

Focused on Growth

Signs of spring, all around us. As we “spring” into summer, we’re working to make donating to the Arc of Bay County easier. Financial growth of the organization is important. Advocating for persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities takes resources, and money is needed to provide supports. We love to get your check in the mail, and now if you’re interested in online giving that is available on our website at: www.arcbc.com we appreciate your generosity, and look forward to seeing everyone at the annual **Strawberry Shortcake Festival Fundraiser**.

2024 Strawberry Festival Fundraiser



**Friday—June 21, 2024
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**At the Arc of Bay County
709 Columbus Avenue
Bay City, Michigan**

Volunteers are needed to plan for our largest fundraiser of the year!

We keep the tradition going this year with a new twist as we partner with our neighbor, Buddy’s Cones.

The popular “drive up” option will be available again this year, along with musical entertainment, 50/50 raffles and more!

We can’t do this without you! Consider volunteering to plan, or help day of.
Text or Call Annette at (989) 751-4943.



Give Local Bay May 7, 2024

Each year, the Bay Area Community Foundation hosts a 24/hour ONLINE fundraiser. People choose from dozens of not for profit organizations and causes in our community.

Give to one of the Arc of Bay County’s funds by finding the Community Foundation’s site for “Give Local Bay” or use the link on our website: www.arcbc.com These funds are money that is invested for the future of the Arc of Bay County.



Calling for memories, stories and history...

The Arc of Bay County has been around for more than 70 years. I know some of you have been involved for some, or all that time. We’re calling for history buffs to collect stories, sort thru meeting minutes dating back to the 1950’s, and reminisce a little. If you have stories, or photos stop by, or give us a call. We would LOVE a volunteer for this project.

Your Arc of Bay County is now a Thrivent Choice Dollars beneficiary, see Thrivent.com to learn how you can designate money to the Arc

Are you Smarter than your TV?



The race is on to see how complicated we can make television viewing. It leaves some of us longing for the days when you had three choices and all you had to do was turn the knob, or turn

it off. That's in the past. TV is a window to the world for many people we serve, sometimes their only companion.

On a cold winter day, the phone at the Arc started ringing with callers asking where their favorite shows had gone. Yes, we'd paid their cable bills, no we hadn't changed anything. After a number of chats Laura did some sleuthing and discovered that Spectrum, the local cable provider had eliminated favorites including *Little House on the Prairie*. Turns out, no matter how much money your willing to give the cable company, the shows are not available, but WOW, you can get them nearly for free on a "Streaming App" - that's short for an application you download to a TV, computer or tablet. Yep, there's a trend to get rid of cable TV and the cost, and replace it with Smart TVs and streaming apps.

We were pretty excited to discover that a Smart TV or not so smart TV with a widget plug in that costs less than \$50 could bring back all the old shows. Our challenge is making this simple. Almost every day Salena answers tech questions from people served by the Arc and teaches them how to stream using our Roku Smart TV. We also spend hours with clients calling Spectrum trying to negotiate affordable entertainment. Common situations are:

- > Having money in the budget to buy a new TV, or a streaming device
- > Convincing Spectrum to "let" you to decrease services, still need Internet to use a Smart TV
- > Choosing "apps" that have monthly, mostly small fees to find entertainment the person wants
- > Teaching how to work a new remote
- > Hoping no one clicks on "pay per view" or "upgrades options" that add to the bill.

All about Representative Payee

When a person receives Social Security income, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and also needs help managing their money and paying their bills, a Representative Payee may be able to help.

The process starts with a call to the Social Security office. Staff there will determine if the person would benefit by having someone manage their money. The Arc of Bay County serves as an Organizational Representative Payee for the Social Security Administration.

Learning about the person's needs, creating a budget and paying their basic need bills including rent or a mortgage, utility payments and coordinating spending and saving are all part of what you might expect from your Representative Payee.

In exchange, for a monthly fee of less than 10% of funds, most people pay \$54, The Arc staff pay the bills, meet or visit by phone, text or e-mail with persons served and coordinate spending options which at this time include auto-transfers to a personal credit union account, a Trulink debit card that tracks spending and eliminates the need to return receipts, or a paper check. Representative Payee service provides many people peace of mind, and the comfort of knowing that someone is managing their funds.

and then, Whoops...

Now we're in BIG trouble!

