The Arc Advocate

The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1962.

The Director’s Corner

Dianne Fulk, Administrative Director  arc@hrarc.org

It always amazes me to see someone accomplish what we, or they, thought they could not do. I see it everyday with my grandsons as they go from crawling to walking or speaking to printing letters. I also get to see it in the Op Shop. Today I witnessed Mark L. mastering a new skill. Keep in mind that Mark cannot see, yet he has learned the pattern, and the smell, of the items that he needs to put into a bowl. He has learned these skills with help from Becky Wiggins and another special person, Sally Chappel. Now he is not only assembling pizza boxes and gluing coupons on them, he is also helping in the community by putting together hygiene items in a bag for homeless people. You can see the sense of pride and accomplishment on his face! Well Done Mark!

Legislative Forum Scheduled for September 24th

The Arcs of Augusta & Harrisonburg and Rockingham will host a legislative forum from 6:00-8:00 pm on September 24, 2015 at the Robert E. Plecker Workforce Center, Room P126A at BRCC. Current incumbent legislators for the VA House of Delegates and the VA Senate and candidates for those offices representing Harrisonburg, Rockingham Co., and Augusta Co. have been invited to participate. Each incumbent legislator and opposition candidate will respond to questions from the audience. This forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the widespread changes and disparities in services for individuals with ID/DD living in Virginia today. Certainly there will also be questions as to what can be done for the individuals on the state ID and DD Waiver wait lists, over 10,000 individuals are on the wait list for waiver services. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by September 22 so that adequate seating and other arrangements can be made. Please contact Dianne Fulk at 540-437-9214 Ext. 130 or arc@hrarc.org, or Warren McKeen at 540-943-1618 or Arc102@ntelos.net.

Walk & Roll to end the wait for A Life Like Yours

September 29th  10:00am to 12:00pm

More than 10,000 Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are on a waiting list for community based support services. Virginia remains out of compliance with the DOJ Settlement Agreement requiring services for people with I/DD be provided in the most integrated setting. The current waiver system must be redesigned to become more person-centered, promote inclusion in the community and provide access to quality community services. We need you there to send a message!
Where did summer go? It seems like the season just started yesterday and here we are at the beginning of September. As always, we missed the friendly faces of our volunteers and interns from area colleges who were out for break, but we were fortunate to have a few local students and some staff from the BB&T Lighthouse project spend some time volunteering at the Op Shop. We also had some youth who were spending time at Massanetta Springs join us for a couple days to lend a helping hand. In return, a couple of our folks traveled to Massanetta Springs to help them out with yard work. They returned tired and rather dirty from pulling weeds and removing rocks, but reported that they had a great time. Many of our participants continue to volunteer within the community (RMH, Asbury Methodist Church, and Meals on Wheels), and more opportunities are being planned for the upcoming months. As part of our Person-Centered Plans, we are focusing more and more on what our service recipients enjoy doing and places they would like to go. One-on-one and small group outings are a major part of our schedule based on the interests and preferences of our participants. At this time, 90% of our clients go out into the community at least once a week, and approximately 85% of participants volunteer in one capacity or another. DSPs focus much of their support time working with our service recipients on skills needed to increase their independence in the community (safety signs, manners, staying on task, etc.). The time spent on outings and volunteering gives them a chance to apply these skills in real world situations. We were sad to say goodbye to Roy Nicholas who died in June. Roy had been a long time participant of the Op Shop and will be missed by all. We have one new participant who began in July and another young lady who is scheduled to begin in September. Participants continue to make money while at the Op Shop, and our schedule and planned activities are focused more and more on transitioning our men and women to be better prepared for participation into our community program.

Terri Gibbs
Notes from the Board
James Ward, President

SIS

If you don't know what this is, and you receive services in the state of Virginia, you should. With the transition to a new waiver system, SIS will be the primary assessment used to determine your level of need, whether you qualify for services, and what level of service. If you are not aware of the transition to a new waiver system, I would encourage you to educate yourself now.

