

Annual Report

2024



Letter from the President/CEO

Dear Supporters,

What a great year 2024 has been! Exciting and tremendous growth as we continue to expand our services to meet the needs of individuals and families throughout Missouri. Here are some of the highlights we can celebrate as we look back on this past year:

- The grand opening of The Arc Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center in January.
- Purchase of Infinity Academy in the spring to add to our autism services for children.
- Economic Impact Award recognition by the Springfield Business Journal during the summer.
- 60th Anniversary celebration of The Arc of the Ozarks this past fall.
- Kansas City Ribbon Cutting event for our new office location in Lee's Summit in October.

We are excited about what's in store for 2025 and beyond! Thanks to all our families, staff, board members, and community partners for their encouragement and support. I encourage all of you to get involved. Working together we can make a difference as we strive to fulfill our mission of supporting individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives as valued members of the community.



Michael H. Powers

President/CEO



History, Mission, & Vision

In 1959, a small group of parents recognized the need for services for their children with developmental disabilities. A support network was built for these children and their families resulting in the 1964 establishment of The Arc of the Ozarks.

Today, The Arc serves individuals with a variety of disabilities. Services include community living, employment, recreational, community support, educational, family advocacy, autism, clinical and therapeutic services.



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

To be a leader in service delivery for persons with disabilities by providing an array of supports and services to integrate them into their communities and to enhance the quality of their lives.



OUR SERVICES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Community Living
Employment Services
Recreational Programs
Community Support

Educational Services
Family Advocacy
Autism Services

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Occupational Therapy
Behavioral Health Services
Speech Therapy
Physical Therapy

Applied Behavior Analysis
Therapy & Counseling
Evaluations

[VISIT THEARCOFTHEOZARKS.ORG](http://THEARCOFTHEOZARKS.ORG) TO LEARN MORE

Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Supporters,

To our staff, partners, community, and families, first I want to thank you all for pouring your time, talent, and treasures into The Arc of the Ozarks. The Arc continues to do amazing things in our area, so much so, that other communities are taking note and asking for our help. This year, we celebrated the 60th anniversary. It is hard to believe that The Arc started around a kitchen table with families looking for support and looking to lend support to our clients. We have grown into a leader in the state on how to best support individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives.

The Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center was also opened this year and we were blessed to have great representation at the ribbon cutting including, Missouri's First Lady Teresa Parson. The Autism Center has already helped so many and will continue to do so for generations to come. The Board would like to congratulate all those involved which are too numerous to count. We are fortunate to have Dr. Kyle John on our team, and his passion for his work is evident in everything he does at the clinic.

Speaking on behalf of the Board Members, we are very grateful for the staff of The Arc of the Ozarks and the leadership of Mike Powers. We have the privilege of witnessing the amazing work happening here, and we strive to contribute in any way we can to leave The Arc even better than we found it.



Eric Lampe

Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sarah Gremminger,
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Brenda White

Steve Wise

2024

The Arc introduces new Board Members: Ford Galvin, Lt. Bryan Welch, Dr. Luke Van Kirk, Matt Newport.



The First Annual Charity Golf tournament was held benefiting The Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center.

The Arc partnered with empower: abilities to host first ADA Block Party Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act established in 1990.

The Arc of the Ozarks celebrated 60 years of service.



The Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center opened to the public and a Ribbon Cutting was held.



Tim Dygon, Executive Vice President, was nominated as SBJ's 2024 Men of the Year Nominee.

The Arc began a new Crisis Services pilot program in collaboration with the State.

The Arc acquired Infinity Academy expanding its educational offerings for students with disabilities.

The Arc hosted a Ribbon Cutting at its new office in Lee's Summit.





