

# 2023 Annual Report

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The Arc of Bay County • 709 Columbus Avenue • Bay City MI 48708 • SUMMER 2024

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National Night Out



Our ride to Christmas at Camp Fish Tales



St. Patrick's Day Parade

## Overview

They say time flies when you're having fun, and while it wasn't all fun, we did have our share this past year which ended June 30, 2024. Your Arc staff and volunteers met the day-to-day requests of people we serve embraced impossible challenges with creative solutions, and advocated for the rights of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (DD/IDD) families, friends and the direct care workers who support them.

Our scope of work has increased dramatically, as we've gotten to know the people we serve, and they have brought their challenges to the Arc. Many human service organizations have shifted the burden of providing help for people with mental illness, or intellectual/developmental disabilities to the person in need. We often hear *"they have to want the help"* which is interesting since Michigan's constitution provides that services for, and the public health of, people with disabilities will "always be fostered and supported." If you've ever been seriously ill, or had an accident, you know in your time of need, you might not have known what kind of help to ask for, or be able to make the call. Imagine the difficulties people with DD/IDD face as they are expected to remember appointments, find ways to get to appointments, to know the right words to say, complete paperwork that sometimes comes after the due date and may ask for redundant information. Technology is amazing, but it's often a barrier to receiving services as providers and therapists work via cell phone, e-mail, tele-health, or require electronic signatures. It makes receiving the most basic of supports impossible.

The Arc of Bay County is one of 28 chapters in Michigan. All are working to create more inclusive and independent lives for people with disabilities through training and support, as well as public policy and systems advocacy. Stay strong and join us as you can to advocate for what is right and what is needed!

## Membership Update

We are pleased to report that in FY 2023 that your Arc of Bay County has 124 individual members, families, and organizations. Launched in 1952 by families seeking meaningful lives for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, today's Arc of Bay County aligns with nearly 700 other chapters around the country advocating and provide services and supports so people of any age who have intellectual and or developmental disabilities have meaningful lives. Join today at [www.arcbc.com](http://www.arcbc.com)



## Programming

There are some specific services provided by the Arc of Bay County that are grant-funded including educational advocacy and foster advocacy. Monies to support the Arc's work as an Organizational Representative Payee for the Social Security Administration comes from the people who use that service. Other support comes in the form of donations, local grants, and residual income from our investments.

## Educational Advocacy

Every child has the right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and school can be even more challenging when your child has an intellectual or developmental disability, IDD/DD. Thanks to grant funds from the Arc of Michigan and Michigan Alliance for Families, we are able to assist foster children, families and any student who is struggling in school, including those who are at risk of being expelled, or are being punished or excluded from participating to the extent of their abilities. The child does NOT have to have a documented intellectual or developmental disability to use Educational Advocacy services which available from the Arc of Bay County in Bay, Arenac and Tuscola counties.

In February, The Arc hosted a speaker from the nationally recognized Ross Greene organization, and provided access to books including *Raising Human Beings*. Nearly 100 educators para professionals and support staff from around the Great Lakes Bay Region logged on and received continuing education credits. We look forward to offering an in-person event in 2025.



Join the 6,400 people who've visited our Facebook page this summer, or check out our fresh website at [www.arcbc.com](http://www.arcbc.com)

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### ***Our Mission Statement***

*Promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community*

## Representative Payee

The Rep Payee program grew by leaps and bounds this year, not just in numbers of people served, but with process improvement. Mrs. Cramer embraced technology and online banking while reducing administrative costs. By creating individual budgets, and helping people plan for their financial goals, financial crisis were greatly reduced. Arc staff setup MiAble savings accounts for several who have long range needs for savings, while keeping their entitlement benefits including Medicaid. An audit conducted by Michigan Disability Rights in December of 2023 were favorable with no findings.



## Independent Facilitation

The Arc of Bay County has four people trained to provide Independent Facilitation. This is an optional service available when a person is receiving Medicaid-funded services from a community mental health provider, at no cost to them. Independent Facilitators help guide the process as an Independent Plan of Service (iPOS) is created. This plan, defines the quantity and types of supports the person needs and wants and is often referred to as a "person-centered" plan. The Arc of Bay County holds contracts with Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Community Mental Health, Saginaw County CMH and Tuscola Behavioral Health Services.

## Advocacy & Outreach

There's plenty of opportunity to advocate for change at the federal level, the asset limit for SSI recipients hasn't been raised from \$2,000, since the 1970s. As part of the statewide #More4DCWs campaign, the Arc of Bay County



continues to advocate for additional wages and benefits for the people who provide the day-to-day assistance with activities of daily living

for many people with DD/IDD as well as older adults. The Michigan state legislature included a .20/hour increase in the FY 2025 budget, but for most workers, that leaves them in poverty or the below the ALICE (asset-limited, income constrained, employed) survival budget needed for housing, food, childcare and transportation.

