



ARC DE TRIOMPHE

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MY TEAM TRIUMPH WABASH CO

Welcome to Wabash County, Myteam Triumph - Northern Indiana Chapter! We are so excited to have two chairs available for our friends with disabilities in Wabash County. There was \$9000 raised in 30 days to make two new chairs available.

We can't thank Todd Schindler enough for his drive to make this happen and the numerous local sponsors. The Arc of Wabash County, Inc. was proud to be a sponsor!

Both chairs are able to convert to connect to bikes and both come with covers to protect riders (Captains) from the weather. Our chairs will arrive in time for the Indy Mini in which two of our clients will be participating. There is a plan for 12 additional events around the area this year with the chairs.

Thank you again to all sponsors for helping to make life just a little more inclusive.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS

March has been recognized as the national Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. During this month, we recognize positive contributions people with developmental disabilities make in our community every day. We have the opportunity to bring awareness of our shared humanity, the many ways people with developmental disabilities enrich our communities, and the challenges we still face to realizing a truly inclusive society.

At the Arc of Wabash County, we are unrelenting advocates for individuals living with emotional, behavioral and cognitive differences, and strongly believe this population can make a positive difference in their communities, if given the opportunity to unlock their human potential.

The Arc of Wabash County strives to meet the unique needs of the individuals we serve by providing compassionate care and support, and empowering individuals with disabilities to lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is the perfect opportunity to educate our communities about the challenges facing this population, and to teach the importance of inclusion in every aspect of a person's life.

We would love your support in sharing the importance of spreading awareness about inclusion for our friends with developmental disabilities.

Thank you! Jeff Patton, CEO



"I want everyone to talk to adults with disabilities as adults and not children. We often get treated differently. We are capable of so much." - Tasha



HERE WE GROW!

The Arc of Wabash County is pleased to announce that they have expanded their footprint to serve as the local chapter of The Arc in Grant and Miami Counties, in addition to Wabash County. "We are looking forward to bringing all the valuable resources and supports of The Arc network to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who live in Grant County and Miami County. The Arc is the premiere advocacy organization for people with IDD and their families and we are proud to be a part of expanding those advocacy efforts, along with our programs and services." Jeff Patton, The Arc of Wabash County CEO said.

Kim Dodson, The Arc of Indiana CEO, said, "We are extremely excited about the expansion of The Arc of Wabash County. They are a leader in providing quality services to people with IDD and have a commitment to advocating for them as well as encouraging those they serve to be self-advocates. We look forward to working with them to grow their connection with people with disabilities and their families. The combined strength of The Arc at the local, state, and national level **makes The Arc the largest national community-based organization advocating for and with people with IDD and their families.** With the expansion of The Arc of Wabash County, The Arc of Indiana now covers 68 counties across the state."

CONGRATULATIONS KIM!

Kim Barnett has been with The Arc for approximately 16 years. Early in her career, Kim was a Direct Support Professional and Training Coordinator. She soon transitioned into being a full time Career Coach where she has spent the majority of her employment. This past year Kim transitioned into the role of being The Arc Receptionist.

When asked what she has loved the most about working at The Arc Kim states, "learning all the different personalities that come along with disabilities. And sharing 16 years of my life with the clients and staff." Kim was passionate about the clients she supported. The clients enjoyed Kim and the fun, loving personality she brought to The Arc.

Thank you, Kim, for all you have done to make a difference in the lives of the clients you served over the last 16 years. Enjoy your Retirement!



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

The Indiana Family & Social Services Administration is excited to launch a critical short-term wages and benefit strategy in the form of a Direct Services Workforce Investment grant to financially support frontline staff who provide direct care and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Wabash County applied and is being awarded funds for our frontline staff. We are excited to have the opportunity to recognize and reward our frontline staff with bonuses in April, July and October.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

In 1987 President Ronald Reagan issued a public proclamation urging Americans to provide individuals with developmental disabilities "the encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential." While there has been significant and positive change in the decades since, many challenges remain for this vulnerable population.

