



Helping people with intellectual & developmental disabilities
lead independent lives EVERY DAY!

The Arc®
St. Clair County

**WINTER
2024**

NEWSLETTER

**SAVE THE
DATES!**

Show the Love
Dinner Dance
**Thursday, February
20th**

Mother's Day
Flower Sale
March 15th-May 1st
Richard Schock

Golf Outing
Saturday, June 7th
Vacation Raffle
Coming Soon

Check inside for details

**2024-25 Target
\$65,000**

Pie Sales	\$2,500
2nd Annual Show the Love Dinner & Virtual Auction	\$30,000
Membership	\$3,000
Flower Sales	\$3,500
Golf Outing	\$25,000
Heart of a Hero	\$3,500
Summer Raffle	\$2,500

Can You Help Us?



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Happy New Year! Welcome to our new and improved newsletter! We now have a reach of 1,500 newsletters being mailed and 500 being passed out in the community AND we will now be sending them every other month (6 times per year) which helps us educate and remind our consumers about what we do and what upcoming events to mark on their calendars. There is no increase in cost. The ads that are in the newsletter pays for the printing. All we have to do is mail them. We hope that you enjoy the added content, please support the advertisers that are in this newsletter if you can, because

they are what helps this newsletter continue.

As we start the new fiscal year our to-do-list is long and our goals are big. We had a very successful summer and fall, and we look forward to helping even more people in the new year.

First we would like to give a very big thank you to all our supporters who have helped the Arc stay open for another year. Since we are not government funded, fundraising is a big part of our life and everyone who has purchased a membership, bought a flower or pie, donated a silent auction item, or come to an event is very precious to us. Without you there would be no Arc of SCC.

This summer we had 3 Fun with Fishing events for all ages, with the very wonderful help from the Friends of Fishing group. Their team of expert fishing volunteers has made it possible for us to introduce this pastime to our consumers, who are loving it. With the help of our supporters who bought year long fishing licenses for some of our consumers they now have a love that will carry on for many years to come.

Traci Buck, MSW and her daughter Sarah headed up our Walk Michigan group and this is growing as well. We encourage anyone, young or old, to come on out in the Summer of 2025 to walk with us. The City of PH Recreation Dept. puts this program on and these walks are just not walking. They had a scavenger hunt and even one where you could bring your dogs to join in the fun.

Our Board and their families came out in force to give away orange balloons at Family Night during Boat Week.

Our newest endeavor this summer and fall was to give back to the community by helping out at the pop up food banks in the area. I, along with consumers that wanted to volunteer headed out to the food banks once or twice a month to help distribute food to those in need. It was a very worthwhile program and one that we will continue in 2025.

Our guardianship and payee programs are increasing. We doubled the number of consumers we took care of in the last fiscal year and we have already added 5 new consumers to our program so far this fiscal year. The word is getting out about the good works we are doing for these people and we are hoping to share some of their stories in our next newsletter.

Now I need to ask for a little bit of help from you. We want this newsletter to educate and encourage our consumers and their families as well as inform you about our fundraisers. If you have any ideas of something you would like to learn about please send me an email at director@thearcsc.org and we will do our best to get that information into the next newsletter. If you feel that you do not want to receive this newsletter anymore, please let us know so we can take you off our list. Again we are thankful for all of you and we want this newsletter to educate, encourage and inspire our consumers to be the best they can be!

Valorie Hudgens, Executive Director

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD USE OUR SERVICES?
Share this Newsletter! • Give them our phone number!



WELCOME TRACI BUCK! OUR NEW ADULT ADVOCATE!

The Buck Family attended the Show The Love fundraiser and they instantly felt the love!! Traci is very proud of her young adult daughter, Sara, who strives to support & encourage others with disabilities by sharing her own experience living with a Non-Verbal Learning Disability. The Buck Family truly appreciates the support & friendships made along the journey of living with a disability.

Traci Buck, MSW, became a volunteer and worked with the ARC Board, hoping her experience as Sara's Mom and a social worker would help to mentor other families. Traci is now a part of the Arc staff working as our Adult Advocate.

Traci earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Ashland University and Master of Social Work Degree from Ohio State University. Her career started in medical social work (Hospital & Early Childhood Intervention) and moved into working with Children & Family Services in Ohio. Since moving to Port Huron she has been a social worker in SCC for the PH Housing Commission, SCC Child Abuse & Neglect Council, Veteran Health Care Navigator and Community Living Support Worker. She continues as a volunteer with the PH Police Department and is President of Housing Matters of PHHC. For fun, she enjoys a good cup of coffee with friends, and listening to music while taking long walks and paddle boarding! Pictured left: Traci Buck, MSW; The Buck Family (picture top left): Sara, Traci, Dave Buck and Lauren & Cali Bradley. Carol Osentoski, (Sara's wonderful CLS Worker) & good friend Ana!



