



70 YEARS
1954 - 2024

A Wabash County Original for 70 Years!

THIS ISSUE

70 Year Celebration
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 @arcofwabashcounty

“70 NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD!”

Booker T. Washington once said, “If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.” The national grassroots movement “to lift up others” began in local communities across America in 1954, and Wabash County was part of it. A group of parents who had children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) were told their children were not allowed in public school classrooms, and so these parents started their own school! They had to “beg, borrow, and steal” to gather the needed resources to launch the School of Hope. Many in the Wabash County community donated and contributed to helping “lift up” these marginalized, neglected children with disabilities. The School of Hope later became The Arc of Wabash County – a place people with I/DDs could turn to for affordable housing, employment, emotional support, advocacy, and legislative influence. By 2007 Indiana was one of only ten states nationwide to close all state institutions for people with I/DDs. The Arc is a homegrown Wabash County original. Today The Arc of Wabash County employs 50 individuals, provides affordable housing for 18 individuals, employment and job search services for 60+ individuals, an on-site job training program at Parkview Hospital Wabash called Project Search, owns and operates a coffee house in North Manchester called Travel Bee Coffee House that trains and employs people with disabilities, on-campus high school programming for 50 students in Wabash County, Shredz of Hope document shredding business that employs six, tens of thousands of miles of transportation each year, and countless hours of emotional and mental support and encouragement. From the beginning the hard work was making sure every person had the right to be included and valued, and to contribute to the fabric of their own hometown. We have come a long way in the last 70 years, but the work is not done yet! The best is yet to come, and the best things in life are always on the other side of difficult. We did easy yesterday. Without realizing it in 1954, when Wabash County began “lifting up” children with disabilities, they also began “lifting up” themselves. When everyone is included, when everyone is valued, when everyone is allowed to contribute to the community they live in, that community is stronger. Thank you, Wabash County, for 70 years of “heavy lifting.”

Thank you! Jeff Patton, CEO

70 YEARS WITH DEB

Deb’s Mother, Marge Stoffer, started the School of Hope that became The Arc of Wabash County. Deb was one of the first-ever students. Today Deb lives in one of The Arc’s residential homes, is employed five days a week at The Arc, and volunteers in the community. Deb enjoys going out into the community for social activities, shopping with her own money, and taking vacations with The Arc. Deb has been with us for 70 years helping us to better understand and support individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.



THEIR STORIES MATTER

Meet Matt! Matt was adopted from Guatemala and brought to the United States. He started with The Arc of Wabash County in 2009 working five days a week in The Arc's industrial services program. Wanting more independence, he moved into The Arc's residential housing where he shares a home with two roommates. Matt volunteers in the community with The Arc at places such as The Mission. Matt enjoys saving his money to go on vacations with The Arc. Last year he visited California and this year he has plans to head to Hawaii. In 2023 Matt joined MyTeam Triumph as a captain competing in races such as the Indy Mini Marathon. At The Arc we understand the importance of continuing to encourage Matt's independence and we are able to offer the programs and support for Matt with the help of our donors.



Meet Mark! Mark joined The Arc of Wabash County in 2001 where he started working in the warehouse working on parts for Ford Meter Box. During this time, he has received on-the-job training from The Arc Career Coaches. Mark volunteers through The Arc Community Support program at places like the FISH Food Pantry. In 2023, Mark started in our Community Employment program working in the kitchen at Honeywell. Mark lives independently in an apartment. He participates in the Wabash County Special Olympics and enjoys fishing, camping, and animals.

Meet Sabrina and Aaron! This brother and sister duo have been with The Arc since 2016. They both enjoy attending Young Adults programming monthly where they are able to socialize with their peers. They both enjoy the Participant Assistance and Care (PAC) and Community Support programs through The Arc. Sabrina uses her PAC time to go shopping and explore the community. They are both working on social and academic skills weekly with a support coach at The Arc. Aaron joined The Arc Community Employment program and found full time employment with Wabash City Schools in the kitchen. Sabrina has worked at Burger King for 13 years.



Meet Kim! Kim started at The Arc in 2001 working in the workshop. In 2023 Kim moved in to The Arc residential housing offering independent living with two other roommates. With her employment at The Arc she is able to earn a paycheck that she likes to save for vacations with The Arc. Kim also serves on the advocacy team at The Arc. As an advocate she encourages others to stand up for their rights and support an inclusive community. In 2023 she joined the MyTeam Triumph team here in Wabash County participating in events such as the Indy Mini Marathon and other local races.

70 YEAR CAMPAIGN

Will you support our '70k for 70 years' campaign?

With your donation, we will celebrate our 70th Anniversary by raising \$70,000 in 2024! Your contribution will help The Arc Wabash County enhance and expand programs and services to the more than 125 individuals we currently support. Your donation will directly benefit those with disabilities the Arc Wabash County supports. Your support has been instrumental in our success through the years, and now we invite you to join us on this momentous occasion by contributing to our fundraising campaign. Your generous donation will directly impact the lives of those we serve by enabling The Arc of Wabash County to continue to provide opportunities in affordable housing, employment, transportation, and more.