Recent estimates show that about 2% of the US population has one or more developmental disabilities. That means **there may be over 600 Wabash County citizens living with an intellectual or developmental disability.**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), developmental disabilities are defined as impairments in physical, learning, language or behavior areas, and include:

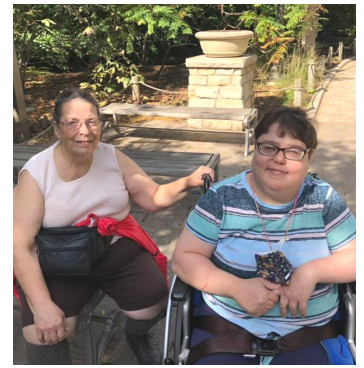
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Cerebral Palsy
- Attention- Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder
- Learning or Intellectual Disabilities
- Hearing Loss
- Vision Impairment
- Down Syndrome
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Other Developmental Delays



CONGRATULATIONS JANE!

Jane Willmert is retiring after 42 years of employment with The Arc of Wabash County. Jane has been a huge part of helping to shape The Arc of Wabash County into what it is today. She has a heart of gold and has blessed every client she has supported while devoting over 40 years of her life to them and The Arc. Jane has held 14 job titles in her time at The Arc with the last 16 years as a Job Coach. In 1989 she helped develop the Semi-Independent Living Program (SILP) that allowed clients more independence and inclusion. Fast forward to 2002 and she helped with the opening of a 24-hour waiver home program that she worked in outside of her normal daytime role at The Arc. We can't count the many times Jane has helped our programs and supported living to grow over the years.

For many years, during special occasions such as our Annual Dinner, Jane would play the piano for the clients and guests. Her passion for music can be heard in her room with her clients to this day. We can't thank Jane enough for her dedication, passion, and love for her clients and The Arc of Wabash County over the last 42 years.



SHARE YOUR HEART WITH THE ARC

The Arc of Indiana hosted their annual Valentine's Day at the Statehouse event that helps chapter leaders and members of The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana connect with legislators and statewide elected officials to thank them for their work and raise awareness of The Arc. Statewide participation helps public officials better understand that people with developmental disabilities and their families have real needs and dreams to consider when making funding and public policy decisions. The Arc of Wabash County was excited to join the festivities!



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



Mary Ogle, Director of Employment Services, has been appointed to the Board of IN-APSE (Indiana Association of People Supporting Employment). This is a wonderful opportunity for Mary to represent the Arc of Wabash County and serve in the field of disability service provision with statewide influence. Indiana APSE (In-APSE) is a membership organization that promotes and expands quality, community employment outcomes of choice for all people with disabilities.

Heather Enyeart, Assistant Director of Employment Services, is now a Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) as she passed her exam. The CESP program is the first in the nation to create national guidelines to validate and support the training currently provided in the field of Employment Support Professionals. Heather assists individuals in exploring, obtaining and retaining competitive integrated employment in the community.

Thank you, Mary and Heather for continuing to advance your skills to better support our clients!

Arc of Wabash County, Inc.
595 South Miami Street
PO Box 400
Wabash, IN 46992

Phone: 260-563-8411
Email: arc@arcwabash.org
Website: www.arcwabash.org

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 @ArcOfWabashCounty


WHAT IS SHARED HUMANITY?

It means acknowledging that every human needs to be seen, heard, and recognized for who they are, taken into account, valued, and given the chance to live a life of hope, freedom and fairness.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Make sure to follow  to see upcoming event details!

 @ArcYoungAdults

Social Connections Matter!

INNOVATION AWARD

The Indiana Association of People Supporting Employment (INAPSE) conference was held in March that focuses on "employment outcomes of choice for all people with disabilities."

The Dave Hammis Innovation Award was awarded during the INAPS conference. The award is awarded to individuals or organizations who demonstrate innovation in the area of technology, customized strategies, and/or self-employment for individuals with significant disabilities.

Jeff Patton, CEO of The Arc of Wabash County, was the recipient this year. While receiving the award, Jeff was quick to thank his team that helped transition and grow the employment services at The Arc of Wabash County.

Congratulations Jeff!

