



Annual Dinner

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Congratulations Brittney  
Young Adults Club

 @arcowabashcounty

## 2022 AULD LANG SYNE

“Auld Lang Syne” was originally a Scottish poem that was later set to music. “Auld Lang Syne” is sung to mark endings and new beginnings.

“Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot and the days of auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne. We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for the sake of auld lang syne.”

As we mark the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023 two words come to mind for The Arc of Wabash County: Excitement and Progress! It has been a very exciting year for us at The Arc and a year of much progress toward strategic goals and positive changes.

The Arc has added key staff, enrolled additional participants, forged new community partnerships, and conducted a feasibility study for a potential capital campaign for a new facility.

It truly has been an exciting year for us at The Arc. And none of this would be possible without all of you – our friends, customers, staff, and stakeholders. It is because of your support and encouragement that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Wabash County can live lives of importance and impact.

So, as we say goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023, we at The Arc of Wabash County want to say, “Thank You!” and invite everyone to join us in “drinking a cup of kindness yet for the sake of auld lang syne.”

*Thank you! Jeff Patton, CEO*



Rise Up Dance Company has been coming on Wednesday afternoons for dance party exercise!

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- A highly successful CARF Audit. Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- An expansion of our regional presence by connecting with local educators, universities, employers, community-based organizations.
- An expansion of our programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) such as the new Young Adults Program.
- An increase of 24% in Arc's Community Employment Program.
- A change of 29% from Arc's sheltered workshop employment model to Arc's community-based employment model. (total change since 2017)
- A total of 55 high school students with disabilities receiving support and training.
- A 10% increase in donations.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- A 510% increase in grant funding, including a \$1,000,000 grant from the AWS Foundation earmarked explicitly for employment services transformation, and a \$50,000 grant from FSSA for employment services transformation.

- A 90%+ customer satisfaction rate from individuals served, families, and stakeholders.

- A visit to the Statehouse with The Arc individuals for "Have A Heart for the Arc" initiative.

- A new partnership with Ability Indiana that allows The Arc to bid on statewide shredding contracts which provide employment for people with disabilities.

- An invitation to participate in the prestigious NEON National Collaborative: National Expansion of Employment Opportunities through the National Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).

- A stellar financial audit by David Culp & Co. LLP.

## SHREDZ OF HOPE

Have you seen the new *Shredz of Hope* logo around Wabash County? 2022 brought the purchase of a new mobile shredding truck to expand The Arc's customer base and provides employment and competitive pay for individuals with disabilities. *Shredz of Hope* offers secure shredding and cardboard pickup.

Call for more details or to schedule a pick up:  
Mary Ogle, Director of Employment Services, 260-563-8411

## INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION

Congratulations to our own Brittney Hernandez, Director of Residential Services & Young Adults Programming, for being accepted into INARF's 2023 Leadership Academy. INARF is the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities of which the Arc of Wabash County is a member. Brittney was selected from a large group of applicants to be a part of this small cohort which will spend a year learning from industry experts in the field of IDD Services Leadership. Her acceptance into the Leadership Academy will also bring statewide recognition to The Arc of Wabash County.



## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

The Arc of Wabash County currently has sixteen clients working in the community. Over the last five years there have been 45 placements in community employment around Wabash County. Hiring people with disabilities conveys and promotes an inclusive work environment.

Join the efforts in Wabash County to create an inclusive community!

1. Hire individuals with disabilities
2. Engage with awareness building
3. Empower all staff by offering mentor and mentee opportunities, and making space for diverse talent to hold roles at all levels

The Arc of Wabash County works with clients to gain employment and then provides 24 months of on the job Supported Employment Services. After 24 months, continued support is available through Follow Along Support Services if needed.



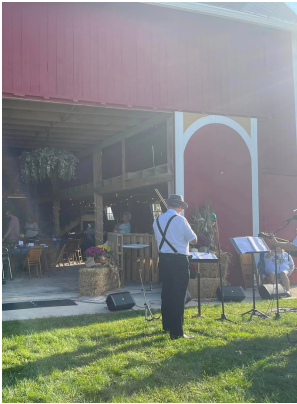
Eleven clients vacationed in California with The Arc staff in October.





## ANNUAL DINNER

We had a wonderful evening celebrating together at our Annual Dinner. The newly renovated Dear John Acres barn in Roann was a beautiful setting for the evening. We started the evening with blue grass music by The Barrel Scrapers as we enjoyed our dinner. After dinner awards were presented by Jeff Patton, CEO, and Lindsay Swihart, COO, to The Arc clients and staff and businesses that supported The Arc throughout the last year. After awards our favorite therapy dogs arrived, the DJ started playing and everyone enjoyed dancing, games, a photo booth and hayrides. Thank you to everyone that made the night a success.

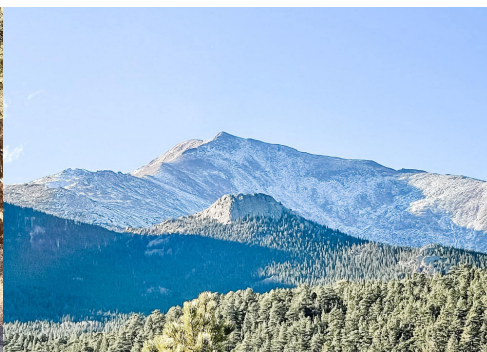


## THE ARC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Four staff members and two clients attended The Arc National Convention in Denver, Colorado. The Arc's National Convention is an unmatched opportunity to connect and learn with advocates, professionals, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The educational sessions were filled with knowledge on advocacy, leadership, support and services, and public policy.

"Celebrating Resilience in the Face of Adversity" was the opening session and our favorite part was hearing from the self advocates. A favorite was Martha representing Sephora who is 21 years old with Down Syndrome. "Though it seems like there might be a lot going on with my condition I have the ability to do all kinds of things." Martha attends University majoring in Psychology, interned at The Arc, and finds beauty in "being you and just doing you!" Search "Martha's inspiring story featuring The Arc" on YouTube to feel the strength from these self advocates.

The convention was not only educational but empowering for our group to be reminded why our work matters, the strength of our clients, and how Wabash County can grow with the help of The Arc to be more inclusive through community employment and every day living for our friends with disabilities.



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Donating & Membership  
Made Easy!

THE ARC OF WABASH COUNTY  
PRESENTS  
**Young Adults Club**  
**GAME NIGHT**  
FRIDAY JANUARY 20th  
AT WINGS ETC  
STARTS AT: 05:00PM  
ENDS AT: 07:30PM  
PLEASE BRING MONEY  
FOR FOOD & DRINK  
RSVP to Brittney Hernandez  
260-571-3483

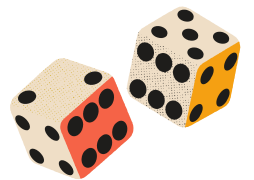
## YOUNG ADULTS CLUB

The Arc of Wabash County saw the need to create a social connections club for young adults in Wabash County. Bringing young adults 18-30 together to connect. This new program started in the Fall of 2022 as a way to focus on keeping young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities connected – connected to Arc, connected to each other, connected to their communities, and connected to themselves.

### Why Social Connections Matter

-  Healthy relationships benefits both mental and physical health.
-  Emotional support through relationships helps us feel loved, cared for and listened to.
-  Isolation can negatively impact health and well-being.
-  Sense of belonging and connections, part of a group or community.

The group meets for game nights, outings, and Holiday celebrations. If you know of anyone that would like to join please have them reach out to Brittney Hernandez at 260-571-3483 or join our Facebook group.



 @ArcYoungAdults

**Social Connections Matter!**