The Friends of Fishing US & Canada Elite Fishing Group were again in full force for THREE fishing events this year. This time we had both kids and adults invited to all three events at the Fort Gratiot Pond and our consumers all had a ball reeling in those fish. We couldn't have put this on without Robert MacLeod and all of his amazing Friends of Fishing who supplied the poles, life jackets, lures, bait and lunch and volunteers to help with the fishing. All of our consumers can't wait for spring to do some more fishing! Our goal for next year is to get sponsors to cover the costs of giving the consumers the fishing poles and their own tackle boxes so that their families and support team can take them fishing more often. We have created some fishing fanatics this summer and hope to increase that number next year!

2025 FISHING DATES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE!



SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

Supported Decision-Making is an approach that encourages individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to make their own life decisions with support from family, friends, and trusted individuals.

Parents of children with I/DD frequently wonder what will happen to their son or daughter when they are gone, and how important decisions about their lives will be made. Supported Decision-Making allows people with I/DD to receive the support they need and want to understand the situations and choices they face while maintaining control of their rights.

Supported Decision-Making Toolkit - Your Life, Your Choice is available on The Arc of MI website at www.arcmi.org.

A resource designed for all people, that recognizes their uniqueness and individuality and helps them, their families, and those who support them, throughout their lifespan to make decisions.

Presented by: Members of the Supported Decision-Making Coalition



Providing information to people with disabilities about how earnings from work affect their Social Security and other public benefits.

What is Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)?

WIPA is a step by step process to assist people with disabilities, receiving benefits from Social Security, with understanding how employment will affect their Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and other benefits they may receive. WIPA also helps beneficiaries to understand how they can increase their financial independence.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.ARCMI.ORG/MIWIPA

MORE ARC EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND FALL THANKS TO ALL OUR GOLF SPONSORS!

PLATINUM SPONSORS

PORT HURON INTERNAL MEDICINE
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE
ROYAL ROOFING COMPANY, INC.

SILVER SPONSORS

SCC Community Mental Health

BRONZE SPONSORS

Donald & Mary Schock & Family
In Memory of Otis Watson • Midwest Resins
State Farm - Zach Eagen



HOLE SPONSORS: Algonac Church of Christ • Blue Water Guardianship • Foster Blue Water Oil • Hammar's Contracting • Hammar's Recycling • In Memory of Keith Weidel • J & J Trailers • JMS • MJS Trim & Tile • Michael Hayes Siding • Professional Counseling Center

AUCTION SPONSORS: Sunshine Pools, Spa & Tanning • Country Style Market Willow Ridge Golf Course • Marcotte Disposal • Marysville Golf Course • Doubletree Hilton • Northgate Ford • Buffalo Wild Wings • Kerissa Donaldson & Tiffany Hipp



**FAMILY NIGHT AT
THE OPERATION
TRANSFORMATION
EVENT DURING BOAT
WEEK HANDING OUT
BALLOONS AND
PAINTING ROCKS**



**FOOD
GIVEAWAY
VOLUNTEERS**





MOVING INTO OUR NEW OFFICE IN APRIL & MAY. SAME ADDRESS, JUST BACK ON THE FIRST FLOOR IN SUITE 2 TO SERVE OUR CLIENTS BETTER!

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Traci & Val attended the backpack giveaway and connected with many parents who were interested in our services to help their children be successful in school! Val and Jackie have been quite overloaded this school year with training, education and appointments with all these families that are looking for our help. If you know of someone who has a child in school with a disability that is struggling please send them our way. We will be glad to help!



DONATIONS NEEDED: THE ARC IS IN NEED OF TWO NEW LAPTOPS. ONE FOR OUR NEWEST ADULT ADVOCATE AND ONE FOR CLIENTS TO USE TO FILL OUT APPLICATIONS ONLINE WHILE THEY

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

The Arc of SCC 3rd Annual
SHOW THE LOVE
DINNER/DANCE & AUCTION
Thursday, February 20, 2025
6-9pm • \$40 per person

Alexander's Banquet Center • 1200 Gratiot Blvd. • Marysville
Buy your tickets online at www.TheArcSCC.org or call 810-989-9144

DJ • PHOTOBOOTH • AUCTION • BOOZE PULL • 50/50 & MORE!

HOW CAN YOU HELP: BRING SOMEONE NEW TO THE EVENT!