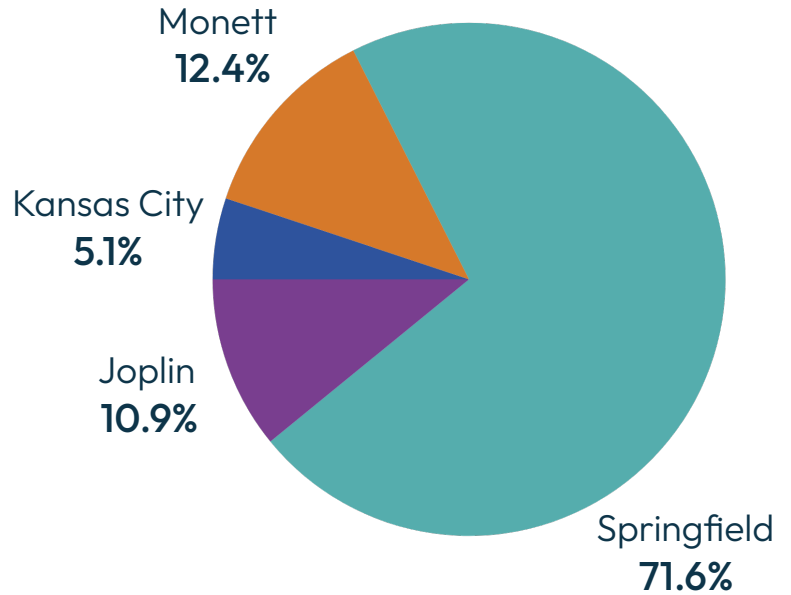
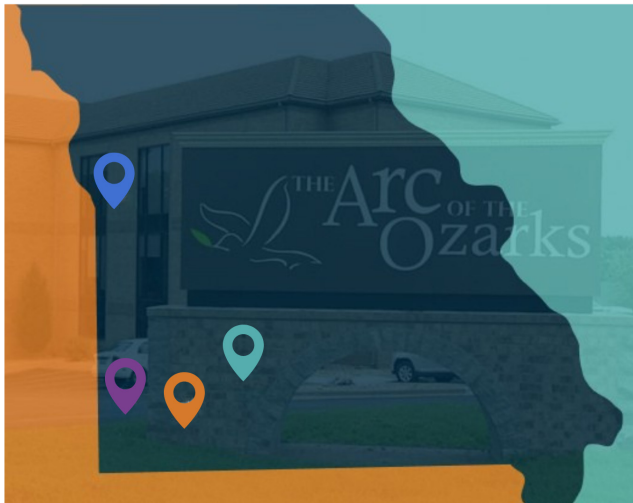
Impact Report

2024

Supporting individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives as valued members of the community since 1964.

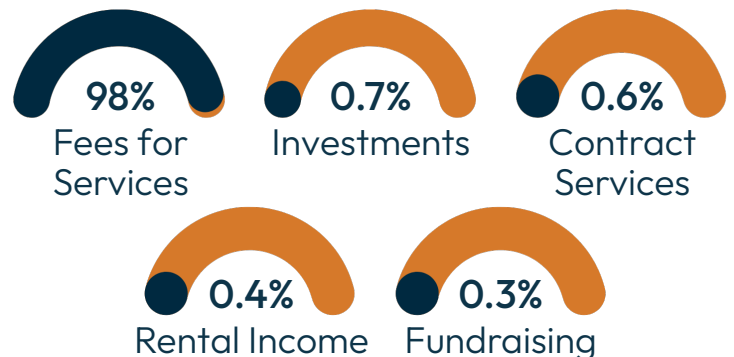
8,961	1,802	19	4
Lives Touched	Employees	Counties	Divisions

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES IN EACH DIVISION



Clinical and Therapy Services	4,764
Family Advocacy	2,985
Community Living	341
Education and Recreation	291
Community Support	265
Employment Services	232
Remote Supports	44
Educational	39

MAIN SOURCES OF FUNDING BUDGET \$116 MILLION



Celebrating a Milestone in Autism Care: New Facility Ribbon Cutting

On February 6, 2024, The Arc of the Ozarks Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center marked a significant advancement in autism care with the grand opening of its new facility. The event featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony that celebrated the commitment to serving children and families through comprehensive, evidence-based care.

The center provides a wide range of services, including multi-disciplinary evaluations, behavioral analysis, psychological and psychiatric care, as well as speech, occupational, physical, and specialty therapies. Since opening, the center has achieved remarkable milestones:

- **Over 27,000 appointments completed**
- **4,536 clients served**

“We are absolutely thrilled with the level of care we have brought to our community. Children and adults who would have otherwise needed to travel and experience long wait times, now can stay closer to home for needed services,” stated Dr. Kyle John, Medical Director.

