



709 Columbus Avenue • Bay City MI 48708 • (989) 893-1346 • www.arcbc.com



Be Our Valentine?

Join us anytime Tuesday February 10th for a little Valentine Day drop-in! Enjoy a heart shaped cookie, win a contest and do a make and take as we celebrate cupid's day.

Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the year, we are filled with gratitude and joy our Christmas Celebration held on December 5, 2025 was a memorable occasion, with over 150 people coming together to celebrate the season. The event was filled with music and dancing thanks to Nightlife Entertainment and DJ Jeff the dance and costume contests brought lots of laughter and excitement. Many of our attendees bravely took the stage for karaoke, creating moments we will be smiling about for a long time.

Guests enjoyed a buffet that included ham generously donated by Michigan Brand, baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, and rolls. Sweet treats were plentiful as well, with Christmas cupcakes and delicious homemade cookies, and refreshing cranberry punch. We were especially happy to see so many of our folks participating in Marty's crafty corner making beautiful holiday projects. We extend our appreciation to Bay Metro Transit Authority for providing rides and a heartfelt thank you to all of the staff, board members and volunteers whose hard work and generosity made the celebration a success. And of course, a BIG thank you to Santa for making a special appearance.



Board of Director Update

Your current Arc of Bay County board members are:

- Christine Boos—Secretary
- Don Edwards
- Jake Fortin
- Joe Gobeski
- Jeff Henning—President
- Joe Papash
- Kathy Talaga

The board of directors kicked off 2026 with an off-site retreat on January 12th where consultant Jan Lampman led them through a strategic planning process. Conversation about guiding principles and the purpose of an Arc chapter, along with goals for 2026 were discussed. Fundraising is top of mind so watch for updates as events and opportunities to engage and support your Arc pop up. Thank you to Squires Funeral Home for use of their beautiful community room and to everyone who contributed to this important meeting. If you have an interest in serving in a board role, or know someone who may be give us a call (989) 893-1346.

From the Desk of Karen Cramer, Your Rep Payee

It's officially 2026 -

Many who use the Arc's Organizational Rep Payee service have been asking how much spending they will get. Social Security's increase to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) was about \$56, for many of you, as I updated your budget that went to cover your rent increase.



- The state rate for a person living in a licensed adult foster care home is now \$1,151.50 a month. Don't worry, even if you're SSI doesn't cover it, you still receive your monthly spending of \$44
- If you live in subsidized public housing, like an apartment, duplex or house your rent will be adjusted when it's time for your annual review

Keep in mind that there are several ways for you to get your spending money, including:

- Transfer to your personal account at the Great Lakes Federal Credit Union which has location on Euclid Avenue and also Washington Avenue
- True Link Card, this special debit card can track your purchases; this comes with \$5 per month fee
- Personal check made out to you either picked up at the office, or mailed to your home

We work hard to pay your basic need bills efficiently, please let us know if something changes in your life, if you'd like to review your budget, plan for a vacation, or large purchase, or if you have an emergency need.

When you use our service, there's value added, have you thought about a Mi Able savings account, or maybe you'd like peace of mind when you set up a prepaid funeral plan. Let us know how we can assist you in meeting your financial goals in 2026.



Tax documents are now arriving by U.S. Mail to the Arc office. If you are looking for yours, give us a call or stop by. Again this year, Mike Mallek has generously offered to prepare returns for people served by the Arc of Bay County for \$10 a return, this includes your MI CR-7 Home Heating Tax Credit. Call the Arc if you are interested.

Welcome Dee Burzynski

Please welcome Dee to the Rep Payee office. She comes to the Arc after having retired from other organizations who serve people with intellectual disabilities. Look for Dee at the office a couple days each week.



Save the Date

Sunday March 15th—Bay City's St. Patrick Day parade. Let us know if you want to work on the float. Cash donations, and supplies area also appreciated.

No SNAP November wrap up!

It started with a Facebook post when we learned the federal government shutdown would mean Bridge cards wouldn't be funded. This is a benefit that many people served by the Arc rely on to purchase their groceries.

For more than a month volunteers, donations, events, and publicity made the food drive a reality.

When it was over, 200 individuals and families had been provided with shelf stable food items that carried them thru what had become the federal government's longest shutdown to date. Thank you to everyone who thought about us, stopped by to help, donated or helped deliver. We couldn't have done it without you!



New Grant-funded efforts

We kicked off the New Year with two new efforts thanks to Bay Area Community Foundation and the Squires Foundation. First, money for supplies for some work already in process, and then, a grant that provides orientation and oversight of volunteers who will be available to welcome and assist visitors to the Arc by helping them with things like replying to mail, using the phone or computer to make appointments, do paperwork and more.

Test Your Knowledge



Did you know that your Arc chapter is a Social Justice organization?

Social justice, is the fair treatment and equitable status of all people in a society. The term also applies to social, political, and economic policies that collectively afford such fairness and equity and is commonly applied to movements that seek fairness, equity and inclusion of people including those with disabilities.

Where does the money come from?

Money to operate the Arc of Bay County comes from membership dues, program income from the SSA Rep Payee participants, donations and competitive grant funds.

New way to donate...

We're exploring an arrangement where you sell your unwanted items through 1 Bid Auction service and designate the proceeds to go to the Arc of Bay County. More information soon!

Follow us on Social Media

Keep up with what's happening by following us on Facebook. "Like" and "share" posts, check out our website, www.arcbc.com and become a member! Not only does membership help support your Arc but it's a great way to stay in the know. Mail in form on the next page, or join from the website.

The Arc of Bay County Staff



Annette Jeske, Executive Director * Karen Cramer, Rep Payee * Salena Shockneese, Payee Assistant
Dee Burzynski, Payee Assistant * Laura Roth, Administrative Assistant * Linda Cassar, Fundraising & Event Planning
Joani Hogan, Social Worker * Jan Lampman, Consultant & Education Advocate



709 Columbus Avenue
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Your Arc is open Monday thru Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM & other times by appointment
CALL (989) 893-1346 • e-mail: annette.jeske@arcbc.com • find us on Facebook

*Join The Arc of Bay County at www.arcbc.com or
Detach and mail the form below!*

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



New Member

Renewal

\$25/year Single

\$50/year Family

\$100/year Business

\$ _____ donation