been possible without the support of individuals, parents, board members, employees, and community partners throughout the years. Help us celebrate 60 years of supporting individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives and reaching their full potential.

- Acquired A.M. Coffee and Donuts food truck to be used as a pre-vocational opportunity for individuals seeking employment.
- Pilot Branson Autism Clinic with Mercy.

- Grand Opening of the Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center
- Expanded Behavioral Health Services.



**2019**

- Cornerstone Psychiatric Services began.
- Began collaboration with HEARO Technologies to create remote support opportunities for individuals.

**2021**

**2022**

- Acquired TheraCare Outpatient Therapy Services.
- Awarded \$5,000,000 grant to open a state-funded autism center.

**2024**

**BUILDING COMMUNITY.**

## 2024 Events

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Block Party



**July 26, 2024**

The Arc of the Ozarks partnered with empower: abilities to celebrate the anniversary of the ADA on Friday, July 26. This event was a huge success with wide community support with an estimate of over 300 attendees. Nearly 50 vendors participated in a street fair which included food, games, live entertainment, and community education. The city closed Nettleton to traffic from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. so that participants could mingle with vendors, gather resources, and more! The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and access to state and local government programs and services. It allows for more opportunities for independence, inclusion, and access for all. "It was truly a game changer for people with disabilities and we are thrilled to be a part of this celebration," said Angie Perryman, Family Advocate.

### Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament



**October 12, 2024**

Join us for a day of fishing at the 2024 Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament on Table Rock Lake. Registration includes lunch. Sign up today! Proceeds will benefit people with disabilities served by The Arc of the Ozarks and help pay for unmet personal and medical needs. If you previously registered for the April 28th event, you are automatically registered for this event.

Scan the QR code for details on registration or sponsorship opportunities:



## EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament-** Benefiting clients' unmet medical and personal needs.
- **Charity Golf Tournament-** Benefiting the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.
- **Christmas Extravaganza-** Benefiting children's autism services.

## Event Sponsorship and Registration Contact

*Michele Fields, Senior Development Specialist*

*mifields@thearcoftheozarks.org or (417) 874-1955*



## Legislative Corner



*Senator Schmitt touring the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center with The Arc leadership team.*

Governor Parson signed the state budget on June 28th, finalizing the Fiscal Year 2025 spending plan. He approved a provider rate increase for DD providers to a \$17/hour minimum wage to ensure that providers like The Arc of the Ozarks can remain a competitive employer. This allows us to attract, hire, and retain the Direct Support Professionals necessary to serve our clients and support them to live and thrive in our community. We would like to thank Governor Parson for his continued support for Missourians with disabilities.

In May, Senator Schmitt stopped by the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center for a tour and visit. We appreciate him spending an afternoon with us sharing the progress and vision for children and families affected by autism and his continued advocacy for the disability community with legislation like the ABE Act, which passed in 2014. The ABE Act benefits many individuals served by The Arc. Recently, he introduced a bill, The Think Differently Act that would be a valuable resource for Missouri.

The Think Differently Database Act directs the Secretary of HHS to create a website that includes:

- Federal and State resources are available for those with intellectual disabilities
- Resources that connect individuals, families, and caregivers with healthcare, mental health, and other community-based services within state Medicaid programs.
- A zip code feature that helps individuals locate resources in their community.

“Those with disabilities deserve the best care possible, and many families of those with an intellectual disability are not aware of the resources that are available to them. My son, Stephen, has disabilities and was my driving force for running for public office in the first place. A website like this would vastly benefit so many. I am proud to sponsor this bill alongside Senator Ossoff,” said Senator Eric Schmitt.



# CONTACT

## The Arc

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[thearcoftheozarks.org](http://thearcoftheozarks.org)

## Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center

2864 S. Nettleton Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65807  
417-605-7100

### Behavioral Health Services

3023 S. Fort Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65807  
417-605-7100

\* Satellite centers available in  
Joplin and Branson.

[autismcenteroftheozarks.org](http://autismcenteroftheozarks.org)



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