The Director’s Corner

Heather Denman, Executive Director  heatherhrarc@gmail.com

Waiver Redesign is still a work in progress. After months of weekly webinars and teleconferences, the new waiver system, originally set to launch on July 01 was implemented on September 01, 2016. We are getting closer to the day when we have all the information and tools we need to budget for and operate our programs. That being said, we have begun implementation of our Community Engagement pilot grant project All-In and are building upon our new In-Home and Respite programs. In the coming months and years, you will see and hear the word “Inclusion” in tandem with The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham. Inclusion is at the core of our mission and we will be doing all we can to promote it in our schools and community. Please be our ALLY in advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have A Life Like (Y)ours.

Program News

Olivia Herrold, Program Director-ALL IN

We welcome Olivia Harrold as the new Program Director of ALL IN which is the name of our community engagement (non-center based) program. She has been spending much time designing schedules for our DSP community staff making sure all volunteer sites are being covered and exploring other opportunities for our folks. With our waiver redesign program now in process, she will be busier than ever making arrangements for more groups with a 1:3 ratio to access the community in a variety of inclusive opportunities.
It has been a busy summer with opportunities to go out for more outside ventures such as spending time at local parks, visiting the Rockingham Fair, and enjoying our local farmer’s markets. We have also picked up new volunteer sites and involved more of our folks in sharing their talents. Other summertime activities included weekly movies and celebrating 4th of July and Labor Day activities.

We welcome Debbie Armentrout who is heading our United Way partnership with Rockingham County Schools transitioning program. This is our 3rd year with this project which offers students who are transitioning from school into the community opportunities to experience activities such as volunteering, vocation training, and independent life skills by accessing community resources. Susan Clague will also be assisting in this venture. We are thankful for their service with this important program.

Now that it’s September, we welcome back our JMU volunteers and our continued department partnerships. Our students will be more important than ever with assisting our DSPs now that we are spending more time in the community and taking out groups for a variety of activities (volunteering, recreation, accessing local businesses, shopping, etc.). Our participants are looking forward to meeting new volunteers and are anticipating their arrival.

Reevie on the Carousel and our group having fun at the Fair!

We appreciate our JMU volunteers so much!!

Susan & Deb (L to R) with their Transition Program participants.
Notes from the Board

James Ward, President

The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham, in partnership with the Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Public Schools, sponsored the airing of the inspirational film Including Samuel on Monday, September 26 at Court Square Theater. Shot and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning documentary film honestly chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include their son, Samuel, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, in family, school and community life. The film also featured other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents and disability rights experts. Thanks to our expert facilitators, Deborah Taub and Lou-Ann Land, for graciously traveling from Washington, DC to answer the many questions the film provoked about the cultural and systemic barriers to inclusion. We will continue the conversation about inclusion in schools and in the community. Thank you to the more than eighty parents, providers and educators who attended.

In board news, Neil Hall has tendered his resignation from the board. Thank you Neil for your many years of service and your offer of continued support.

James Ward
President of the Board
The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham

The next board meetings will be

Monday, October 17 and Monday, November 21 at 6:30 PM
in the Conference Room at Simms.
The public is always welcome and invited to share their comments.

Register to Vote - the First Step to Empowering Yourself

From The Arc of Virginia

With elections around the corner we are all being inundated with advertisements from both ends of the political spectrum. All the focus seems to be on the candidates when the most important people in any election are the voters. That’s right – you are the most important part of this election!

Too often we forget that voting is not only a right but a way to empower ourselves. Our vote represents our beliefs and our hopes for our nation. It is also an opportunity for us to tell those leading our country what we expect them to be doing. It isn’t just about what is happening in Washington, DC, the right to vote can influence what happens in your backyard. Each time you vote you empower yourself, and you make sure that your opinion matters.

Take the first step to empowering yourself and register to vote today. If you are intimidated or confused about the upcoming elections and how you can access your right to vote, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission has a great resource on voting in federal elections. This voter guide entitled “14 Facts About Voting in Federal Elections” is a great resource to ensure you are ready to make an impact on November 8th!


Are you eligible to vote? How do you even register? What should you take with you to the polls? Go to www.https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation to find out!
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following generous contributors for their recent donations:

Stephen Boots
Robert Harper
Martin & Tillie Offenbacker
BB&T Insurance
Shelby Sweeney in Memory of her dad, Ralph N. Smith
Linda & Gordon Magalis
Marcia Kline
Virginia Momentum
Dr. Cecil & Loretta Chapman in memory of Elaine “Pete” Corn
Joan Cave
Donald, Florence and Todd Turner
John & Dawn Krall
Robert Gilmer
Susan Gier
Emory, Beckwith and Mary Lee Merryman
Michael & Pam Adams
The Hershey Company
Yvonne Skingley
Charles & Helen Leach
James & Grace Spart
Sonny Merryman

Condolences to:

Shasta Rasnake and family on the loss of her grandmother, Mary Lee Fawley Whetzel

Get Well Wishes to:

Charlie Robinson
Sharon Grandle

COURTESY RENEWAL REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN OCTOBER: Sally Chappel, William & Rebecca Hunter, Roger & Pam Pratt and Anthony, Sharon & Angela Taglianetti,
MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN NOVEMBER: Betty Click
MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN DECEMBER: Belinda Arey & Lena Campbell, Frank & June Fine and Andy Whitten

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: $20

Renewal □  New □

Business □  ($50.00)

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.

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**Good Bye**

We are sad to say good-bye to Shasta Rasnake after 5 years of employment here at The Arc. She had grown into many positions and had willingly accepted more responsibilities along the way. She was the person who got all the free and donated food and other items when we needed it. She also went out to find volunteer positions for our GOLD program. Congratulations to her in her new position with Rockingham County Public Schools. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

Heather gives Shasta a hug on her last day on August 12th.

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**Special Needs Trusts and Future Planning**

Karen L. Rowell, Esq. and Chad Knicely will be available to meet with you at The Arc (620 Simms Avenue) for a complimentary 30 minute introductory consultation on Special Needs Trusts and Future Planning October 20, November 9 and December 14 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m: Schedule your appointment by calling Chad Knicely at 540-746-1761 or by email: cknicely@ft.newyorklife.com
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Dianne Fulk, Administrative Director
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Olivia Herrold, Program Director ALL IN
Gina Hitch, QIDP/Direct Support Professional
Carolyn Jackson, Direct Support Professional
Lorin Sherer McConell, Direct Support Professional
Gayle Peterman, Direct Support Professional
Shasta Rasnake, GOLD Program Coordinator
Lorin Sheffey, Direct Support Professional
Emily Shifflett, Direct Support Professional
Dick T. Simon, Office Assistant
Rebecca Wiggins, Op Shop Coordinator
Denyce “Nikki” Wood, Direct Support Professional
Lori Yost, Direct Support Professional

Wish List
- Breakfast bars (granola, Belvita, Nutrigrain etc.)
- Aluminum Cans to crush and sell (rinse cans if possible)
- Snacks (pre-packed i.e. animal cracker, miniature cookies, cheese puffs etc.)
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Plain white copy paper
- Plastic Forks & Spoons
- Trash can liners 13 & 45 gal
- Large clear storage tubs w/ lids
- Non-violent computer games
- Scrabble tiles *NEW*
- Golf umbrellas *NEW*
- Laptop computer(s)

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.