

SPRING 2024

THE ARCHIVE



SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1964



LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Spring is here and it's an exciting time to be a part of The Arc of the Ozarks. The Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center officially opened its doors in January. The center is located at 2864 S. Nettleton Avenue in Springfield. You can visit the autism center's new website at autismcenteroftheozarks.org. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on February 9th.

The Board and Leadership Team are also excited about the new facility in Lee's Summit that will soon be the new office and programs location for our services in the Kansas City area. Renovation and infill work should begin sometime in April with an anticipated move-in date later this summer. The facility will allow for growth and service expansion in the Kansas City Division.

Our leadership team continues to expand employment, recreation, 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.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will read about the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center grand opening celebration, employee appreciation night, Kansas City expansion, board member spotlight, and information about our upcoming fishing and golf tournaments.

Thanks for being a part of The Arc of the Ozarks, and we encourage all of you to find ways to become involved!

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 Whitel 417-324-7011
 awhitel@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.

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BOOK THE TRUCK



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LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?
 CHECK OUT OUR OPEN POSITIONS!

COME WORK FOR

THE Arc OF THE Ozarks

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



Mataya standing proudly in her home.

Mataya

Mataya has been known around The Arc of the Ozarks for well over a decade. She is part of the Renovations program, within community living. When she was first admitted to one of The Arc's group homes, Mataya would display frequent crisis behaviors that came from past trauma.

During Mataya's first several years with The Arc, her team worked along side her to help her process her past traumas and learn safer ways to express her emotions. The

staff also supported her as she learned how to interact safely with her peers and community members.

With all this hard work, Mataya was able to complete her high school education and transition into a less structured individualized living environment at The Arc. Mataya has done an amazing job processing her past and choosing to focus on her future. She has set goals for herself that she never dreamed possible. Mataya has accomplished

many achievements and recently got hired for her very first job!

Jen Weldon, Director of Renovations, said "We could not be prouder of the progress Mataya has made and all the hard work she has put into achieving the future she has envisioned for herself." The Arc wishes Mataya the best of luck in her new position.



Morgan perfecting her golf swing.



Morgan and staff Reece showing their paintings.

Morgan

Morgan has been involved with The Arc of the Ozarks through numerous avenues over the years. She was enrolled in The Arc's Rivendale Institute of Learning and Center of Autism where she graduated in May 2022. Morgan followed this achievement by moving into Counterpoint, one of The Arc's community living programs.

However, with change often comes challenges, which Morgan faced a few while integrating into the community. Soon, these challenges started affecting her home life causing her to

not want to participate in her daily tasks and activities. At this point, her staff decided a plan was needed to help Morgan change her course. Counterpoint staff at The Arc of the Ozarks worked with Morgan to support her in achieving her goals and assisting her with other challenges. The Arc is happy to report that over time, Morgan's plan was successful!

Morgan is now getting out into the community daily and loves to attend social events with her friends. She often requests to play golf and "hoops." With lots

of hard work, Morgan also graduated from occupational therapy and applied behavior analysis.

Melissa, Counterpoint Program Supervisor, said "We have worked extremely hard to improve her quality of life over the past two years, and her consistent growth and smiles are proof we are moving in the right direction." Way to go Morgan!

Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Arc of the Ozarks Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center celebrated its new facility with a ribbon cutting on February 6, marking a significant advancement in autism care. The initiative, supported by a substantial \$5 million grant, is set to impact over 40,000 children in the coming decade. Missouri's First Lady, Teresa Parson, underscored the importance of this center by attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony, highlighting the community and statewide support for the project.

The center serves children and families through evaluations, behavioral analysis, psychological/psychiatric services, and speech, occupational, physical and specialty therapy services.

"We are so excited to bring these **multidisciplinary evaluations** to the community and this facility will be a game changer for individuals with autism and other

neurodevelopmental issues." said Dr. Kyle John, Medical Director.

The center is a collaboration between The Arc of the Ozarks, Mercy Hospital, and Missouri State University. Support from local organizations and government, legislative representatives, the Missouri Department of Mental Health, and the Governor's Office is crucial for ensuring the success of the center.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made a \$46,000 donation on behalf of Teresa Parson's nonprofit, the Moving Missouri Forward Foundation, which funded exam chairs and cabinets for two exam rooms as well as equipment for the occupational therapy/physical therapy gymnasium.