Thank you to Heather Denman, Dianne Fulk, Carroll Ward, Patty Knicely, and Jan Rhodes for attending the State Arc Convention, and for their report back to us on conversations there about SIS and waiver redesign.

The next board meetings will be Monday, September 21st and October 19th at 7:00 PM at the Op Shop.

The public is always welcome and invited to share their comments.

Resource & Respite Services
Amanda Brothers, Director
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
The Arc Op Shop ♦ 620 Simms Avenue ♦ Harrisonburg

Resource & Respite Services is so excited. We have been working diligently to bring the Respite and In-Home support Services programs to fruition. We look to be licensed and operational by the end of September. We advertised the new positions in August and conducted interviews. We will be hiring and thoroughly training the staff that will be charged with caring for your loved ones. These services are open to those that have the ID Waiver and those that don't; meaning we will be taking self-pay. The Resource Center is located upstairs in the Lucy Simms Education Building. We have lots of books available for checkout, pamphlet, brochures and information related to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We also have information on hand from local service providers. Upcoming Seminars and Workshops: IEP/Transition Seminar– September 23, 2015, Power of Attorney/Guardianship/Special Needs Trust/Future Planning-October 8, 2015, Waiver Workshop– November 10, 2015, Social Security Administration/Ticket to Work-March 15, 2016, and job Readiness/job Fair-April 8, 2016. More detailed information to come. The Resource Center Advisory Council needs you! If you are an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities or caregiver of an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities your input is important to us.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DSP/Respite and In-Home Support Services

We have several Full-time and Part-Time positions available for Direct Support Professionals (DSP), Respite and In-Home Support Professionals serving adults and children with intellectual disabilities. Experience working with individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities preferred. QIDP or Med-tech a plus. Training provided. Good writing skills needed. Background checks, good driving record and reliable transportation required. Please see job descriptions on our website (hrarc.org) or come into our office. Submit application, resume and cover letter to: The Arc, 620 Simms Ave., Harrisonburg, VA 22802, Attn: Amanda Brothers. EOE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS FOR THEIR RECENT DONATIONS:

Stephen Boots for his continued donations through Truist.
Robert Harper for his continued donations through Truist.
Aletha Crawford for her donation towards NAP credits.
Phyllis & Johnny Garber for their donation towards NAP credits.
Phyllis & Johnny Garber for their donation of craft items.
Victoria Hensley for her membership renewal.
Vivian Hevener for including a donation with her membership renewal.
John Canter for including a donation with his membership renewal.
Patricia Hilbert for her membership renewal.
Ronald & Edith Carrier for including a donation with their membership renewal.
John & Connie Stiles for including a donation with their membership renewal.
John & Kathryn Barnes for including a donation with their membership renewal.
J.D. & Rebecca Glick for including a donation with their membership renewal.
Lee & Carroll Ward for their donation.
Barry & Patricia Carroll for including a donation with their membership renewal.
Marcia Hilbert for including a donation with her membership renewal.
Donald, Florence & Todd Turner for their generous donation.
Doug & Joey Mitchem for including a donation with their membership renewal.
Emory & Beckwith Merryman for including a donation with their membership renewal.
Kroger for donating a $25 gift certificate.
Linda Hoover for donating an office desk and two office chairs.
K C Werner of Seven Bends Studio for hosting “The Art of Feelings” class.
Jim & Grace Spart for including a donation with their membership renewal.

Our condolences to the family of H. Gifford Wenger.
Our condolences to the family of Audrey Smith.

COURTESY RENEWAL REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN SEPTEMBER: Stephen Alvis, Sally Chappel, Terri Denton, William & Rebecca Hunter, Beth & Karl Schaeffer, Daniel & Michele Simmers, Donald & Joan Simon and Ethel Weaver.


