



ARC DE TRIOMPHE

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HUNTER'S STORY

Meet Hunter Fisher, a Wabash High School Senior who has dedicated his high school years to overcoming academic and personal obstacles to pursue his dream career and a college education. Hunter knew he did not want to remain in special education courses and has done everything he could to be able to graduate with a Core 40 diploma this Spring from Wabash High School.



Hunter has been with The Arc of Wabash County's Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreEts) program for four years. Through PreEts, Hunter has worked with The Arc PreEts staff through high school to advocate for himself, locate internships, work on communications skills, and apply to colleges. He shared with us that his favorite part of working with our PreEts staff was learning more about advocating for himself. He has also enjoyed his internships with the parks department, high school library, Lighthouse Mission, Wabash YMCA, First Friends Preschool, and currently at Emmanuel Preschool. His favorite internships have been working with preschoolers. His Mother, April, shared that Hunter has wanted to work with little kids since he was young. Not a surprise then that Hunter will also be graduating from Heartland Career Center with a Child Development Associates certificate.

Hunter's main goal in high school was to prepare himself to go to college. With the help of the PreEts program, Hunter applied to many colleges and the hard work in high school paid off as the admissions letters started rolling in. The new challenge is deciding on Manchester University, Huntington University, Grace College, or Indiana Wesleyan. Hunter will be sharing his decision this coming Spring and we can't wait to hear where he is going!

Hunter wanted to share that keeping a positive attitude, remaining hardworking, and advocating for himself has gotten him to this point. We are so excited for Hunter and can't wait to follow his college journey!

THIS ISSUE

- Hunter's Story
- 2023 Review
- Coffee House Buzz
- Project Search Update
- Young Adults Club
- Town Hall

@arcofwabashcounty

YEAR IN REVIEW

- The Arc of Wabash County became the official Arc chapters in Grant and Miami Counties
- Purchased our fifth residential home, now providing affordable housing for sixteen individuals
- Travel Bee Coffee House Opened
- The Board of Directors expanded from 9 to 13
- Community Employment Program expands, now serving 52 clients with 20+ in competitive, integrated employment
- Launched year two of the \$1,000,000 AWS Foundation Vantage Grant to transform The Arc's employment programs and services
- Launched Project Search at Parkview Wabash Hospital



The Arc of Wabash County will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years (Dec 25th - Jan 1st.) We will re-open Jan 2nd.

Merry Christmas!

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ...

The Arc of Wabash County is brewing up a unique community employment experience in Wabash County. Travel Bee Coffee House has served the North Manchester community for two months. With eight employees, five of whom are gaining community employment experience, the coffee house is serving its mission. Workplace skills training in the kitchen, serving customers, barista skills, and running a cash register are just some of the employment training offered to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The community's response to our dream of bringing more inclusivity to Wabash County has been amazing. Thank you to everyone for your patience, excitement, and support for the past two months.

Autumn has been with The Arc since 2015. She worked her way up to being an hourly employee as a material handler in the manufacturing program and now at the coffee house as a barista and running the register and taking orders. Her favorite drink is the iced carmel macchiatos or the java chip frappuccino.



Jerry has been working with the community employment program for two years doing job training and skills. As an employee of the coffee house, Jerry supports the chef in the kitchen and provides customer service. His favorite food is the chili and cornbread. And he starts his day ordering a sugar free blackberry latte.



Marcus has participated in community employment with The Arc for several years and has recently joined the Travel Bee team. Clearing customer tables, delivering orders, and keeping the coffee house clean are duties Marcus focuses on. He does enjoy coming up with new drinks with the latest being a tiger spiced chai with pumpkin spice.



Jessica has been working with The Arc since 2015. Most recently she was employed in the kitchen at OJ Neighbors Elementary School before starting at the coffee house. Jessica enjoys working in the kitchen and making the different food. Her favorite menu item is the chicken bacon ranch quesadilla.



Cara has worked a couple different community employment opportunities but enjoys her role at the coffee house. She runs the register, greets customers, and works in the kitchen. Cara's favorite drink is the iced vanilla chai and her favorite food item is the quad grilled cheese.



The Arc of Wabash Co HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Arc of Wabash County Human Rights Committee now the Advocacy, Human Rights and Inclusion Committee consists of 14 members from Wabash County. One member is a board member and another a program participant. The committee meets to address and review Arc policies and community inclusion plans. The committee is attempting to forge a paradigm shift to become the point of contact to ensure community inclusion is occurring and is person-centered, and the committee will identify advocacy opportunities for The Arc and will advocate for persons served.

Stay tuned for updates from this committee and how you can support team Arc as we work towards a more inclusive County!

The Arc of the US THE CENTER FOR FUTURE PLANNING

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) must make many daily and major life decisions, just like people without disabilities. This can include decisions about buying things they need, managing a budget, and talking with doctors about their health care. There are many ways people with IDD make decisions, both on their own and with support. But a person's ability to make decisions can change throughout their life.

The Arc of the United States has created The Center for Future Planning providing resources and support.

Visit their website at:
futureplanning.thearc.org

LEARN.
UNDERSTAND.
PLAN.

PROJECT SEARCH SUCCESS

The Arc Wabash County launched Project Search at Parkview Wabash Hospital back in October. Project Search is an international program 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. Our interns are nearing the completion of their first rotation of internships.



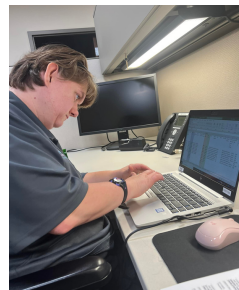
The interns have worked in food service, facilities, dietary, housekeeping, and guest relations. As part of their internships, they have also been working on skills such as time management, reviewing paychecks and deductions, and other skills to prepare for future employment. The interns are learning skills they can use both in their professional and personal lives.



Project | SEARCH®



PARKVIEW WABASH HOSPITAL



Project Search INTERN SPOTLIGHT



Meet Bri! She is a Manchester High School graduate interning in the guest services department at Parkview Wabash Hospital. Bri is busy learning how to assist patients at the guest services check in kiosk, operated the gift shop computer system, data entry, and greeting walk-ins.



Meet Maddie! She graduated from Southwood High School and is now interning in the environmental services department of Parkview Wabash Hospital. Maddie is busy learning the importance and duties of keeping the hospital clean.



Meet Hunter! A brand new graduate from Indiana Wesleyan with a general studies degree. He is interning in the dietary department at Parkview Wabash. He has received cooking experience, learned how to prep the kitchen, and so much more to prepare himself for a career.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS CLUB

The Arc of Wabash County realizes the importance of maintaining relationships with or without a disability. With an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) it can often be harder to form relationships and/or maintain them. The Young Adults Social Connections Club was created last year offering a way of connecting young adults 18-30 that have IDD in Wabash, Miami, and Grant counties. The Arc of Wabash County hosts local events monthly and special trips throughout the year.

The next event is bowling on January 9, 2024. Follow along on our Young Adults Facebook group page through The Arc of Wabash County to see upcoming events.



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Donating & Membership
Made Easy!



Save the Date!
TOWN HALL MEETING
January 11th at 6pm



Kim Dodson, CEO of The Arc of Indiana, will be sharing updates and important issues currently facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and care givers. Jeff Patton, President and CEO of The Arc of Wabash County will share updates about the latest important initiatives and changes at our Arc chapter in Wabash.