April is Autism Awareness Month!
Join us in showing support and acceptance.

What is a Multidisciplinary Evaluation?

Utilizing a multidisciplinary team is best practice when conducting autism evaluations. Our team consists of psychology, psychiatry, social work, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and applied behavioral analysis to work together to clarify diagnosis and develop an individualized plan for implanting appropriate support. Team members involved in your evaluation will be based on your unique needs. Our family advocate and diagnostic coordinator assist in providing families with community-based resources and support during and after the evaluation process.

To learn more, visit autismcenteroftheozarks.org or scan the QR code.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



First Lady Teresa Parson next to plaque made in her honor from The Church of Latter-day Saints.



Therapist and patient utilizing the track system at the new center.



President/CEO, Mike Powers, addresses the crowd at the ceremony.

Employee Spotlight

Jamie McGranahan recently joined The Arc of the Ozarks as an Autism Resource Specialist. Jamie comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience working in human services, specifically supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Her passion is a “family affair” with all four members of her family serving to support inclusion in the community. Her son, Connor, drives her motivation to make positive change for those with disabilities.

She is responsible for providing information on resources, support, and advocacy to individuals referred to the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.



Jamie working with a family at the center.

Autism Information Blast

The Arc of the Ozarks held its annual Autism Blast at the Battlefield Mall on April 6. Participants visited with representatives from various organizations providing services to individuals with autism in our community. The event is planned each year in conjunction with Autism Awareness Month.

“It is a pleasure to see all the resources available in our community and to share the message of inclusion. It was a huge success, and we are looking forward to the event next year,” said Angie Perryman, Family Advocate.



The Arc of the Ozarks employees handing out resources at The Arc booth.



Volunteers, Alecia and Annette, passing out information about the blast.

Celebrating a Win for the Chiefs & The Arc!



The new building acquired in Lee's Summit.

Both the Kansas City Chiefs and The Arc of the Ozarks celebrated big wins this winter! While the Chiefs players may get a ring, The Arc is relocating and expanding services.

“We are excited about the new plans to come to Kansas City in 2024. Our new location in Lee’s Summit will allow us to offer new and improved programming,” said Karen Kroenke, Kansas City Director.

We will be developing a new community-based Day Program that will provide

more opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the Kansas City area. We also have plans to start supported employment and therapy services. Psychiatric Services will be expanded to meet the growing needs of the Kansas City area. Finally, we will be increasing the number of Individualized Supported Living homes. We are currently serving 51 individuals and are excited we can grow that number this year.

So, keep an eye on us as we head for that game-winning touchdown!

Jon’s Passion for Kansas City

Jon, a Kansas City Chiefs enthusiast, reached the hearts of over 83,000 Facebook users with his outstanding rendition of “Red Kingdom”. Through the power of social media, Jon’s infectious spirit has touched the hearts of countless fans, further solidifying his place as a true member of the Chiefs community. John Wood, Program Supervisor, said, “Jon has a true passion for football and especially the Chiefs!”



Jon proudly wears his KC Chiefs gear.

Jon’s love for the Chiefs and football started at an early age, as his father is a football coach. When asked about his passion for the Kansas City Chiefs, Jon said, “Born a Chief! Die a Chief! Chiefs Kingdom!”



Jon showing his enthusiasm for his team.

FOREVER REMEMBERED

Kenton Gann

Kenton Gann had been a part of The Arc of the Ozarks family for the past ten years. Sadly, he passed away in early January of this year. Jen Weldon, Director of Renovations, said, "Although Kenton was a man who valued his solitude, he always had a team of people who had spent the last decade ensuring he felt safe and loved." Kenton kept busy with his love for music. Curtis, who worked closely with Kenton, shared that "he loved 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's music and the good people at Vintage Stock kept him in a ready supply."