Located in Springfield, Missouri, the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center offers comprehensive care for individuals across the autism spectrum and those with other neurodevelopmental conditions.

The Arc of the Ozarks is proud to advance its mission of providing accessible, high-quality care to improve lives and foster growth within the community.



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



Making Progress: Jack's Journey

Early on, Jack's parents noticed signs that prompted them to seek an evaluation for autism or other developmental disabilities. However, they faced a daunting three-year wait at another center, meaning Jack would likely have been in kindergarten before receiving a diagnosis. While he was receiving limited services in Springfield, nothing was coordinated. His mom, Ally, knew there had to be a better way.

When The Arc's Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center opened in Springfield, everything changed for Jack and his family. The center provided a streamlined process for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment.

"The assessment process took about two hours, and then they sat down with us and explained everything," Ally shared. "Jack is currently receiving speech, occupational, feeding, and music therapy. The process has helped not only him but me in understanding what he needs."

The impact on Jack has been remarkable. When asked if she has seen significant improvement, Ally said, "Significant doesn't even come close. They have helped me help him." She explained that Jack's progress has been transformative: "Jack used to only eat Uncrustables, and now he can eat many other things. He went from very few words to sentences. On his 4th birthday, I scheduled therapy because I knew that's where he wanted to be."

Ally emphasized how much The Arc's staff has supported her family, saying, "They have taken so much stress off me and are so accommodating with my schedule. I would recommend them 100%."

Thanks to the Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center, Jack's future looks brighter, and his family has found the guidance and support they needed to help him thrive.



Jack with his mom, Ally.



Jack utilizing a swing at the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.

Celebrating Growth and Community Engagement: Kansas City Office Ribbon-Cutting Event

In 2024, The Arc of the Ozarks' Kansas City office marked an exciting milestone by celebrating the opening of its new location with an official ribbon-cutting and open house event. The celebration welcomed over 150 guests, including esteemed representatives from the area Chambers of Commerce, Lee's Summit Mayor, and State Representative Jeff Coleman.

The event was an engaging affair, featuring guided tours of the new facility, refreshments, and giveaways—all designed to highlight the organization's dedication to community engagement and its mission of service expansion. Guests had the opportunity to learn about the impactful work being done to support individuals with disabilities in the Kansas City area.

The Arc of the Ozarks' Kansas City Division is committed to empowering individuals with disabilities to achieve greater independence and live fulfilling lives. Through a variety of tailored programs and services, they strive to make a meaningful difference in the community. Their key offerings include:

- **Community Support:** Helping individuals integrate into their communities by providing resources and guidance to enhance daily living skills and encourage social participation.
- **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA):** Using evidence-based behavioral interventions to improve social, communication, and learning skills. This program is particularly beneficial for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.
- **Family Advocacy:** Assisting families in navigating the complexities of disability services, ensuring access to essential resources and empowering them to advocate for their loved ones.
- **Community Living:** Providing residential services that promote independence in safe and supportive environments tailored to individual needs.

Each of these programs is delivered by a dedicated team of trained professionals who are passionate about enhancing the quality of life for those they serve.

The Arc of the Ozarks is proud to continue its legacy of service and community partnership in Kansas City. We look forward to expanding our impact and fostering greater inclusion and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.



The Arc of the Ozarks and Lee's Summit Chamber "cutting the ribbon".

Exploring Infinite Possibilities

The Arc of the Ozarks has expanded its educational offerings with the addition of Infinity Academy, joining the Rivendale Institute of Learning and the Rivendale Center for Autism in providing specialized services for students with disabilities.

Infinity Academy is a private school in Ozark, Missouri designed to meet the educational needs of middle and high school students who require an alternative to traditional schooling, including those with developmental learning differences. Infinity Academy operates year-round and is currently accepting new enrollments. The academy offers flexible options for students including full-time, part-time, and in-home programs to accommodate varying needs.

“This acquisition underscores our commitment to provide an alternative to traditional schooling and meet the unique needs of students who want high standards for academics but need a non-traditional pace and more one-on-one attention” said Alisa Lowry, The Arc of the Ozarks Vice President of Programs.