We are **ALSO** looking for Table Sponsors and lots of new faces.
We will start posting next week on Facebook! Please **LIKE** our
event and share our posts!

Please help us fill the room with 400 supporters!
COME JOIN THE FUN! HELP US HELP THEM!

TERRY TROY

12-2-2024

Thank you to all who bought pies this year at our Annual
Achatz Pie Sale! We sold a total of 175 pies which gave
us a profit of \$875!

TERRY TROY was our top salesman with 53 PIES!
Way to go Terry!

Nick (at right) was helping us pass out the pies
on pickup day. Thanks for the help Nick!

Look for our pie sale again next Thanksgiving!



Dear FRIENDS
ONCE again I am Thanking
You For Your Support OF
The ARC, When You Buy
Achatz Pies OR Give a donation.
The money Raised helps many
People in our community.
I know That You will Really
enjoy The delicious Pies.
We appreciate Your Support
Merry Christmas
Terry

Learn more about What The Arc Is Doing

The Arc at a National Level does more than you realize to help consumers with IDD disabilities. As a local chapter of The Arc we have the backing of a powerful organization that fights for the big items all of our consumers need to live a healthy, happy and productive life. When you donate to The Arc at a National level it benefits every chapter across the United States. Below is just a few of the areas they are working on right now. Find out more at www.thearc.org.

- **Education** - While legislation like the IDEA and ADA were huge victories for the disability community, we must continue to fight to ensure proper implementation and enforcement. When Congress first passed the IDEA, it intended to fully fund the law at 40 percent of the additional cost of educating students with disabilities. However, federal funding has never even reached half of that amount, leaving it to states and localities to try to make up the difference. The Arc continues to advocate for the government to meet the full funding amount.
- **Direct Support Professionals** - The Arc advocates for improvements in several areas to address this crisis that impacts the independence of people with IDD. The Arc's Coalition Work: The CCD Long Term Services and Supports Task Force works on issues relevant to the DSP workforce crisis, including how a comprehensive system of long term supports and services must address DSP issues.
- **Employment, Training & Wages** - People with IDD should have the supports necessary from individuals and systems to enable them to find and keep community jobs based on their preferences, interests, and strengths, work alongside people without disabilities, receive comparable wages, and be free from workplace discrimination. The Arc's Coalition Work: The CCD Employment and Training Task Force works on issues relevant to the employment of people with disabilities, including best practices, school-to-work transition, training of staff and people with IDD, and systems.

Here at the local level we receive phone calls every day from families looking for information on how to find the help they need for their ID/D loved ones and we are here to help. Whether you need a question answered, need to know where to go to get something done or need us to help you one on one with paperwork or a meeting. The Arc of SCC is here to help. If we don't have

the answer we will find the answer for you. **Find out more at www.thearc.org!**

THANK YOU TO CARING CRAFTERS & DAWN ENDELMAN FROM PAMPERED CHEF FOR SUPPORTING THE ARC!

Our board member Carol Bogan, partner in Caring Crafters allowed us to cover the front door at her craft show and they gave us 50% of the fees as a donation to the Arc. Dawn from Pampered Chef had an online party for us while we were selling pies for those that did not want the sweet and we are getting a great bonus Pampered Chef prize to put into our silent auction for Show the Love Dinner/Dance in February. Thanks again ladies!



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - SPREAD THE WORD

When a child is staring at another kid with a disability and the adult they are with says "don't stare" that comes across to the child as "don't engage". Instead we should try saying something like "would you like to go say hi or ask them to play with you?" Give a child the guidance they need to become kind and accepting humans.

WALK MICHIGAN WAS A SUCCESS WITH OUR CONSUMERS!

Developing and taking care of friendships is an important part of living your best life! ARC Friends & Family invited you to walk with us this year at Walk MI. Traci Buck, Arc Advocate along with her daughter Sara, helped organize all our Arc members and was available during the walk to share information and discuss topics about supporting friends & family who have Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. In addition to Traci, Valorie Hudgens, our director, came out for a few of the walks and so many of our young adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities provided great peer support to each other. We are hoping for everyone who came enjoyed meeting new people and caught up with old friends. Many shared their experiences and asked about future plans!

This year we had a walk to Lakeside Beach for a beach party; Had a Photo Scavenger Hunt through downtown Port Huron; Went to the International Flag plaza for 4th of July. Had our dogs join us in a walk through Pine Grove Park and did a Chalk walk on the Fort Gratiot Trail just to name a few.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR!