Click “like” on The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham page on Facebook.
Become a Member of The Arc of Harrisonburg & Rockingham

Your membership includes membership in The Arc of Virginia and The Arc of the U.S. **Your dues are tax deductible!**

Name: _________________________________________ Address: ________________________________________________

City: State: Zip: Phone: ______________________________________________________________________________

Email (for newsletter and event information): __________________________________________________________

Individual/Family Dues: $15

Renewal ☐ New ☐

Please mail form with your check to:

The Arc
620 Simms Ave.
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Thank you!

I would like to make an additional contribution

$25 ____ $50 ____ $75 ____ $100 ____ $250 ____ $500 ____ Other:_______

My gift is in memory of / in honor of: ____________________________

Send acknowledgement to: ___________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Our thanks to each of you who supports The Arc through direct monetary donations, United Way contributions, using AmazonSmile, volunteering your time and energy to our programs, or purchasing Op Shop crafts. Your giving allows us to continue to make a better life for persons in our community with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Shea Godwin is now busy establishing an Arc in Page County, where she resides. We wish her the best and thank her for service. The Board of Directors will be hiring a full-time executive director and, until such time, has hired Heather Denman to manage the day-to-day operations. Denman is an experienced nonprofit director but new to the I/DD movement.

IN THE INTERIM by Heather Denman

I took over the helm of The Arc on July 01 of this year and was immediately thrown into the deep end by coauthoring a Community Engagement grant proposal with The Arc of Southside (Danville area), and attending the Arc of VA state conference. Both were amazing experiences that really helped me grow in my understanding of the I/DD movement and the sweeping changes it is undergoing.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) was front and center at the Arc Conference and is working diligently toward implementing a new Medicaid waiver* program that fosters and supports community inclusion for people with disabilities. It was apparent and encouraging that all stakeholders are being heard throughout this process.

The new waiver design is geared for a July 01, 2016 implementation. Waivers will still be available for center-based day support programs like the Op Shop but at a lower level of funding. The new design will provide more funding to inclusive programs that provide opportunities for people with I/DD to live A Life Like Yours (ALLY).

People with intellectual or developmental disabilities should have the same rights and freedoms of choice in how they live their lives and spend their days as you or me. Rather than spending theirs days in group homes and sheltered workshops, the new waiver system encourages inclusion in the community through recreation, education, volunteerism and employment – integration rather than segregation.

The Arc has already modified its service delivery and will continue to do so in order to comply with the new laws requiring more inclusive services. These changes, which we fully embrace, are allowing The Arc to realize its mission of full inclusion and participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community throughout their lifetimes.

It is an exciting time in the I/DD movement and I am honored and thrilled to be involved in this worthwhile endeavor to enhance the lives of the inspiring, deserving people and their families whom we serve. I will keep you informed of our progress as we continue on our journey to full inclusion.

*Medicaid Waiver programs help provide services to people who would otherwise be in an institution, nursing home, or hospital to receive long-term care in the community. Prior to 1991, the Federal Medicaid program paid for services only if a person lived in an institution. About 2/3 of the Arc’s annual budget derives from waiver funding.
The Arc Staff

Heather Denman, Acting Manager
Dianne Fulk, Administrative Director
Terri Gibbs, Director of Day Support Programs
Amanda Brothers, Director of Resource & Respite Services
Patricia Dunn, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Grandle, Resource Center Assistant
Dick T. Simon, Office Assistant
Rebecca Wiggins, Op Shop Coordinator
Shasta Rasnake, GOLD Program Coordinator
Beverly Mahood, Direct Support Professional
Gayle Peterman, Direct Support Professional
Emily Shifflett, Direct Support Professional
Lori Yost, Direct Support Professional

Wish List

- Laptop computer
- Acorns
- Breakfast bars (granola, Belvita, Nutrigrain etc.)
- Aluminum Cans to crush and sell (rinse cans if possible)
- Snacks (pre-packed i.e. animal cracker, chesses puffs etc.)
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Plain white paper
- Plastic Forks
- Plastic Spoons

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter or are receiving duplicate copies, please call The Arc office at 540.437.9214 ext. 130, email us the correction at arc@hrarc.org, or mail this page back to us marked "remove." Thank you.