

SPRING 2025

# The Archive



**SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1964**





# Letter from The President



I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable spring season. We've recently completed our renovations at the Timothy Grant Newport building on Pythian St. in Springfield. This facility accommodates our administrative offices, staff training and our Recreation/Education services. The interior remodeling, infrastructure upgrades, aesthetic enhancements, security and technology additions, and accessibility improvements are a strategic investment in our future. We are blessed to have a facility that can provide our community with vibrant and adaptable spaces to continue meeting the needs of individuals and families with disabilities for many years to come.

Services continue to grow at The Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center in Springfield and at the new Kansas City office location in Lee's Summit. Our latest expansion is in the St. Charles County area outside of St. Louis. This office will support Cornerstone Behavioral Services where we will be providing ABA and residential crisis services. The Arc continues to expand employment, recreation, therapy, autism services, and community integration throughout our divisions to ensure that all individuals have opportunities to learn, grow, and become active and contributing members of their communities.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will read about the fishing and golf tournaments, Growth Academy graduation, and the Autism Blast that was held at the Battlefield Mall in Springfield. There are also some client spotlights, updates on The Arc's growth in the Kansas City, Monett and Joplin Divisions, and an article on Autism Awareness month.

Thanks for your continued support of The Arc of the Ozarks, and we encourage all of you to find ways to become involved in our growing organization!

**Mike Powers, President/CEO**

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LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?

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*Auna and KY3 Anchor, Leigh Moody.*



*Auna smiling in front of "The Place" signage.*



*KY3 Anchor, Steve Grant, and Auna.*

## Auna Gets the Scoop at KY3

Auna, a young lady receiving services from The Arc of the Ozarks, recently fulfilled a dream of touring KY3, a local media station in Springfield. The team at KY3 went out of their way to make Auna feel welcome, showing her around the impressive and expansive facility.

From the bustling newsroom to the high-tech production areas, Auna was able to see

firsthand the behind-the-scenes magic that goes into creating the news. She loved getting a closer look at the studio setup, meeting some of the on-air talent, and learning how everything comes together to keep viewers informed each day. Everyone was so friendly and eager to share about KY3, making it a truly memorable experience.

Auna's experience was a testament to the

kindness and generosity of the people who made it happen. We are so grateful to the entire KY3 staff for their incredible hospitality and for making this dream a reality for Auna. For Auna, KY3 really is the place to be!





*Annette holding award with her Employment Solutions team.*



*Annette smiling in the A.M. Donuts and Coffee food truck window.*

## Congratulations Annette!

The Arc of the Ozarks' Employment Solutions team is proud to celebrate the success of Annette, who has recently made a remarkable transition from our Supported Employment services to Vocational Rehabilitation services.

The Arc's Employment Solutions provides a variety of services to assist individuals in obtaining and maintaining employment in the community. We work with individuals and their support team exploring the different types of employment options and developing a plan that meets their needs.

Annette began her journey with our employment services on the A.M. Donuts and Coffee food truck, where she quickly became a valued team member known for her dedication and outstanding work ethic. Over time, she not only developed strong job skills but also built the confidence to take the next step toward greater independence.

With all of these new skills and confidence, Annette has now secured a job in the community through Vocational Rehabilitation services. This achievement marks an exciting new chapter in her employment journey, and we couldn't

be more thrilled. When asked what Annette likes about her new job, she said that she likes "learning new things like the table numbers, meeting the customers, and seeing people who come there to eat that she knows."

While she will be greatly missed by the Employment Solutions team and her food truck colleagues, we are enthusiastic about what the future holds for her. It has been a privilege to support Annette in reaching this milestone, and we look forward to seeing her continued success in the community.



## Welcoming New Leadership in Our Regional Communities

We're excited to announce the appointment of three new Regional Directors at The Arc of the Ozarks! As we continue to grow and strengthen our presence across Missouri, these leaders will play a vital role in guiding our teams, supporting staff, and ensuring high-quality services in their regions. Please join us in congratulating the following individuals on their new roles:

### **Carl Brock, Director of Kansas City Division**

Carl brings a wealth of experience in program development and team leadership. His passion for advocacy and person-centered care makes him a great fit to lead our Kansas City team into this next chapter.



### **Tina Shankle, Director of Joplin Division**

With a strong background in operations and a deep commitment to the individuals we serve, Tina is known for her collaborative leadership style and problem-solving mindset. We're excited to see her continue making a difference in the Joplin region.