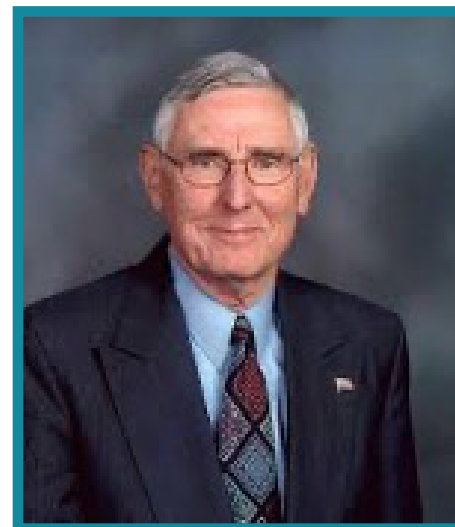
His neighbors will miss seeing him sit on his porch, as he enjoyed watching and listening to all the sights and sounds in the neighborhood. Many of his staff also remember Kenton's love of traditional pecan pie for every holiday. He knew how to value the small things in life, and all his staff at The Arc will miss him dearly.

Ken Horn

It is with great sadness that we remember Ken Horn, a man who was devoted to his family and the community. Ken passed on December 11, 2023, at the age of 93. We were honored to have Ken serve on The Arc of the Ozarks Board of Directors from 1990-2017. He served the board in various roles including, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Committee Chair. He was instrumental in assisting us with writing and implementing policies, procedures, and bylaws for the organization. Ken was a longtime advocate and supporter of our mission. He will be greatly missed.



Kenton Gann



Ken Horn

New Member of the Board of Directors

On January 29th, Ford Galvin was introduced as the newest member of the Board and are thrilled to have him join The Arc team. He brings years of professional and personal experience that will add strength and value to furthering the mission of The Arc of the Ozarks – to support individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives as valued members of the community.

Ford says his sister, Elizabeth, receives services from The Arc of St. Louis, which inspired him to get involved at a similar organization. After moving to Kansas City, he began researching what services and organizations were available. That led him to the Kansas City Division of The Arc of the Ozarks. After a few meetings, he said he was all in.

With a heart and a passion to support individuals with disabilities to live their best lives, he is ready to help. His hope for our Kansas City service area is to continue to grow and provide more services in Kansas City. Ford states, "The KC Metro is large and there are many families and individuals that need more assistance."

Ford has a daughter, Ellie (9) and a son, Ford (4). His wife, Kristin, and he met while she was playing soccer for KU. They have lived in five

different states: Kansas, Texas, Missouri, California, and Colorado. He also lived in Illinois and Tennessee.

In his role as Vice President of Data Strategy and Analytics at the KC Current, Ford demonstrates the ability to challenge the status quo and evaluate growth opportunities. Since graduating from the University of Kansas with his Bachelor of Science and master's degrees in Sports Administration, Ford has held several strategic leadership positions within the sport and entertainment industry.

When we asked him for a fun fact about himself, he said that he carries his sister, Elizabeth, with him wherever he goes. When they were young and were fighting over an etch-a-sketch, she won and promptly wacked him in the face. She split his eyebrow, and the cut was never stitched.

We asked Ford what advice he would give to a new Board member. He said, "remember to be patient and learn. Understand the speed of the



Ford Galvin

business so that you know when it is the right time to help make a change." "I am honored to join The Arc of the Ozarks as a Board member representing their Kansas City Division. Together we will work towards growth in Kansas City, fostering inclusivity, advocating for equal opportunities, and enhancing the quality of life for those we serve. I am excited to contribute my skills and passion to this meaningful cause and organization," said Ford.



Marsh McLennan Agency Team.

Marsh McLennan Agency

Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA) St. Louis has been a partner with The Arc since 2014. "We truly appreciate our partnership with The Arc," says Laura Callahan, Marsh McLennan Agency Vice President and Account Executive for The Arc of the Ozarks. "We have true bonds and have formed many friendships over the years we have been working with The Arc team. We feel we offer good advice as it relates to the insurance needs of the organization and have the tools and knowledge to continue our partnership for years to come. We appreciate what The Arc does for the community more than anything."

MMA St. Louis has a large non-profit book of business, and they like to align with organizations doing good for the communities they live in, as well as the surrounding areas. They are committed to making a difference in the

lives of others. They feel their mission matches The Arc of the Ozarks as they carry out their daily work with passion, care, and by touching lives.

When asked if there is a program or service The Arc offers that resonates more than another, their response was that all the programs are important and so meaningful for the individuals served. They report that seeing how the staff have true connections with the clients they serve is very heartwarming.

"The Arc delivers on their mission each and every day. It's proven by the number of huge areas they serve and the number of people they help. From therapy services to education services and everything in between. The Arc delivers," says Laura.

