Upcoming Arc Events

**ArctoberFest**
September 30, Downtown Harrisonburg
*See page 5 for more event details*

Celebrations

**Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of The Simon-Edmonson Center**

A ribbon cutting and dedication was held on July 5, for the Simon-Edmonson Center. Joan Simon and Frances Edmonson cut the dedication ribbon and were presented with pictures of Day Support participants in front of the new outdoor sign.

Shop Talk

**News From the Simon-Edmondson Center**

RIGHT: The Rocktown Ringers, with Robbie McCoubrey on guitar, perform at The Arc in the Park annual membership picnic.

LEFT: Charlie (TOP) and Justin (BOTTOM) strum a guitar at an end of semester music concert. The guitar was fitted with adaptive equipment by a class of the JMU Engineering Department.

We said farewell and good luck to Devin.

Above: Heather, Dick and Reevie celebrated birthdays in June.
News From The Road
Following SpArc, Our Community Engagement Program

SpArc takes people into the community in small groups to volunteer, explore the community, practice their skills in real-world environments, meet people and develop natural supports.

TOP LEFT: Justin volunteers at the Sentara RMH Atrium putting together patient binders.

BOTTOM LEFT: Darrest assists at the Salvation Army Thrift Store.

RIGHT (clockwise): Crystal, Tim, Robert and Jeremy deliver orders for Blossoms of Springtime.

LEFT: Charlie enjoys his time at the Valley Mall.

RIGHT: Kaitlyn and Claire meet a friend at the Shenandoah Heritage Market.

BELOW: Hope and Aaron hold rabbits at Sylvia’s Pets.

Special thanks to Charles and Helen Leach for presenting us with a grant from the Thomas Jefferson Citivan Club!

ABOVE: Robert and Jonathon visit the Harrisonburg Fire Department Museum.
55 years ago, the landscape was different for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and their families in Harrisonburg and Rockingham.

At that time, people with ID/DD did not have many of the options and services that are available today: no special education, no accessible transportation, no community housing options; no recreational opportunities; no Special Needs Trusts; no Community Services Boards, no Medicaid Waivers. Families were faced with the difficult choice of placing a loved one with a disability away in state-run institutions or caring for them at home without needed support from the state.

Everything began to change with the grassroots efforts of families who believed that their children and loved ones with intellectual or developmental disabilities could thrive at home and in their community with the necessary services and support. From their efforts, The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham began in 1962.

From the beginning, The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham established some of the earliest programs for people with ID/DD in our locality, including an employment program, a day support center, a summer day camp, and a transportation system. Many of these initial programs are still around today in the form of other non-profits and agencies while others still remain under the management and operations of The Arc.

Today, The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham represents thousands and provides direct services to over 50 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities—of all ages and stages of life—and their families.

We continue to provide a broad array of programs, services, and advocacy that make a critical difference in the lives of people with ID/DD—such as autism, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome spectrum, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and rare chromosome disorders—and their families:

- Information & Referral for families, with a resource library and staff experts fielding calls and emails helping address time-sensitive issues and solve difficult challenges.
- In-home and Respite Services for adults
- Center-based Adult Day Support
- SpArc Community Engagement:
  - Kids On The Block puppet shows: a unique group of disabled and non-disabled puppets operated by people with I/DD that speak to children about tolerance and understanding of people with disabilities and other types of differences
  - An Annual Art Contest to celebrate the creativity of children, teens and adults with I/DD
  - Teen/Adult Canteens in collaboration with Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation
- Workshops and seminars with vital information for families to navigate systems and needs throughout the lifespan.
- Futures Planning and Management seminars which educate individuals to receive financial support to enhance their lives without jeopardizing their public benefits (like SSI or Medicaid) while planning to meet lifetime needs.
- Advocacy on the local and state levels for better funding and services for people with ID/DD.

Most of all, The Arc remains a key resource to families at all stages of life who want to create a life in the community for their loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Please help strength The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham as we embark on the next 55 years.

As the father of a wonderful daughter with disabilities, I—like so many others—rely on The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham’s mission, its essential programs, and its unparalleled staff. And as the organization’s President, I am proud to help grow the legacy that those founding families—including the Simon and Edmondson families—started so many years ago. I hope you will help create the future for people with disabilities that we all envision.