### **Treanna Dougherty, Director of Monett Division**

Treanna has been a dedicated leader within The Arc for several years and brings a clear vision for growth, inclusion, and service excellence. Her connection to the Monett community will be a valuable asset as she officially steps into this role.



Let's extend a warm welcome to Carl, Tina, and Treanna as they step into these important leadership positions. We're confident their expertise and heart will help take their regions—and The Arc as a whole—to new heights.



## Honoring the 2024 Growth Academy Graduates

In March, The Arc of the Ozarks proudly celebrated the graduation of its 2024 Growth Academy class at the Old Glass Place in downtown Springfield. Growth Academy is a vital part of our commitment to leadership and professional development, offering team members the opportunity to grow their skills, expand their knowledge, and strengthen their impact across the organization.

This internal leadership and staff development program covers a wide range of essential topics, including non-profit management, advocacy, mental health, and navigating difficult conversations. Through months of training, collaboration, and reflection, participants gain tools that help them lead with confidence and compassion.

In addition to celebrating the entire graduating class, we also honored individuals who received special recognition for their exceptional growth and contributions during the program:

### Program Supervisor/Management Trek

- Flexing Your Strengths – Amanda Boykin
- Bucket Filler – Amanda Whited & Nikel Howard
- MVP Award – Jeremiah Hays

### Traditional Trek

- Flexing Your Strengths – Hannah DeWitt
- Bucket Filler – Austin Bryan
- Ice Breaker Award – Hope Dyke

### Special Recognition

- Outstanding Alumni – Marcus Sunday



*Traditional Trek Graduates.*



*Program Supervisor/Management Trek Graduates.*

We extend our deepest congratulations to all of our graduates and honorees. Thank you for your leadership, your passion, and your commitment to enriching lives and building community.



## Exciting News: New Volunteer Program Launching at The Arc of the Ozarks!

We're excited to share that The Arc of the Ozarks is launching a brand-new Volunteer Program—and we want you to be the first to know!

As employees, we see firsthand the impact of our work every day. Now, we're creating more ways for the broader community to get involved and support the individuals and families we serve. This new program is designed to invite volunteers from all walks of life to join our mission through a variety of meaningful roles.

**What the Program Offers:** The volunteer program will give individuals the chance to engage with The Arc through:

- **Social and recreational support** (e.g., helping with activities or attending events alongside individuals)
- **Administrative help** in offices and departments
- **Special event support** for fundraisers and community gatherings
- **Skill-based volunteering** for those with talents in art, music, tech, carpentry, photography, and more

We'll be sharing more information soon, including how to refer potential volunteers and what the onboarding process will be like. Let's work together to make this program a success—and show our community just how powerful compassion in action can be.







*The Arc of the Ozarks team at the SBJ Dynamic Dozen Award Ceremony.*

## The Arc of the Ozarks Named Among Springfield's Fastest-Growing Companies

The Arc of the Ozarks has been recognized as one of the region's fastest-growing organizations, earning a spot on the Springfield Business Journal's 2025 Dynamic Dozen list. This annual award celebrates the top 12 companies in the Ozarks that demonstrate exceptional growth in both revenue and percentage gains over a three-year period.

The Arc was awarded fifth place and joins a diverse group of honorees from industries such as health care, construction, and technology. The addition of The Arc of the Ozarks to the Dynamic Dozen reflects its commitment to expanding services and making a meaningful impact in the community. This recognition underscores the organization's dedication to growth and excellence in serving individuals with disabilities.

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## Speech Therapy Services Expanding to Kansas City!

We're thrilled to announce that speech therapy services are officially expanding to our Kansas City region—another big step forward in The Arc of the Ozarks' mission to provide comprehensive, person-centered care across all communities we serve.

As of this month, individuals in the Kansas City area now have access to professional speech-language pathology services through The Arc. This expansion will help meet a growing need in the region and provide essential support for individuals working on communication skills, language development, swallowing difficulties, and more.