Once a week, every week for 12 weeks a different walk area is scheduled and everyone, young and old, is encouraged to come out and join the fun. Looking at nature, talking with friends, making new friends, getting much needed exercise is all on the schedule of fun during these walks! We look forward to making more new friends next year! Look for upcoming dates in our spring newsletters.



COME

WALK MICHIGAN



WITH US!

WANT TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE? PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP!

The Arc of SCC is a membership driven organization. Your support makes The Arc's voice in St. Clair County even stronger as we address issues such as education, employment, housing and safety that are critical to the disability community. It also helps cover the cost of getting this newsletter to consumers and their families in the community that can use our services, remind them of what is available at the Arc and what new programs are coming up in the future as well as educating them on different topics that are important to them.

For those of our loyal supporters that purchase a membership you can see what good things we are doing in the community for both awareness and education.

You can help us make a difference TODAY! You can go online at: www.thearcsc.org/members to purchase your membership or you can mail a check to the address at the bottom of the membership form.

Membership has benefits:

Individuals, Families & Consumers receive:

6 bi-monthly Newsletters • Voting Rights to Appoint Board Members
Ability to address concerns to Board Members at Board Meetings
Recognition in Newsletter.

- ☐ Individual - \$25 ☐ Family - \$30
☐ Consumer (uses our services) - \$10

Corporate businesses receive:

All benefits of individuals plus: Advertising links on our website • Social Media Shout Outs • Name in Newsletter bi-monthly

- ☐ Corporate Business - \$150

Individual/Family/Consumer or Contact Name:

Company: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mail this application along with your check to:
The Arc of SCC

1530 Pine Grove Ave, Suite 2 • Port Huron, MI 48060.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT! CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR RECIPIENTS!

**Carmella Burns - SOS Food Pantry
Carolyn Crowe - Leader Dogs for the Blind & Love on a Leash
Scott Shine - Community Enterprises
Robin Grace Hanrahan - Christmas Room
Port Huron Fire Department - Battle of the Badges Volunteers
Port Huron Police Department - Battle of the Badges Volunteers
Knights of Columbus - St. Stephen's Church
Andy Bakko - Wolverine Party Store
Sam Bakko - Wolverine Market
Wally Bakko - Wally's Supermarket
Chris Hawes - VP Military**



Chapter 820 ~ Port Huron, MI
~ The Archangels ~
Woman's Life
connection. community. cause.
Woman's Life Insurance Society® A Fraternal Benefit Society
www.womanslife.org

Special Thanks to all of our Women's Life Chapter 820 ladies who helped make this event a success. You All ROCK!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - IDD CONSUMERS CAN HELP

Volunteering is an important part of community life. Every day, Americans spend time and energy making a difference in their communities. Inclusive volunteering is about making sure everyone can give back.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can serve their communities in many ways:

- Serving meals at soup kitchens • Stocking food pantries • Preparing and delivering meals to seniors
- Helping keep communities beautiful • Spending time with people who are isolated • Helping care for pets and other animals

Why It Matters

Sometimes, people with IDD do not have as many opportunities to volunteer in the community as they would like. This may happen for several reasons:

- Some people think that people with disabilities can only receive service and cannot give back to others.
- Volunteer groups and coordinators may not have experience working with people with IDD and may not know how or have enough staff to support them to volunteer.
- Volunteer locations may not be accessible to people with IDD.
- A person with IDD may need support with health needs while they volunteer.
- People may struggle to find transportation to or from a volunteering.
- People with IDD may not know how to express their interest in volunteering or where to find volunteer opportunities in their community.
- People with IDD may not want to volunteer because they want a paid job.
- Many people perceive people with disabilities as the ones in need of service. However, people with disabilities are a key part of civic engagement across the country.

People volunteer every day to build confidence, job skills, and work experience. Volunteering helps job seekers network and build relationships that can lead to employment. It also provides chances to build friendships and networks of support.

People can and should be empowered to give back to their communities. When everyone participates, it's a win-win!

The Arc of SCC is always looking for volunteers! WE HELP OUT AT THE FOOD BANKS! We have events where we need volunteers all year long. Give us a call and see if there is something you or someone you know can do at our next fundraiser or outing!

THE ARC HALLOWEENS IN THE 'NAC (ALGONAC) AND AT THE GRACE BENTLEY TRICK OR TREAT EVENTS



FUN
WAS
HAD
BY
ALL!





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www.TheArcSCC.org

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Cynthia Houle • Julie McCoy • Michael Weinert
Director & Staff: Valorie Hudgens - Executive Director & Adult Advocate • Traci Buck, MSW - Adult Advocate
Jean Chapdelaine - Bookkeeping & Marketing Volunteer

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