## Grants and Donations

We were pleased to participate in the National Core Indicator Project (NCI) this past year, as well as other grant funded projects including the Squires Grant for "*What's happening at the Arc phase 1*" which continues with fresh funding for a community-wide survey. Data will be used for planning and to demonstrate need for future projects. A BIG thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their ongoing support. Buffalo Wild Wings 20% fundraisers which are held twice a year continue to be popular, as is the Goodwill Store "round up" where customers can give their change to the Arc of Bay County this summer. We are grateful to our community who continue to support us, including families who've mentioned us in funeral memorials, sent money for supplies, or dropped by to see how we're doing. We use your donations to do things like make sure people we serve get a birthday card, and for emergency expenses, sometimes your donations saves the day!

Outreach included presentations to the Bay City Lions Club, Noon Optimists, Gleaners Arbor Civitan and more. We are a member of the Chamber of Commerce, participated in the "Longest Table" and more. Want a speaker for your next meeting? Give us a call (989) 893-1346.



## Fundraising

The annual Strawberry Shortcake Festival Fundraiser was held on June 21st in the parking lot, with support from Great Lakes Federal Credit Union, The Columbus Avenue Management Board, Buddy's Columbus Cones, Rosie's Pies, and many others. We commissioned a 4H club to assist us in running shortcakes from the ice cream shop to the parking lot for the drive up. A DJ kept the music going in the party tent, and even though it rained we collected \$1990 in less than three hours. BIG thanks to all the members family and friends who helped make this event possible. We can't do it with out YOU!

### **The Arc of Bay County Board of Directors**

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Board Consultant & Arc Educational Advocate  
Jan Lampman

Charles Juers, President  
Ron Niemiec, Vice-President  
Treasurer (Vacant)  
Kristy Schmidt, Secretary  
Jamiee Crites  
Joe Gobeski  
Dorian Matthews  
Kaylee Rogers  
Brian Vos

### **The Arc of Bay County Staff**

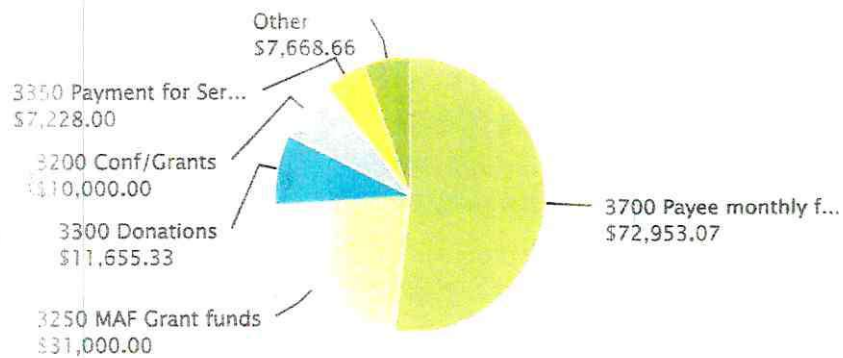
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Annette Jeske, Executive Director  
Karen Cramer, Rep Payee  
Salena Shockneese, Payee Assistant  
Laura Roth, Administrative Assistant\*  
Joani Hogan, on-call Social Work

\*paid for by your Older American Act Tax Dollars thru the Title V Older American Worker program

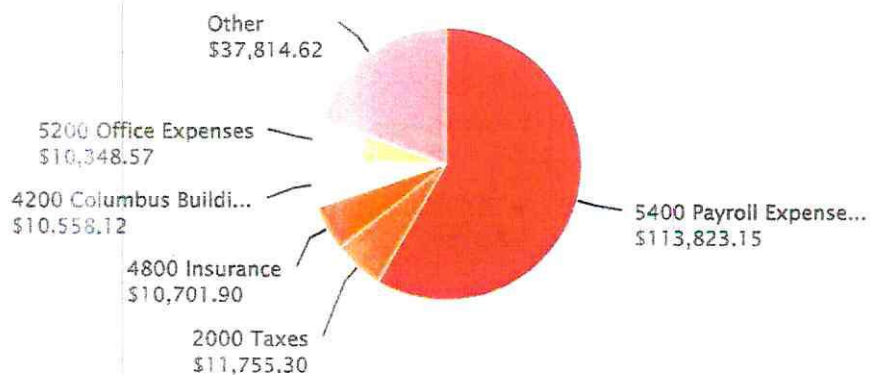


THE ARC OF BAY COUNTY  
Income By Category



%	Category	(\$)Amount
51.92%	3700 Payee monthly fees	72,953.07
22.06%	3250 MAF Grant funds	31,000.00
8.30%	3300 Donations	11,655.33
7.12%	3200 Conf/Grants	10,000.00
5.14%	3350 Payment for Services Rendered	7,228.00
5.46%	Other	7,668.66
Thursday, Jul 18, 2024		Accrual Basis

THE ARC OF BAY COUNTY  
Expense By Category



%	Category	(\$)Amount
58.37%	5400 Payroll Expenses	113,823.15
6.03%	2000 Taxes	11,755.30
5.49%	4800 Insurance	10,701.90
5.41%	4200 Columbus Building	10,558.12
5.31%	5200 Office Expenses	10,348.57
19.39%	Other	37,814.62
Sunday, Jul 28, 2024		Accrual Basis