One student who was able to join Infinity Academy in the 5th grade has been able to thrive in this individualized environment. When he started at Infinity, he often felt overwhelmed by the busy environment of public school, which would lead him to shut down and not be able to accomplish his work. Because of this, he was performing two grades lower than expected. Fast

forward two years since being enrolled at Infinity Academy, his confidence in school has grown significantly, and he is now caught up to his own grade level of learning.

When asked about his experience at Infinity, the student said, “I feel like I have more time to work. I am not rushed. The work seems easier because I get to work at my own pace. The biggest thing is, I feel comfortable here.”

As the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder continues to rise, the integration of Infinity Academy into The Arc of the Ozarks expands its comprehensive services for students with autism, learning disabilities, and gifted students. This acquisition supports The Arc’s mission to empower individuals with disabilities to direct their own lives as valued members of the community.



Infinity Academy students proudly wearing their school's mascot, Nelligos the Dragon.

Innovative Mental Health Solutions: Interventional Psychiatry

Interventional psychiatry is an emerging subspecialty that leverages advanced, evidence-based treatments to address mental health conditions, particularly those resistant to traditional therapies, such as medication and talk therapy. By directly influencing brain activity, these cutting-edge techniques aim to alleviate symptoms and improve patient outcomes.



Behavioral Health Patient receiving treatment.

The Arc of the Ozarks Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center is at the forefront of interventional psychiatry, providing a comprehensive suite of services, including:

- **Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS):** A non-invasive procedure that uses magnetic fields to stimulate specific brain regions involved in mood regulation. TMS is an effective treatment for depression, with options such as Traditional, Deep, and Theta Burst TMS available.
- **Magnetic e-Resonance Therapy (MeRT):** Currently in its pilot phase, MeRT utilizes EEG-guided TMS to assess brainwave activity, pinpointing areas that may not function optimally. This personalized, drug-free treatment is designed to enhance neural communication and improve mental health outcomes.
- **Esketamine (Spravato):** Designed for adults with treatment-resistant depression, this innovative nasal spray is administered alongside an oral antidepressant to address persistent depressive symptoms effectively.
- **Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulation (Alpha-Stim):** This therapy stimulates brain regions responsible for serotonin production while calming areas associated with fear, making it a valuable tool in treating depression and anxiety.

The center also offers pharmacogenomic testing through the GeneSight Psychotropic Test. This test analyzes an individual's genetic makeup to determine how they may respond to commonly prescribed psychiatric medications. This personalized approach helps clinicians select the most effective treatments for each patient.

By integrating these advanced interventional psychiatry services, The Arc of the Ozarks Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center reinforces its dedication to providing innovative and personalized mental health care tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual.



Meet Kylei

Kylei is a remarkable young woman who balances the demanding life of a full-time college student, works two jobs, and maintains a loving relationship with her long-time boyfriend, AJ. However, her journey to this point has been anything but easy.

Kylei's struggles began at the age of 16 when she attempted suicide for the first time. "I was always involved in everything—an active social life, sports, and school," Kylei said. But as she entered puberty, something shifted. She became deeply depressed and found herself lacking the energy and motivation for even the simplest daily activities. Her battle with depression led her to drop out of college after her first year.

AJ, her steadfast partner, vividly recalls a harrowing moment when he found her unresponsive at home after she failed to show up for work. "That day, I saved her life," AJ shared. "I worried about her 24/7."

During one of her hospitalizations, Kylei met Dr. Kyle John, now the Medical Director at The Arc of the Ozarks Autism & Neurodevelopmental Center. Dr. John referred her to Dr. Raymund Tan, a psychiatrist who became instrumental in treating her prolonged battle with depression.

After trying numerous medications without success, Dr. Tan recommended Spravato (esketamine) treatments. "When you have few options left for severe depression, Spravato can be lifesaving. Unlike many traditional antidepressants that take weeks to work, Spravato can provide noticeable improvement in depression within hours or days of its administration," stated Dr. Tan. This innovative approach proved to be a turning point in Kylei's life.

"After my first treatment, I felt like I had found myself again," Kylei said. "The little kid in me came back. I was at a point of no hope, and this treatment changed my life. Dr. Tan has been with me since I was sixteen and never gave up on me. My parents have PTSD after years of ups and downs, but now my dad isn't scared to answer the phone anymore. This treatment is truly a life-changer."