MMA reports that one of their favorite Arc events is the Christmas Extravaganza.

They attended the event in person in December 2023 and remember it to be a purposeful, entertaining, and elegant fundraiser that spoke to The Arc's purpose, how we have evolved and how we continue to grow to support the needs of the community. They are looking forward to the 2024 event. We asked what they would like to see The Arc do more of, and they said continue our vision of serving and helping others thrive in life.

We are truly grateful for the continued support, generosity, and compassion of MMA to help us fulfill our mission and serve our clients with disabilities to live their best lives.



The Arc of the Ozarks was established in 1964 by a group of parents around a kitchen table with a vision to connect their children to the community and create ways for them to be included like other children.

Throughout the years, The Arc has continued to be a leader in service delivery for individuals with disabilities. Our mission and vision are to support individuals with disabilities in leading self-directed lives as members of our community.

Since our 50th anniversary, we've continued to listen to the needs of the disability community and have expanded our reach to serve more children and families with disabilities. These accomplishments wouldn't be possible without the support of our Board of Directors, donors, grantors, community partners, friends, and dedicated team members. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date to Celebrate the Arc's 60th Anniversary!
August 8th
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
The Arc of the Ozarks
Pythian location gym

2014

- The Arc celebrates 50 years of service.
- Rivendale Institute of Learning and Center for Autism was established.

2015

- Expanded services to Kansas City area.
- The Arc, Mercy, and Missouri State University initiated autism services collaboration efforts.

2017

- The Arc expanded Employment Services for summer work experience to assist high school junior and seniors in attaining work skills.

2018

- The Arc Board establishes the Tipword Scholarship for the MSU Bear POWER students.

2019

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

2021

- Acquired AM Coffee and Donuts food truck for pre-vocational employment support.
- Pilot Branson Autism Clinic with Mercy.

2022

- Acquired TheraCare Outpatient Therapy Services.
- Awarded \$800,000 Federal grant, for Branson Autism Clinic.
- Awarded \$5,000,000 grant to open a state funded autism center.

2023

- Expanded Behavioral Health Services.

2024

- Grand Opening of the Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center.



Executive and Senior Staff cheering on fellow employees receiving service awards.



The Arc's one and only, Elvis Presley.

1964

Employee Appreciation Night

The Arc of the Ozarks' staff hopped in the time machine as we traveled all the way back to 1964 for Employee Appreciation Night. Employees showed up to this groovy party dressed to the nines in their best 60's attire. This employee appreciation night was extra special because it kicked off the year-long celebration of The Arc of the Ozarks' 60th Anniversary.

The night was filled with lots of laughs, a history lesson from leadership, employee awards, and ended with attendees cutting a rug on the dance floor. It was such an outta sight night that even Elvis, also known as President/CEO Mike Powers, had to make an appearance. Just like Elvis, Mr. Powers has "Burning Love" and appreciation for all The Arc's employees. A lot might have changed

for The Arc from 1964 to now, but the dedication that our employees have always shown to our mission never will. The Arc's Kansas City Division also hosted an appreciation night for employees on March 21.

We had quite the award ceremony giving away 309 one year, 79 five year, 28 ten year, 5 fifteen year and three twenty year awards. Terezia Ahart, Renovations, won the Rock the Referral award for referring the most people to work for The Arc over the last year. Great job!

There were also four Employee of the Year honorees: Stacey Warren (Springfield), Yolanda Martinez (Monett), Dave Bennett (Kansas City), and Derrick Mathers (Joplin). These four employees were recognized by supervisors,

co-workers, and many others as employees who have gone above and beyond. Congratulations to all the honorees and thank you for all your hard work!

The Legacy Award is given to administrative or management staff and represents the long legacy of dedicated Arc employees. This award is based on the character of the employee. Advocacy, kindness, integrity, dedication, and nurturing potential were all among the prioritized characteristics. This year was a special year because the award went to two employees, Liz Dressler, Assistant Director of Education and Recreation, and Miles Furlong, Lead Behavioral Consultant. Thank you both for your dedication and being a shining example of great character.

2024 Upcoming Events

Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament



April 28, 2024

Join us for a day of fishing at the 2024 Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament on Table Rock Lake, Sunday, April 28. Entry Fee is \$180/boat (2 people per boat) and includes lunch and a chance to win a Big Bass Payout! Proceeds benefit people with disabilities and help pay for personal and unmet needs for people served by The Arc of the Ozarks Residential programs. Sponsorship opportunities are still available!