Donate \$70 today by mail, online, or by dropping by our office.

QR Code to
Donate Online!



**YOUR GENEROSITY
CHANGES LIVES!**



MEDICAID NEWS

Medicaid Waivers allow Medicaid to fund support and services for children and adults with disabilities in their family homes or community residential programs instead of institutions. Medicaid Waivers allow an individual to use traditional Medicaid services and the additional services available through the Medicaid Waiver program. Indiana offers eight Medicaid Waiver programs for people with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and mental health needs.

Kim Dodson, CEO, of The Arc of Indiana, recently stated that 2024 presents challenges as Indiana faces a nearly \$1 billion deficit in Medicaid funding. "At the same time, we are on the brink of a very much needed re-design of Indiana's Medicaid Waiver program that cannot be put off any longer."

On January 17, 2024, the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) submitted new waiver amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the proposed Pathways for Aging, Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH), Family Supports (FSW), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Health and Wellness (H&W) waivers.

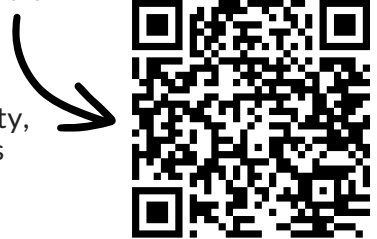


CMS allows states to pay Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) through a Medicaid Waiver; however, as proposed, the H&W Waiver and TBI Waivers would not allow LRI's to be paid to provide attendant care. Instead, LRI's would be required to transition to Indiana's Structured Family Caregiving program. New guidance issued on January 26th clarifies that legal guardians of adults can be paid to provide PCA up to 40 hours a week. This will negatively impact families caring for medically fragile children with significant disabilities.

The Arc of Indiana stays on top of the changes with the Medicaid Waiver program and meets with legislature often to make sure they fully understand the needs of individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.

Jump to the The Arc of Indiana Medicaid Waiver Page!

Recently The Arc of Indiana asked people to share their "Medicaid story" so others can understand the importance of the program. A friend to The Arc of Wabash County, Joan Joyce, wrote in to share her and her son Patrick's Medicaid story. Patrick works five days a week at The Arc of Wabash County and lives in our residential housing.



"I have always been an Indiana resident and am 91 years old. My 69-year-old son was brain-damaged at birth and is developmentally disabled. He has always lived with me and attended Special Ed classes until the age of 16 at which time he entered the Marshall/Starke Development Center workshop program in Plymouth in 1970. While participating in this program, he was admitted into the Medicaid system for the first time in 2006.

Our family moved to Wabash County in 2008, and it was a seamless transition when he transferred to The Arc of Wabash County workshop program which he still attends. Routine conferences have always been held throughout each year involving my son, the staff, his waiver case manager, and myself to make sure that his health and work needs are being met, and any questions or concerns are addressed. When I was 88, the subject of respite care was brought up. His waiver case manager informed me that a Medicaid Waiver was available, because of my age, to meet my need for occasional respite care.

This waiver made it possible for a familiar and trained Arc employee to come into our home and stay overnight with my son if I needed to be gone. This was greatly appreciated and used on a few occasions.

When I was 90, the subject of my son's care after I was no longer living was brought up by his case manager. She strongly suggested I consider moving him into one of their Wabash County residential homes with providers who knew him. I had known that homes for clients were available on a limited basis but had been reluctant through the years to research the possibility. However, their concern, as well as my own during Covid, brought about my more serious look into their program. I was very fortunate to find a home that I thought would work, and my son moved into his new home in the summer of 2022 at the age of 68. The staffing has been excellent and not only his health but his enjoyment needs are being met. I am more thankful every day that he is under someone else's care.

These are programs that are supported by Medicaid for which I am very grateful. All staff in all situations have been excellent, efficient, patient, kind, and caring. I only wish their pay was commensurate with the time, talent, and loving care that they give to their clients. They are angels on earth."

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INTERNS BRING JOY TO PARKVIEW

Project Search internships continue at Parkview Wabash Hospital. Our interns are learning skills in various areas such as guest relations, food services, and maintenance. They are also learning time management, teamwork, and other on-the-job skills that will help them with future employment.

Recently Parkview Health created a video with interviews about the experience with Project Search. And our favorite quote was "Perhaps one of the biggest benefits of both programs is the impact these interns bring to their Parkview teammates," Kerri Mattern, leader, of Community Health Initiatives, Parkview Health, stated. "They've embraced it. We get great joy from these interns. They are each excited to come in and on the days, we might be struggling, we see their joy, and it gives us a renewed purpose for our work."

QR Code to
Parkview Video!



Thank you!