Today, Kylei's story stands as a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative impact of compassionate care and innovative treatment. Her journey inspires hope for those battling similar struggles, showing that with the right support, it is possible to reclaim one's life and thrive.

A Recipe for Inclusion

In 2024, The Arc celebrated the success of Ruvim, a dedicated advocate and author. Ruvim, a Community Connections client, turned his passion for accessible cooking into reality with the publication of *The Accessible Cookbook*, a resource designed to make the kitchen a more welcoming space for all abilities.

On December 16th, Ruvim hosted a book signing event at the Library Center, where he connected with the community, shared his story, and sold over 40 copies of his cookbook. His cookbook features easy-to-follow recipes and QR codes linking to video tutorials.

Throughout his journey, Ruvim's Program Supervisor, Rachel Shuman, has been an advocate and supporter, assisting him whenever challenges arose and ensuring he had the resources needed to succeed.



Ruvim ready to sign copies of his cookbook.

Reflecting on his journey, Ruvim said, "It's never too late to start if you want to. The really important thing is to start somewhere." He continued, "I feel like some people are intimidated about starting, but as long as you start somewhere, you will get better at it."

Ruvim's cookbook journey gained recognition beyond the event, with the Springfield News-Leader featuring an article on his accomplishments. The Arc of the Ozarks is proud to stand by him as he continues to break barriers and inspire others.



*Ruvim with a customer at his book signing event for *The Accessible Cookbook*.*

Kansas City Community Living Services Thriving

The Kansas City Community Living Services continues to thrive, with residents embracing opportunities and enjoying life to the fullest.

Brent's Journey of Growth and Exploration

Brent has demonstrated remarkable financial skills by mastering the budgeting process. His dedication has paid off as he has successfully saved enough money for an upcoming cruise — his second! Brent is eagerly anticipating this adventure and cherishing quality time with his girlfriend, Alyssa, and their families. Adding to his excitement, Brent plans to join the Special Olympics this year, marking another milestone in his active and fulfilling lifestyle.



Brent on his first cruise.

Stay tuned for more updates from our incredible residents as they continue to achieve their goals and make strides toward their dreams!

Empowering Independence

Through The Arc's partnership with HEARO Technologies, 44 individuals utilized remote supports in 2024.

Missouri's Developmental Disability waivers offer Remote Support systems, enabling individuals to receive assistance without direct staff presence. This includes technology like home sensors, telephones, and communication devices for additional support, as well as safety monitors for tracking movement and health, such as activity sensors and temperature monitors.

Roommates JoJo and Catie utilize remote supports in their home from 11 PM to 7 AM. These supports monitor their home through window and door

sensors, as well as communication devices in their bedrooms. JoJo and Catie also have reminders set to administer their medications and complete their hygiene routines independently. When asked about remote supports, Catie said, "I like the reminders to pass medication, and when I called them, they came to the house to help."

Soon, JoJo and Catie will begin utilizing remote supports as early as 8 PM due to their success over the past year. Remote supports are an invaluable service provided to individuals who receive support from The Arc and can help foster greater independence.



My Cause My Cleats

Jennie has been heavily involved with Special Olympics Missouri, and in 2024, she was honored with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Jennie was selected with others to design cleats for George Karlaftis, a defensive end player for the Kansas City Chiefs, through the Special Olympics Athlete Leadership Program. Jennie traveled to Kansas City to meet George, learn more about the project, and ask him questions to inspire her cleat design ideas. Jennie worked hard on her design, and just a few weeks later, she had the exciting chance to return to

Kansas City for the big reveal. The cleats turned out wonderful, showcasing elements from the designs of all the Special Olympics Athletes. During this trip, Jennie had the opportunity to tour Arrowhead Stadium, where George revealed one final surprise for the athletes- tickets to the Chiefs vs. Raiders game, where he proudly wore the cleats they had designed. Prior to the game, George said, "It will be awesome to have them at this game because they will be cheering harder than anyone else."