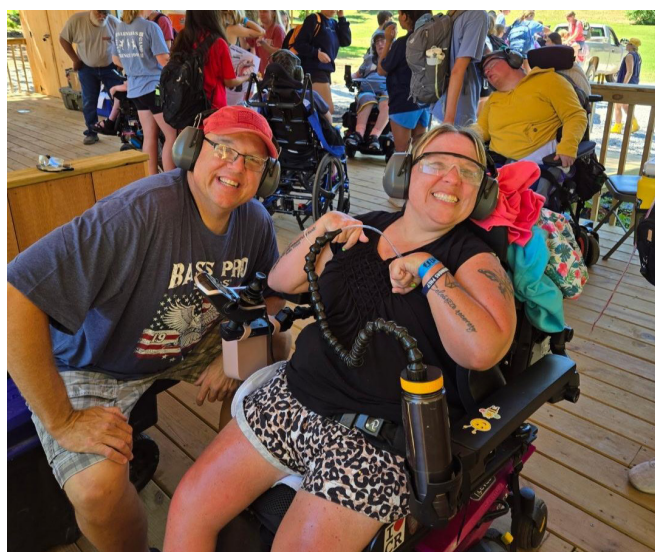
Carl Brock, Kansas City Director, shared his excitement. "Bringing speech therapy to this region is a game-changer for our individuals and their families. It opens doors to new growth and connection—right here in their own community."

The therapy team is currently accepting referrals and working closely with staff in Kansas City to integrate services smoothly into existing support plans. We're proud to continue expanding access to high-quality therapies across Missouri, and we're incredibly grateful for the teams making this possible.





*JP Sell showcasing two fish he caught.*



*JP with an individual with disabilities learning new skills at a community event.*

## JP Sell of Fish Tales

For over 20 years, JP Sell, founder of Fish Tales, has helped people with disabilities experience the joy of fishing and hunting, ensuring that physical limitations never stand in the way. His deep commitment to service has earned him respect in the outdoor community, touching countless lives.

A longtime supporter of The Arc, JP has participated in the Hunt & Fish Outdoor Show and, in 2024, took on the role of tournament director for the Open Buddy Bass Tournament. His expertise and leadership have elevated the event, helping raise vital funds for our Education/ Recreation services.

Beyond events, JP generously donates

his time and resources, teaching and coaching individuals with disabilities—many experiencing the thrill of casting a line or aiming a bow for the first time. His mission is to create moments when time stands still.

“Fishing is the only sport that doesn’t discriminate,” JP said. “When a fish is on the hook there is no pain, no disability, no stress. Time stops.”

One particularly inspiring story involves a young girl who lost her eyesight. JP provided her with accessible sight devices and spent time coaching her, enabling her to enjoy hunting and fishing with her dad—which she thanked him for giving her this opportunity.

“If you can help a child believe in themselves and figure things out on their own, you’ve done something special,” JP said.

JP is always the first to emphasize teamwork and relationships, but his tireless passion and commitment make a lasting impact. The Arc of the Ozarks is truly grateful for his support in helping raise funds for those we serve.

# FISH TALES



## Fishing. Wishes. 4. Special. People

## 7th Annual Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament Reels in Big Success

The 7th Annual Open Buddy Bass Fishing Tournament at the State Park Marina on Table Rock Lake was a splash hit once again! Thanks to the incredible support from our sponsors and participants, the event raised an impressive \$33,184 in support of The Arc's Education/Recreation (Ed Rec) services.



Ed/Rec is an entirely unfunded program, and proceeds from this tournament help make experiences like our No Limits Summer Camp possible for individuals we serve.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors for making this event possible: Presenting Sponsor: Central Bank. Additional Sponsors: Marsh McClellon Agency, Central States Industrial, Q & Company, At Home Real Estate, Rick's Automotive, Old Missouri Bank, Higginbotham, SRC Holdings Corp., JMARK, Boat Floaters, and BKD.

We are so grateful for your continued support in helping us build inclusive and meaningful recreational opportunities!

## A Winning Day on the Green: 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament Raises \$36,705 for Autism Services

Our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament was a tremendous success, raising \$36,705 in support of The Arc's Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, these funds will help provide vital evaluations and services to children in need—regardless of their family's ability to pay.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors who made this event possible: Marsh McClellan Agency, Jack Henry, Positronic, Associated Electric, Sumner One, KPM, TransLand, Crown Power and Equipment, Guardian Pharmacy, Netsmart, Freedom Bank, SMC Electric, Kiwanis Club of Downtown Springfield, The Whitlock Co., and Vic Stuart State Farm.

Your support has a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in our community. Thank you for helping us drive change—one swing at a time!



