



**70 YEARS**  
1954 - 2024

**GOVERNOR HONORS 70  
YEARS IN BUSINESS**

Governor Eric J. Holcomb joined Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg to celebrate longstanding Hoosier businesses, awarding the Governor's Century and Half Century Business Award to 48 businesses in recognition of each company's longevity and its impact on the state's economy, communities and people.

"Indiana continues to prove why we have one of the best economic climates for entrepreneurship and small business creation," said Gov. Holcomb. "That strong economic foundation was set by these businesses that have chosen to call the Hoosier state home for the last 50 to 100 years. The lifeblood of our growing economy is our Hoosier entrepreneurs and business owners who had the courage to turn a vision into reality, and I'm honored to recognize each and every one of these leaders today for their exemplary commitment to our state and their communities."

The Governor's Century and Half Century Business Awards honor Hoosier businesses that have remained in operation for a minimum of 100 or 50 consecutive years, respectively, and have demonstrated a commitment to community service. More than 1,250 Indiana companies have been recognized during the award's 33-year history.

The Arc of Wabash County was honored for 70 years in business, dating back to 1954. Pictured is Governor Holcomb, Mary Ogle, Brenda Decker, Brooke Vanderpool, and Lindsay Swihart with The Arc of Wabash County, and David Rosenberg, Indiana Secretary of Commerce.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

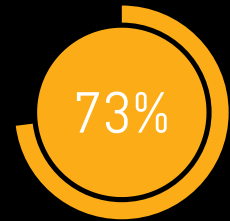
The Arc of Wabash County welcomed three new board members on July 1st. We have a full board consisting of 12 Directors from various businesses around Wabash County. Our new Directors include, Tiffani Flora, Wabash Miami Area Programs, Ben McFarland, Ford Meter Box, and Emily Stites, Beacon Credit Union.



## THIS ISSUE

Governor's Award  
\$70,000 Campaign  
New Board Members  
Flipping the Script  
Annual Dinner  
2024 Awards  
DSP Recognition  
Shredz of Hope

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We are at 73% of our goal of raising \$70,000 before December 31, 2024, in celebration of our 70th Anniversary. This fundraising campaign will be used directly for programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Help us meet and exceed our goal by giving today!

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

QR Code to  
Donate Online!



**YOUR GENEROSITY  
CHANGES LIVES!**

# FLIPPING THE SCRIPT

The world of employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) has been rapidly changing over the last decade. Even The Arc of Wabash County has seen great changes in IDD employment programs and services. When I first came to The Arc of Wabash County in September 2017 as an Employment Specialist, the Arc had 77 individuals working in our 14c sheltered workshop and 15 participants in our Community Employment Program (CE). Today, in just seven years, in September 2024, the Arc has 47 individuals working in our 14c sheltered workshop and 69 in our CE Program. We anticipate seeing an enrollment of 100 in our CE Program by Spring 2025. We are now offering our CE Program in Wabash County, Huntington County, Grant County, Miami County, and Kosciusko County. We have flipped the script! This is a national trend. At the height of 14c sheltered workshops, there were close to 10,000 in the US. Today there are 780.

States and cities have already demonstrated the value of “flipping the script” from 14c subminimum wage for workers with disabilities to competitive, integrated employment (CIE). Alaska, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Colorado, California, Delaware, Tennessee, South Carolina and Rhode Island have eliminated the use of 14(c) by statute. Additionally, Minnesota passed a budget bill calling for a plan to phase out 14(c). Texas and Illinois have eliminated the use of 14(c) employment in state contracts. Moreover, Alabama, the District of Columbia, Vermont, and Wyoming have no active or pending 14(c) certificates.



We don't want our customers to hit the panic button. We have not announced or made plans to close our workshop. The federal government still offers the 14c certificate for IDD workshops and we still have individuals who need and want that type of employment support. But make no mistake, the trend is moving away from 14c workshops, and we rarely see new enrollees wanting a workshop environment. Why? Some reasons include: employers are finally seeing that people with IDD's have valuable skills and enrich workplace culture with their loyalty, low absenteeism, longevity on the job, and affordable accommodations (on average \$500 or less); agencies like the Arc are offering more effective skills training programs and services; Indiana is an “Employment First” state and promotes that every person has the right to employment; and the younger generations with IDD's have great expectations of jobs and careers and do not entertain the thought of working in a sheltered workshop – and that's a GOOD thing!