Grants Awarded

- ◇ Greene County Senior Citizen's Services Fund - \$15,000 to provide quality-of-life improvements, programs, and services for seniors with disabilities in Greene County
- ◇ Abilities First - \$107,029 to support No Limits Summer Camp and provide additional training opportunities for staff
- ◇ O'Reilly Foundation - \$10,000 for educational support for Rivendale Institute of Learning and Autism Center
- ◇ The Bobby Allison Fund - \$68,000 for educational support for Rivendale Institute of Learning and Autism Center and Infinity Academy
- ◇ Bass Pro Shop's Explore the Ozarks Grant - \$444 for No Limits Summer Camp field trips
- ◇ Ball Foundation - \$10,000 for music therapy for Rivendale and Infinity Academy
- ◇ Brockschmidt Charitable Trust - \$19,626 for unfunded needs in employment services
- ◇ Floyd Foundation - \$1,000 for unfunded needs in Education/ Recreation program
- ◇ Shirley M. McCudden Fund - \$453 for recreational projects for residents at Crowhaven Residential Center.
- ◇ Monett Phil and Friends - \$1,874 for summer camp in Monett
- ◇ WAWOS Wishes - \$2,500
- ◇ 3M Springfield - \$2,000
- ◇ **Total Grant Funds Awarded - \$237,926**

Awards & Accreditations

In 2024, Emily Smasal, Director of Employment Solutions and Community Connections, and Amanda Whited, Employment Specialist, were recognized for their remarkable contributions by The Missouri Rehabilitation Association (MRA) Southwest Chapter. Emily received the honor of the **Administrator of the Year** award which acknowledges an administrator who has demonstrated outstanding service in meeting the needs of their staff and the Rehabilitation community. Emily’s dedication has significantly impacted the support provided to individuals with disabilities in securing and maintaining competitive integrated employment.

Amanda was awarded the **Employment Specialist of the Year**. This award recognizes Amanda’s outstanding contributions as a job developer and service provider staff member. Her continuous efforts go above and beyond, exemplifying a commitment to serving individuals with disabilities with excellence.



Emily and Amanda proudly showcasing their awards alongside VP of Programs, Clay McGranahan.

The Arc was an honoree of the **2024 Springfield Business Journal Economic Impact award** alongside The Kitchen, Inc., and Gold Mechanical Inc. This award recognizes companies and individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the local Springfield economy, highlighting their contributions to job creation, revenue generation, and community involvement, celebrating business excellence within the region.

Tim Dygon, The Arc’s Executive Vice President, was chosen to be one of the **Springfield Business Journal’s (SBJ) 2024 Men of the Year** honorees. This award recognizes the professional, philanthropic and personal contributions of twenty businessmen in the Springfield area.



Tim Dygon, 2024 SBJ Men of the Year Honoree.

Advocating for Change

The Think Differently Database Act passed the senate in December 2024 and headed to the President's desk to sign. This act will require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create an online clearinghouse for resources tailored to individuals with disabilities and their families. The database will provide localized, searchable information on Medicaid services, health care, mental health care, and other critical supports.

“The Think Differently Database Act creates a comprehensive website that provides organization to much-needed resources that benefit those with disabilities. My son, Stephen, inspired me to go into public service, and fighting to improve the lives of those with disabilities is one of the most important facets of my job. I'm extremely pleased this bill passed the Senate, and I look forward to the President signing it into law,” said bill co-sponsor, Senator Eric Schmitt.

The legislation aims to reduce barriers to care by offering streamlined

access to reliable, community-specific resources. The Arc of the Ozarks advocated for its advancement to improve accessibility and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

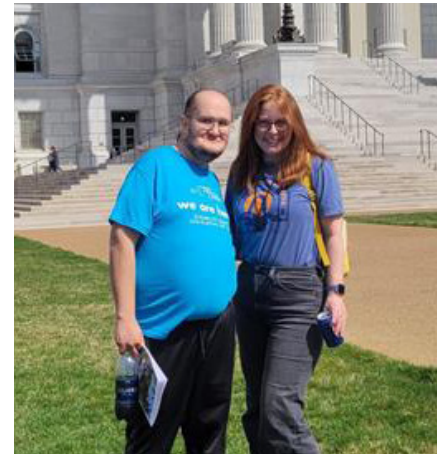
In the summer of 2024, Governor Parson signed the state budget, finalizing the Fiscal Year 2025 spending plan. This budget includes a provider rate increase for developmental disability (DD) providers, establishing a minimum wage of \$17/hour. This increase has been instrumental in helping organizations like The Arc of the Ozarks remain a competitive employer, enabling us to attract, hire, and retain the Direct Support Professionals vital to supporting our clients in living and thriving within their communities.