## April was Autism Awareness Month: How we Celebrated, Educated, and Advocated

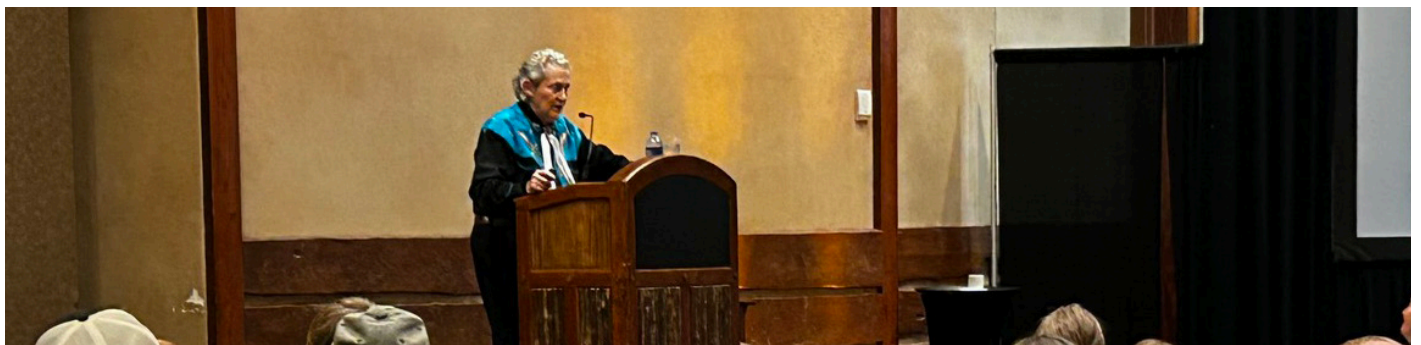
At The Arc of the Ozarks, our commitment to supporting individuals with autism is year-round—but each April, Autism Awareness Month gives us a special opportunity to shine an even brighter light on the experiences, strengths, and voices of those on the autism spectrum.

As an organization, we know that autism is not a one-size-fits-all diagnosis. Every individual we serve has their own story, challenges, and incredible potential. April was about celebrating those differences, promoting understanding, and continuing to foster an environment of respect, inclusion, and support.

### Here's how we honored Autism Awareness Month:

- The Arc hosted the annual Autism Information Blast at the Battlefield Mall. This event featured booths, games, and activities for the public. Resources from over 40 vendors were shared with hundreds of attendees about services available in the community.
- The Arc hosted Temple Grandin at Bass Pro's White River Conference Center on April 29. Dr. Grandin spoke about her experience of having a life-long autism diagnosis and her expertise regarding animal science. She is a nationally known speaker who shared her personal successes and how to support others with autism.
- Garbo's Pizzeria held a fundraiser during the month of April where all proceeds benefited The Arc of the Ozarks. Three celebrity chefs created their signature pizzas and competed for the top sales. Congratulations to Billy Dove, 417 Foodist, for his award-winning pizza! In total, \$2,100 was donated by Garbo's patrons.

Together, we're not just raising awareness—we're building acceptance, promoting advocacy, and creating a community where everyone is empowered to thrive. Thank you for all you do each day to support individuals on the spectrum and their families.



*Dr. Temple Grandin speaking at the Bass Pro White River Conference Center.*



*The Arc of the Ozarks Family Advocacy team at the Autism Information Blast.*



*Garbo's Pizzeria donated \$2,100 to The Arc's Autism and Neurodevelopmental Center.*

## Legislative Corner

Representative Melanie Stinnett (R- Springfield) has once again delivered meaningful results for the disability community. This year, she successfully secured additional funding in the state budget to expand waivers—a critical funding source that increases access to disability services for individuals across Missouri. In addition, she championed new funding for complex care assistants, which will allow parents of children with high medical needs to be compensated for a portion of the care they provide at home. This marks the third consecutive year of major legislative victories for individuals with disabilities thanks to Rep. Stinnett's continued advocacy.

On another front, the State of Missouri Budget Conference Committee has completed its negotiations on HB 10, which funds the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Arc continues to work closely with our advocacy partner, Starling, to inform legislators about the urgent need to increase provider rates for developmental disability services. For the second year in a row, Senator Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield) and Representative Betsy Fogle (D-Springfield) played a pivotal role in budget negotiations. Despite opposition from House Budget Leaders, Sen. Hough successfully secured a 1.25% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all DD services—helping address the ongoing financial challenges providers face.

The Arc of the Ozarks deeply appreciates the dedication of our state legislators in supporting individuals and families with disabilities. We are all in this together – thank you for standing with us.

## Grants Received

### **Shirley McCudden Grant**

\$400 awarded to support The Arc of the Ozarks Crowhaven Apartments.

### **Greene County Senior Citizen's Fund**

\$15,000 awarded to support The Arc of the Ozarks seniors in Residential Services in Greene County.

### **Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation**

\$5,000 awarded to support The Arc of the Ozarks No Limits Summer Camp.



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### 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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