Register today by scanning the QR code:



Charity Golf Tournament



May 20, 2024

Tee Up for Autism! Join us on Monday, May 20, at Rivercut Golf Course for the Charity Golf Tournament to raise funds for The Arc of the Ozarks Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center. The center provides access to diagnostic and treatment therapies for individuals on the autism spectrum and other neurodevelopmental conditions in southwest Missouri. Sponsorship opportunities are still available!

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

Disability Rights Legislative Day 2024

On Wednesday, March 13th, hundreds of Missourians with disabilities and other advocates arrived at the Missouri state capitol in Jefferson City for the Disability Rights Legislative Day Rally.

We were excited to bring 50 of our clients and their staff to be a part of this momentous day and represent The Arc of the Ozarks. This day is all about people with disabilities coming together to talk to their legislators about issues they face every day in their own lives and advocate for change. Challenges that were being discussed by individuals with disabilities were: affordable transportation, employment, affordable housing, and support for their direct support staff or their providers.

Before the rally started, there were opportunities

to meet with the legislator from their district. There were also exhibits and tables from businesses who work with the disability community throughout the state. At these exhibits and tables, attendees collected valuable information and learned about different programs available to them.

The rally began with the powerful chant of hundreds of people yelling “We Are Here,” the theme of this year’s rally. Representative Melanie Stinnett, The Arc of the Ozarks Vice President of Therapy Services, kicked off the rally with a short speech about her incredibly important pieces of legislation, “Employment First” and “Ticket to Work.”

The rally also included speeches from other legislators and self-advocates who told their stories. This day is an important piece to advocacy as it is a chance

for everyone to get their voices heard and to have an impact on legislation. One of The Arc’s clients in community living had the opportunity to attend this year and said, “It is important so people know their rights and know that they can work just like anyone else and have the right to vote.”

Marcus, a Family Advocate at The Arc, believes that Disability Rights Legislative Day is an “opportunity to encourage civic engagement from a population whose voice is often overshadowed.”

Marcus continued, “Missouri is lucky to have several representatives who work to understand the needs of the intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) community. Our best hope is that, through participation, our program participants will find their own voice and cultivate their own path to civic engagement.”



Clients and staff from The Arc in attendance at DRLD.

Leadership Corner

Dr. Kyle John, Medical Director, is being recognized by Abilities First for his passion for inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. He will be honored at a dinner on Friday, April 12, 2024 at Hickory Hills Country Club. Silver Strands Celebration honors citizens who have made a positive impact on our community for people with developmental disabilities. Proceeds from Silver Strands Celebration benefit Friends of Abilities First, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists with the needs and expenses incurred by people with developmental disabilities in our community. It is an honor to have Dr. John on The Arc team!



Tim Dygon, The Arc’s Executive Vice President, was chosen to be one of SBJ’s 2024 Men of the Year honorees. This award recognizes the professional, philanthropic, and personal contributions of men in the Springfield area. Tim’s vision and leadership has played a key role in the growth and expansion of access to needed services The Arc provides. We are extremely proud of Tim and can’t think of anyone more deserving of this award than him.



Grants Received

WAWOS (We’re All Working On Something): \$2,500 was awarded to support The Arc of the Ozarks Education & Recreational Program which offers a variety of activities for all ages and ability levels. WAWOS Wishes supports nonprofit organizations around the country that are making adventures available for kids with physical differences.

Shirley M. McCudden Fund: \$453 was awarded to support the Crowhaven Activity Fund. This fund is used to help the individuals at Crowhaven engage in activities in the community that they choose and would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in. These activities include Silver Dollar City and White-Water season passes, as well as a trip to the St. Louis Zoo, the Science Center and City Museum.

Higginbotham Insurance: \$1,000 was awarded to support individuals in The Arc’s residential programs with personal and unmet needs to enhance the quality of their lives. This grant is funded by Higginbotham Insurance employees who choose to give back to their local community. We appreciate our community partners that support our mission.

Greene County Senior Citizen’s Fund: \$15,000 was awarded to senior citizens in Residential Services at The Arc. These funds will support unmet and unfunded needs.

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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.



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