This measure has also been a significant step in addressing the workforce crisis that providers across Missouri have faced in recent years. We sincerely thank Governor Parson for his dedication to supporting Missourians with disabilities.



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

Empowering Voices: Disability Rights Legislative Day



The Arc of the Ozarks clients advocating at Disability Rights Legislative Day in Jefferson City, Missouri.

On March 13th, hundreds of Missourians with disabilities gathered at the state capitol for Disability Rights Legislative Day. The Arc of the Ozarks brought 50 clients and staff to advocate for key issues like affordable transportation, employment, housing, and direct support.

Attendees met with legislators, explored resource exhibits, and joined the rally's powerful "We Are Here" chant. Representative Melanie Stinnett, The Arc's Vice President of Therapy

Services, spoke on vital legislation, alongside other lawmakers and self-advocates. Marcus, a Family Advocate at The Arc of the Ozarks, emphasized the event's role in amplifying voices and encouraging civic engagement.

Marcus said, "Our best hope is that, through participation, our program participants will find their own voice and cultivate their own path to civic engagement."

Partners with a Purpose

Thompson Sales Company

Thompson Sales Company has been a proud partner of The Arc of the Ozarks for many years. The business and their employees have sponsored and participated in numerous fundraising events- most recently, participating in The Arc's Charity Golf tournament and sponsoring Christmas Extravaganza. Miles Thompson, President and Executive Manager states, "Community support has been the cornerstone of our success. Giving back isn't just important to us—it's how we honor the people who have trusted and supported us for over a century."

Thompson Sales Company, established in 1919 by George M. Thompson Sr., began as a tire and wagon business in Springfield, Missouri, before transitioning into automobile sales with franchises for Cadillac and Pontiac. By the 1950s, the company focused exclusively on new car sales and service, experiencing steady growth and modernization. Leadership transitioned in the 1970s, emphasizing General Motors vehicles, and over the decades, the business expanded to include GMC, SAAB, and Buick franchises, culminating in a 14-acre facility with modern service centers and capacity for over 900 vehicles.



Thompson Sales Company team at The Arc's Charity Golf Tournament.

Today, the fourth generation of the Thompson family leads the business, maintaining a legacy of innovation, customer service, and community involvement. The Arc of the Ozarks is honored to be a part of that legacy.

THOMPSON
Family Owned And Operated Since 1919

Central Bank

Central Bank of the Ozarks is dedicated to strengthening the community by supporting organizations that create meaningful opportunities for individuals to thrive. The Arc of the Ozarks' mission to empower individuals with disabilities aligns with their values of inclusion, service, and community investment. Andrew Tasset, Senior VP, Director of Marketing states, "The Arc's impactful work in advocacy, education, and support services inspires us, and we are honored to contribute to their mission. As we often say, when our community thrives, so do we".

For over 15 years, Central Bank has proudly partnered with The Arc of the Ozarks through financial contributions and volunteer support. This collaboration has deepened over time, and we are extremely grateful for their continued support of our vital services. "By helping The Arc empower individuals with disabilities, we reinforce our shared commitment to building a more inclusive community," states Tasset.

Central Bank recognizes The Arc's personalized approach to services as its greatest strength. They also acknowledge the vital job training and independent living support to the recreational and healthcare services, saying, "They provide tailored programs that make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve".



Andrew Tasset and partner at The Arc's Fishing Tournament.

Looking ahead, they would like to see The Arc expand workforce development and job placement programs through partnerships with local businesses further enhancing independence and community involvement for individuals with disabilities.

Our partners at Central Bank support The Arc's Annual Open Buddy Fishing Tournament and Christmas Extravaganza. Tasset says, "These events bring the community together while raising critical funds for The Arc's mission". The Arc's events highlight the generosity of our supporters, giving them an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.



