



THIS ISSUE

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Self Advocate Picnic

 @arcowabashcounty

“OUR HOUSE IS A VERY FINE HOUSE”

It is fitting that October 10th is the grand opening of The Arc Wabash County’s Travel Bee Coffee House in North Manchester. Annually October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM is the creation of the Office of Disability Employment Policy in Washington DC (ODEP) to draw national attention to the promotion of employment for people with disabilities.

Research is adamant regarding the benefits to businesses that hire people with disabilities: greater profit margins, higher revenue, richer workplace culture, less absenteeism, and more. In 2022, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 21.3% of people with a disability were employed while 65.4% of people without a disability were employed. The unemployment rate for people with a disability, 7.6%, remains more than double the rate for people without a disability, 3.5%, according to the US Department of Labor. In 2022, 30% of employed people with a disability were part-time, while only 16% of employed people without a disability were employed part-time.

The Arc’s Travel Bee Coffee House is “coffee with a mission!” The mission is to offer workplace skills training and permanent employment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Travel Bee Coffee House will offer world class, eco-friendly coffee drinks and products with stellar customer service within the context of a mission-driven, disability-inclusive jobs training program. The Arc Wabash County is excited to bring this new business with a deep commitment to inclusion to Wabash County. So come in, buy a cup, sit a spell, watch the mission in action.

(The Arc Wabash County thanks the AWS Foundation of Fort Wayne for making this dream a reality, and Utopian Coffee of Fort Wayne for support in this venture.)

Thank you! Jeff Patton, CEO

Travel Bee Coffee House opens October 10th, downtown North Manchester. Join us for our ribbon cutting at 9:30am and grand opening at 10am.

NIGHT OF INCLUSION

September 19, 2023 we joined together to celebrate a ‘Night of Inclusion’ at our annual dinner fundraiser. Invited were staff, clients, family, and community members to come together to celebrate the year of success at The Arc of Wabash County and raise funds for our organization. Everyone enjoyed dinner, music, dancing, awards, and a silent auction. Thank you to everyone that joined our annual dinner. We are looking forward to another year of growth here at The Arc.



NIGHT OF INCLUSION: AWARDS



Employee of the Year (Tabitha Cooper)
"Tabby is completely dedicated to the Arc Wabash County. She works countless hours without complaint and demonstrates care and concern for our clients. She's calm under fire and responds to difficult situations with calm problem-solving. Tabby works monthly 24/7 shifts on On-Call Duty, transports clients to doctor and dentist appointments, provides admin support to our Supported Living Program, and currently is filling in for a Director who is on leave. She does all this without complaining and with a professional demeanor." - Jeff Patton, CEO

Benefactor Award (The Dog Man of Wabash County)

This award is given to a person or organization in the community whose personal effort made a significant impact on the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The Arc Champion Award (Casey Sausaman)
"Casey has been a champion of the Arc for decades and a staunch advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Casey has an adult child with a disability and thoroughly supports and advocates for her. Casey just completed 12 years of service on the Arc Board of Directors and is now serving on the Arc's Advocacy, Human Rights, and Inclusion Council. Casey demonstrates an exceptional support for the Arc Wabash County and has a genuine spirit of encouragement to the Arc's clients and staff." - Jeff Patton, CEO



Career Coach of the Year (Jennifer Gaston)
Jennifer has gone above and beyond in her job duties. She has recently taken on additional leadership roles and is always willing to step in to help wherever she is needed. She has been eager to learn by attending new trainings, assisted with getting the coffee house cleaned and ready to open, and has volunteered to be the CPR/First Aid Instructor at The Arc. She is positive, kind and considerate of others.



Outstanding Merit (Brenda Decker)

This award is given to someone whose overall performance deserves special recognition. Brenda knows how to complete all the jobs at The Arc, has a huge heart for volunteering, and recently started the community employment program.



Personal Growth Award
 Elijah Kral



Employment Services Worker
 Austin Sample



Community Employee of the Year
 Jon Hubbard



Outstanding Merit
 David Hart

Employer of the Year -
 Living Well of Wabash County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS GROWTH

The Arc of Wabash County has expanded from nine to thirteen directors on our board. We welcomed the new directors to the board starting July 1, the start of our new fiscal year. The incoming board members help diversify the organization's leadership.

The Arc of Wabash County new board members include Chelsea Parson, Grow Wabash County; Amanda Boggs, Midwest Eye Consultants; Steve Forrester, Intrasect Technologies; Angela Leichty, Parkview Wabash Hospital; Deb Potempa, Parkview Wabash Hospital; and Kevin Trotter, Independent Consulting.



The full board of directors includes Andrea Zwiebel, Downtown Wabash; Mike Barnett, Procore Technologies; Donna Huneryager, Midwest Eye Consultants, Tom Philippsen, Ford Meter Box; Jeff Myers, Ecowater Systems; Shelly Myers, MSD of Wabash County; and Beth Phillipy, OJ Neighbors School.

PROJECT SEARCH LAUNCHES

The Arc Wabash County is excited to announce the launch of Project Search at Parkview Wabash Hospital on October 2. Project Search is an international program begun and headquartered at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center that prepares young people with significant disabilities for success in competitive, integrated employment. Project Search offers a 32-week onsite internship program for young adults. The program must be based on the premises of a local employer.

The Arc Wabash County is partnering with Parkview Hospital Wabash to offer four young adults skills training in four different Parkview departments over the 32 weeks. Participants will learn workplace skills that will improve opportunities for them to gain long-term employment at the business of their choice in Wabash County. Project Search also provides job search assistance and on-the-job support after employment at the completion of the program.

The Arc Wabash County provides the classroom instructor, a career-job coach for the duration of the program and for post-program support, and support to Parkview staff on supporting people with disabilities. Parkview Wabash Hospital provides a meeting space and resources to conduct departmental internships with the participants. Project Search is funded via Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Arc Wabash County is one of only three Project Search sites in Indiana. There are 100s of Project Search sites throughout the United States and beyond. (<https://www.projectsearch.us/>) Work experiences and internships are an indicator of future employment success, especially for people with disabilities. And inclusive internships for people with disabilities bring an array of benefits to the host business. The Arc Wabash County would like to thank Parkview Wabash Hospital for hosting Project Search and contributing to bettering the life of people with disabilities in Wabash County.

Thank you!



PARKVIEW WABASH HOSPITAL

NIGHT OF INCLUSION



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Shelly Myers
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Amanda Boggs
Steve Forrester
Angela Leichty
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Deb Potempa
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Jeff Patton, President/CEO



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NATIONAL DSP WEEK

In September we celebrated our Direct Support Professionals. We are blessed with some of the best individuals that work in our residential homes supporting the clients both in the home and in the community.



Our local Self Advocates attended the Self Advocates of Indiana annual picnic in September.



Thank you!
TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to our 'Night of Inclusion' Annual Dinner sponsors!



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