Baseball season started and now, we're looking for ways to watch the Detroit Tiger baseball games without paying a bunch of money for an app. ***Send us your best tips on how to watch the ball game,*** and we'll be

forever grateful, AND we'll share what we learn with people we serve. Call (989) 893-1346 or e-mail to contact@arcbc.com



Finding the good in the work we do:



Educational Advocacy Program

Three siblings were recently adopted, and now have a forever family. Educational advocacy support is available to any child up to age 18 who may need accommodations, advocacy or both to be successful at school. Educational Advocacy is available statewide. In Bay Arenac and Tuscola counties by the Arc of Bay County.

We have several successful housing stories this spring,



And of course, much more work to do. We are cautiously optimistic however, that a person whose need for improved living conditions came about by way of Michigan's new Guardianship Diversion project, healthcare providers and Adult Protective Services will be workable and safe.

Several others served by the Arc of Bay County were able to move from living arrangements that were no longer suitable into subsidized senior apartment communities which often offer social opportunities and for those who qualify, home-delivered meals from Bay County Department on Aging.

The NCI Survey Project

The Arc of Bay County is pleased to be able to participate in the National Core Indicator survey project administered by Wayne State University's Developmental Disabilities Institute. We've been conducting interviews with people from all around the state asking them a set of questions designed by the project hosts.

Mi Able Accounts

It's taking a bit of time but we're seeing good success with creating MI Able Savings accounts for some of the people we serve who want to save funds for a large purchase, like a vacation, or a car, or even paying property taxes without losing Medicaid funded supports because they have funds in excess of \$2000.



For those who are further along in life, The Arc of Bay County is working diligently to link persons with local funeral directors who can coordinate pre-planning and pre-paying for a funeral.

Independent Facilitation for Person-Centered Planning Meetings

The pace is picking up for people requesting independent facilitators for their person-centered planning meetings. Available to anyone who uses Medicaid-funded supports from a community mental health provider, an independent facilitator works on behalf of the person served to help them identify, communicate, and advocate for things within the systems of support, and also in the community in general that lead to a meaningful life.

The Arc of Bay County has contracts with Bay Arenac Behavioral Health, Saginaw County Community Mental Health and Clinton Eaton Ingham Community Mental Health. Several staff and contractors are trained as Independent Facilitators. To learn more, visit www.arcbc.com to see some of the tools and processes available, or call the Arc of Bay County.



A Day In The Life at the Arc of Bay County



What do we do at the office? Your Arc of Bay County employs 2.5 staff, supported by a Receptionist whose salary is paid by the Older Americans Act. We have a 3 day a week volunteer who cleans organizes

and arranges along with access to an educational advocate, consultant, and a retired social worker.

On an average day we take calls from people who don't know us, and meet requests from people we serve. We spend a lot of time linking and coordinating with other human service organizations, businesses and not for profit groups. We manage the business of representative payee, forward requests for help with school issues to the educational advocate, coordinate and facilitate meetings. Additionally, we provide other agencies with financial verifications, complete paperwork and troubleshoot benefits issues.

Arc Board Meets

The Arc board met on March 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Charles Juers. Finance reports were received, the parade day festivities were discussed along with other regular business. The meeting adjourned around 8 p.m. Next meeting will be May 13, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Arc.



Renew, or become a member today!

(if you've already renewed, share with others)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ MI Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Save a stamp & send e-mails to: _____

Return this form w/payment to: The Arc of Bay County
709 Columbus Avenue
Bay City, MI 48708

Upcoming Activities at the Arc

Watch for updates! Coming soon and back by popular demand will be a parking lot rummage sale.

Spring cleanup around our building and setup of the raised garden beds will happen when the weather is appropriate. We have LOTs of donated garden seeds to plant!

Willing volunteers will be able to assist the Columbus Avenue Business District by cleaning up and planting flowers at the corner of Columbus and Washington Avenue. Date to be determined.

Your Arc advocates and serves people of any age with a developmental or intellectual disability

Monday thru Thursday
9 AM to 3 PM
(or by appointment)

709 Columbus Avenue
Bay City

CALL (989) 893-1346

e-mail: annette.jeske@arcabc.com

find us on Facebook

www.arcabc.com

The Arc of Bay County is a not for profit 501 c 3 and welcomes donations to support our mission

Renew Online at www.arcabc.com

____ New Member

____ Renewal

____ \$30/year Single

____ \$50/year Family

____ \$100/year Business

THANK YOU!