And so, The Arc of Wabash County is moving confidently into the future of employment programs and services for people with IDD's. We are growing and expanding our offerings in CIE and training and expanding our reach. Script-flipping is not easy. Change is hard work. But let's remember that it is also necessary...and can be exciting!

*-Jeff Patton, CEO*

## ANNUAL DINNER

The Arc of Wabash County celebrated 70 years Saturday, July 13th at our Annual Dinner at the Honeywell Center. The night included dinner, dancing, annual awards, and a silent auction. Thank you to everyone who joined and supported our 70-year celebration!

Thank you to our Annual Dinner sponsors!



Thank you to the silent auction donors!

- Travel Bee Coffee House
- Honeywell Center
- Double Dad Entertainment
- White Rock Recreation
- Charlie Creek Inn
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Wabash County Museum
- Visit Wabash County
- Shepherds Chevy of Wabash
- Ham It up!



# ANNUAL DINNER : 2024 AWARDS



## Benefactor of the Year (MyTeam Triumph)

MyTeam Triumph brought a team to Wabash County with the help of Todd Schindler. Within 30 days, \$9000 was raised to have two chairs available to our clients to participate in races. MyTeam Triumph provides an unforgettable race experience for those with disabilities.

## Employer of the Year Award (Parkview Wabash)

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.



## Employee of the Year (Brittney Hernandez)

Brittney has been with The Arc of Wabash County for 12 years. Recently completing two leadership programs to support her role as the Director of Residential Programs. Brittney runs the Connections Club supporting individuals with disabilities ages 14 and up.



## Outstanding Merit Award (Kim Krom)

Kim has overcome obstacles in life and still shows a positive attitude every day. Kim is always willing to try new things and has compassion for her coworkers. Kim shows what a good life can be to those around her by sharing events, stories, and adventures she has.



## Personal Growth Award (Hunter Keaton)

Hunter participated in Project Search at Parkview Wabash Hospital. Through this internship he gained social skills, confidence, and how to handle routine changes. Hunter persevered through his internship, though there were times he was not sure he could. He now has the confidence to gain a job.



## Employment Service Worker Award (Brianna Lengel)

Bri participated in Project Search at Parkview Wabash Hospital. She completed several department rotations and was always described by employees as hard working and easy to get along with. The biggest gain for Bri on her internship was learning to be a self advocate.



## Personal Growth Award (Chris Rasmussen)

During Chris' senior year, he participated in an internship at The Arc, where he learned vocational skills and the production jobs. Since graduation, he has attended The Arc four days a week and shown tremendous growth. Each day he tries to surpass his goal and increasing his paycheck. Chris is a good friend and co-worker.



## The Arc Champion Award (Todd Schindler)

This award is given to a person in the community whose personal effort made a significant impact on the lives of people disabilities. Our clients first met Todd when he joined the Dog Man Therapy group that comes to The Arc each Thursday. Then Todd brought MyTeam Triumph to Wabash County to provide an inclusive race experience for our clients. Todd often partners with Matt to complete races and recently a triathlon. Todd has a huge heart for those with disabilities and anyone in general.

Not Pictured:

Employee of the Year (Dave Brown)

Community Employee of the Year (Jerry Good)

Career Coach of the Year (Nanette Dubois)

**Arc of Wabash County, Inc.**

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**Board of Directors:**

- Chelsea Parson, Chair
- Mike Barnett, Vice Chair
- Donna Huneryager, Treasure
- Angela Leichty, Secretary
- Andrea Zwiebel
- Amanda Boggs
- Steve Forrester
- Deb Potempa
- Kevin Trotter
- Tiffani Flora
- Emily Stites
- Ben McFarland
- Jeff Patton, President/CEO



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WABASH IN  
PERMIT NO 9



**Donating & Membership  
Made Easy!**



Make sure you are following our social media pages and check out our new website at [www.arcwabash.org](http://www.arcwabash.org)!

**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

DSP Week Sept 8th - 14th



*Thank you for all you do to support the clients!*

**FREE SHREDDING**



**Oct 7, 2024**

**10a - 2p**

**RESIDENTIAL &  
COMMERCIAL  
SHREDDING ONSITE**

**Location:**

1150 N Cass Street  
Wabash, IN 46992  
(Parking Lot of Napa Auto Parts)

**Everyone is  
Welcome!**

**QUESTIONS?  
260-563-8411  
Call Mary Ogle**

