

Annual meeting & the Strawberry Festival Fundraiser-June 17



The tradition continues, Wednesday June 17th under the tent in the parking lot of the Arc. Join us for strawberry shortcake festival fundraiser as we take over Buddy's Columbus Cone from 4 PM-7 PM and serve up shortcake for an \$8 donation. Party with Nightlife Entertainment, bid on online auction items, or put some cash down on the 50/50. Don't want to get out of the car? Take advantage of our drive-up service. Enter from 11th street. We're actively seeking donations and volunteers, call if you want to help.

Dear Members & Friends,

As we welcome the fresh energy of spring, we're excited to share all the wonderful things happening. This season is full of growth, generosity, and opportunities to come together! Your Arc of Bay County is gaining momentum, and the community is starting to take notice. People with intellectual disabilities are better off today because the Arc exists. Staff and volunteers are putting in the extra effort needed to advocate and connect them with (tax-payer funded) health care and mental health services, supports, and entitlements that are in place to serve them, as well as linking people to charitable and not for profits whose missions align with ending homelessness, feeding the hungry, encouraging sobriety and providing furnishings, transportation and material goods.

The Arc continues to provide educational advocacy to school children and their families under the grant we receive from Arc Michigan, while independent facilitation contracts with Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health, CEI Community Mental Health, Saginaw CMH and Tuscola Behavioral Health are utilized when a person served by the CMH system requests us. The Rep Payee program continues to grow under direction of Karen Cramer who has automated much of the process, and added features that make managing finances more efficient.

Ours is a very generous community, we run on donations, and we are grateful for every bit of - food money, time, talent or material goods you provide so that we can continue anchoring the corner of N. Jackson and Columbus Avenue and providing services and support to people of any age who have an intellectual disability. ***Come Achieve with us!***

Charity Euchre Tournament

The fundraising committee invites euchre players to come out to the Knights of Columbus Hall in Essexville for a progressive tournament, cash payouts, 50/50 raffle. Help us raise some \$.

Sunday, May 3rd 1 PM to 6 PM. \$30 buy in includes food, cash bar and a good time.

Register online at: www.arcbc.com Questions to: eventinfo.arcbc@gmail.com

Advocacy—You can make a difference!



Jan Lampman, Arc Consultant on Capitol Hill w/ Senator Debbie Dingell & disability advocates from Michigan

What is advocacy? For us, it's about educating people in positions of influence—lawmakers about the issues that are important to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. This happens on a lot of levels.

Locally, people are concerned about affording to pay the toll bridges, the fact that a well-known band coming to the 4th of July festival has the word “confederate” in their name, that there are streets you literally can not safely drive down because of the pot holes, homelessness, and then add

to this, the cost of living, inflation, a war in Iran, gas prices, and you'd think sheesh. What can be done?

Now, imagine if you have a disability and have been struggling all along to make ends meet, find/keep, or be eligible for caregivers (direct care workers) to help you get groceries, clean up your place, do laundry etc. Oh, and live in a suitable, sanitary environment. Unless people in positions of influence understand the predicament, and know that often people with disabilities have limited family, friends or support staff, and sometimes have no discretionary funds they probably won't take up the cause and advocate for improvements.

Locally, some of the advocacy the Arc is supporting includes: setting up a power of attorney for your healthcare, this can be done at our workshop on April 29th, or you can call the Arc and ask for Annette. Reasons a person may benefit from having a POA for healthcare, includes situations that the Arc staff routinely deal with like when a person is at the hospital and unable to identify themselves, communicate or connect with their case manager.

At the state level, we continue to advocate (aka let the lawmakers know) that Direct Care Workers (DCW) the people who on average make \$17/hour to assist a person with disabilities (or an older adult) in the community with their activities of daily living, should themselves be able to earn a living wage. In Washington D.C. the scope of work includes national budgets, keeping civil rights and disability rights intact and more. If you want to get involved, give us a call so we can keep you in the loop!



Adults with autism

Are you an adult with autism who would like to get something going at the Arc of Bay County? Call and give Laura your contact information: (989) 893-1346

Mi Able Savings

For years, it's been problematic for a person with a disability, any disability where the person relies on Social Security Administration's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to save money for repairs, larger ticket items etc.

The Arc of Bay County has been assisting persons with SSI to set-up Mi Able Savings accounts.

This financial product allows the person to save more than the \$2,000 limit, and supports things like longer term planning for purchases and saving.

If you have been struggling with how to save money without losing your benefits like Bridge Card food benefits, Medicaid for your health and home care needs and more. Give us a call.



Planning Your Future Workshop



Join us as Wednesday, April 29th as a guest speaker educates us about Healthcare Power of Attorney (POA) and Alternatives to Guardianship. This a valuable opportunity for individuals and families to learn, ask questions, and prepare for the future. Call (989) 893-1346 to register for this free event.

📅 *April 29, 2026—Wednesday*

🕒 *1:30 PM – 3:30 PM*

📍 *Wirt Library*

“Friends of The Arc” Grant-funded activity

Valentine’s Day was celebrated in fine fashion at the Arc of Bay County thanks to the “Friends of the Arc” grant from the Smith Foundation thru Bay Area Community Foundation. More than two dozen people stopped by to enjoy one of Christine Benecke’s homemade heart cookies, do a make and take valentine card, or just hang out with us.

These opportunities help everyone stay connected and involved.



Thank You

Furnishing Friends—for providing beds and household items as we are able to rehome people

Mike Mallek-for doing clients tax returns at a discounted rate

Ray’s Bike Shop-for their ongoing support and two bicycles for men we serve

Rita Maier-for numerous pairs of brand new shoes, laundry soap and more...

Garber Auto Group-for cash from their “Jeans Day” event

K of C 414-for financial contributions

...and a special thank you to all of our volunteers and friends, we can’t do it without you!

In Sympathy

Condolences to Betty Dabrowski, whose husband Ray died recently and to Sue Blakely, wife of Richard Blakely who also passed.

We extend our sympathy to their families. Both men were longtime members of the Arc in Bay and Tuscola Counties, and supporters of the mission. Thank you for the memorial donations.

Give Local Bay!

This is a national effort, locally coordinated by the Bay Area Community Foundation.

Donations benefit the funds they manage including the Arc of Bay County—information at <https://www.givelocalbay.org/> or if you have questions, call BACF at 989.893.4438

The Arc of Bay County Staff

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



709 Columbus Avenue
Bay City MI 48708

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

Renew online at www.arcbc.com, or mail in the form below!
We can't do this without you!

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