Please make a generous donation today so that The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham can continue this progress and ensure that our community is a better place for everyone with ID/DD.

Your donation—which also makes you a member of The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham—can be made online at www.hrarc.org. Together, we can achieve!
My Pledge

In honor and celebration of 55 years of programs, services and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families, I would like to pledge a gift that will further The Arc’s efforts to ensure that people with I/DD have a sense of belonging in the community through inclusion and engagement. My gift will allow more SpArc teams to have access to the community.

Multi-Year Pledge/Gift Amount (check one)

_____ $500.00 a year for 5 years
_____ $1,000 a year for 5 years
_____ $5,000 a year for 5 years
_____ $10,000 a year for 5 years
_____ a multi-year gift of my designation: $______ a year for ____ years

Be the SpArc Society Levels

Matchlight
Sparkler
Bonfire
Infemo

or a one-time gift of my designation:

$______ in honor of the 55th Anniversary

My employer_________________________________________ will match my gift.

Name: ______________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________

_____ My check is enclosed (please make payable to The Arc Harrisonburg and Rockingham).

Become a Member of The Arc of Harrisonburg & Rockingham

Membership includes membership in The Arcs of Virginia and The U.S. and, most importantly, you add to The Arc’s collective voice which is critical in shaping solutions to resolve the problems in Virginia’s I/DD service system. Our legislators listen when The Arc advocates on behalf of persons with I/DD because we speak on behalf of our members – their voters. Please (re)join us in attaining our vision of a community where people with disabilities are valued as classmates, coworkers, neighbors, citizens and friends!

Name: ______________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ______________________________________________
Email Address: _______________________________________

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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:

Name: ______________________________________________

Friendly Renewal Reminder

July: Marcia Kline, Gordon Magalis  August: Susan Gier, John Krall, Emory Merryman, Yvonne Skingley

September: Donald Simon, Jim Spart
Your generous contributions allow us to continue our mission and to help create a better life for persons in our community with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your generous donations of cans throughout the years. Now that we are serving more people (we’ve expanded the program area) and since many are volunteering and exploring the community with SpArc, we no longer have the space or the time for can crushing. We will continue to recycle and trust that you will too.

Save the Date

ArctoberFest
First Annual German Beer and Wine Festival
September 30, 2017
3pm-8pm
Turner Pavilion, Downtown Harrisonburg
### The Arc Board

- **President**
  - James Ward
- **Vice President**
  - Carroll Ward
- **Secretary**
  - Jennifer Bridges
- **Treasurer**
  - Jan Rhodes
- **Directors**
  - Betty Jo Acker
  - Ben Entsminger
  - Jonathan Ischinger
  - Vanessa Keasler
  - Patty Knicely
  - John Krall, Esq.
  - Linda Magalis
  - Sandy Minskoff
  - Kate Renalds
  - Dick Simon
  - Kara Westerbeek

### The Arc Staff

- Deborah Armentrout, Transition Coordinator
- Loren Breeden, Administrative Director
- Emily Burke, Direct Support Professional
- Susan Clague, Direct Support Professional—QIDP
- Heather Denman, Executive Director
- Patricia Dunn, Administrative Assistant
- Penny Fong, Direct Support Professional—QIDP
- Terri Gibbs, Director of Support Services
- Sharon Grande, Director of Operations
- Gina Hitch, Direct Support Professional—QIDP
- Chase Imoru, Direct Support Professional
- Carolyn Jackson, Direct Support Professional
- Cambry Martin, Direct Support Professional
- LonDreher McConnell, Direct Support Professional
- Katherine Penn, Direct Support Professional
- Gayle Peterman, Direct Support Professional
- Emily Roberts, Assistant Director of Support Services
- Emily Shifflett, Direct Support Professional
- Dick T. Simon, Office Assistant
- Rebecca Wiggins, DSP—Transportation Director
- Nikki Wood, Direct Support Professional
- Lori Yost, Direct Support Professional

### Wish List

- Breakfast bars
- Band-aids
- Napkins
- Plastic forks & spoons
- White copy paper
- Individually packaged snacks
- Large clear storage tubs w/ lids
- Trash can liners (13 & 45 gal)
- Non-violent computer games
- Colored Pencils
- Paper towels
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Ziploc snack bags
- AA batteries