**Central Bank
of the Ozarks**

Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™

Christmas Extravaganza

The 30th Annual Christmas Extravaganza took place on December 6, 2024, at the White River Conference Center. With the incredible support of our sponsors, community members, and friends, we raised over \$145,700 to support children's autism services. Proceeds benefited the Rivendale Institute of Learning and Center for Autism, as well as the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, this year's silent auction was our most successful yet.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Underwriting Sponsor, Alps Pharmacy, and our Presenting Sponsor, Central Bank of the Ozarks, for their support. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a remarkable success!



Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament

The Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament, originally postponed due to inclement spring weather, took place on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at the Table Rock Lake Marina. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, we raised over \$26,900 to support individuals with disabilities by addressing their unmet medical and personal needs through The Arc's Residential Services.

A special thank-you goes to JP Sell and his Fish Tales team for their invaluable support in making this event a success.

Charity Golf Tournament

Our 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefiting The Arc's Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center at Rivercut Golf Course was a tremendous success. Thanks to the incredible support of our sponsors and participants, the event raised over \$39,000 for the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.

These funds are vital in providing much-needed evaluations and services to children, ensuring that every family has access to quality care, regardless of their financial situation. As the only center of its kind in southwest Missouri, it serves a critical role in supporting families navigating the challenges of autism and neurodevelopmental differences.



ADA Celebration

The Arc of the Ozarks teamed up with empower:abilities to celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Friday, July 26. The event was a resounding success, drawing widespread community support with over 300 attendees. Nearly 50 vendors participated in a street fair that featured food, games, live entertainment, and valuable community education.

The ADA, a landmark piece of legislation, prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and access to state and local government programs and services. Its impact is profound, fostering greater independence, inclusion, and accessibility for all individuals.

This celebration highlighted the importance of the ADA and the strides we continue to make as a community in promoting equality and inclusion for people with disabilities.



60th Anniversary Celebration

On August 8, 2024, we celebrated The Arc of the Ozarks' 60th Anniversary. Over 200 community members, legislators, partner agencies, staff, and the individuals we support gathered with us to honor six decades of enriching lives and building community. The event reflected on 60 years of impact in our community and shared highlights from the past decade of growth.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our journey over the years. What began as a small group of parents seeking resources for their children with developmental disabilities has grown into an organization that serves over 9,000 individuals across four divisions in southwest Missouri and Kansas City.

While we take pride in all that has been accomplished, the need remains great. The Arc of the Ozarks remains steadfast in our commitment to meeting the needs of individuals and families.

Thank you for 60 years of support. We look forward to continuing this journey with you as we strive to make an even greater impact in the years ahead.



The Arc Gives Employee Giving Campaign was created to bridge the gap of unfunded needs for our clients at The Arc.

Abby L Simek	Briana Marchandise	Dillion A Gayman	Jennifer Carter Ralston
Abigail Mccarty	Brianne Hingco	Dillion Nelson	Jennifer Cleveland
Adrevionne Boyd	Brittany Franz	Donna Taylor	Jennifer L Castro
Adriana Irvin	Brittany J Ohmer	Doris Obradovich	Jennifer L Keltner
Aimee Cantrell	Brittney N Tannehill	Dr. Kyle John	Jennifer L Weldon
Alexis Caroline Drexel	Brooklyn N Castleberry	Dulce M Morales-Xiquin	Jennifer Meadows
Alicia Johnson	Buffy J Hettinger	Dusty L Weatheral	Jeremiah Hays
Allyson Smith	Caitlin Parker	Edward M Martin	Jeremy Starkey
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WAWOS - We're all working on something
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Your Partnership Makes a Difference!

The Arc of the Ozarks' mission is to support individuals with disabilities in directing their own lives as valued members of the community. The Arc of the Ozarks is a nonprofit organization offering program and therapeutic services to over 3,500 people with disabilities across Southwest Missouri and Kansas City.

Services include community living, community support, recreational, employment, educational, family advocacy, autism services, and therapeutic services.

There are many partnership opportunities in 2025 for your business or organization to support The Arc in providing programs and services to help adults and children with disabilities reach their greatest potential.



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Event Sponsorship Opportunities

- **Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament | March 29, 2025** - Benefiting The Arc's unfunded Education and Recreation program.
- **Charity Golf Tournament | May 5, 2025** - Benefiting the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.
- **Christmas Extravaganza | December 5, 2025** - Benefiting children's autism and neurodevelopmental services.

Contact

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CONTACT

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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
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