



ARC of Wabash County, Inc.

Turning disability into possibility through opportunity™

SPRING & SUMMER 2010

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

Our Community,
Employment and
Residential Services
are accredited by
The Rehabilitation
Accreditation Commission



FUNDING CRISIS!

by Nancy E. Hoffman, Executive Director

A major barrier for ARC is inadequate funding from state and federal government sources. The funding we receive from these sources for the programs and services we provide is profoundly inadequate, and yet these state/federal sources are our primary funders. The national and state economies have had an unprecedented negative impact on our state's revenue and, all the while, the demand for help increases as more companies down-size or close, and people lose their jobs. The poor economy has caused a domino effect. For instance, ARC's 2010 allocation from the Wabash County United Fund was reduced by 25% because fewer people were able to pledge donations to its worthy cause. When people are without work, they have all they can do just to make ends meet.

As the state budget crisis continues, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has taken steps to assist in balancing the State's budget by making changes in several critical areas that affect people with developmental disabilities. Last October two of ARC's programs took a hit: Prevocational Services and Supported Employment Follow-Along Services. When FSSA rewrote the DD Waiver they imposed time limits on these two services. Prevocational Services are now limited to just 12 months (in a lifetime), so this means that once a person's 12 months of services in the Workshop are complete (from the date of their individual plan initiated after October 1, 2009), he/she can no longer be funded to perform subcontract jobs for pay in a Workshop setting. The majority of people in ARC's Workshop have been here for many years, making bi-weekly paychecks for the piece work they perform. Now suddenly they'll no longer have this opportunity? What a tragedy! By the same token, Supported Employment Follow-Along Services are now limited to 18 months in the same employment setting, which means people who have competitive jobs in the community will have no support system in place after 18 months for providing additional skills training, intervention for problems that arise in the workplace, and for providing employer updates and information. It is anticipated that without this ongoing support and intervention, individuals will be more likely to lose their jobs. FSSA's imposition of these timelines is quite alarming! We are in hopes that FSSA can be convinced to rescind the timelines and we're working with our advocate groups toward that end. We want to make families aware of these new regulations, however, so you're aware that programs and services may need to be redesigned in the near future.

ARC, and other providers of services for people with disabilities across Indiana, took additional funding cuts beginning May 1st. Our funding for Vocational Rehabilitation services was reduced by 10%. Then effective June 1st the funding for our Supported Living (residential) Services was reduced by 7%.

Another challenge for ARC is also related to the poor economy. The decreased economy has significantly impacted the amount of subcontract work that our Sheltered Workshop gets from local businesses and industries. When companies close their doors altogether or have to lay off their workers, they cannot continue to subcontract their work to us. We have several dedicated companies who continue to rely on our subcontract capabilities on a fairly regular basis, but with the losses we've experienced, we still anticipate a 13% decrease in our subcontract work as compared to last year. Less subcontract work also means less money in the pockets of the people with disabilities who do the work, and less subcontract revenue for ARC. In the past ARC was often able to subsidize our under-funded programs and services with the revenue from subcontract work. In recent years, this is no longer the case.

Overall, these changes represent a \$74,000 reduction in revenue for this next year. None of us are sure how all of this will turn out. During the past 3 or 4 years ARC has already reorganized and cut our expenses to the bare bones. We continue to work with our state advocate groups, INARF, The Arc of Indiana, legislators and others in coming up with alternative ways to cut costs and increase state revenues without making rate cuts to services for Indiana citizens with disabilities. We seek to simplify and change bureaucratic rules that increase costs but provide very little value to individual lives.

Work Skills and Adaptations

As most of you know the subcontract work available during this past year for individuals in our Day Services has been much less than in the past, primarily due to the economy. We continue to be very grateful for the many companies who continue to use us during these tough times. One company, Dexter Axle (which closed its plant in North Manchester, but continues to operate in Albion, Indiana) has continued to contract with us to do a job that involves separating two pre-cut wires and placing a net sleeve onto the wires precisely 2 inches from the ends. This sounds simple but it isn't that easy to do. Some workers were able to adapt the job using a pencil that, when inserted into the end of the net sleeve, widened it enough that the two wires could be slid into the sleeve, and then it was positioned by hand. Other workers struggled with the placement of the sleeve because it was hard for them to judge the correct positioning, 2 inches from the ends. So a guide was taped onto the work table that could be used for measuring. Still others struggled with holding the parts in place gently enough so that the wires would slide in easily.

Matthew Bohner was one of those workers who struggled, but he really wanted to do this job. He likes making money and the successful feeling he gets from accomplishing something new, even if it is the hardest job he has ever tried. He was very determined! ARC staff, Mary Ogle, Kim Barnett and George Loughman, put their creative minds together and came up with a fixture that sort of acted as a 3rd hand. It gently supported the net sleeve so that Matt could insert the two wires and push them into place. It also helped him slide the sleeve down into the correct placement.



This picture shows Matt with the pencil fixture he uses to widen the net sleeve and the fixture that holds the sleeve in place so that he can insert the two wires. With a couple of taps to get the sleeve in the correct position he has, as you can see, finished several pairs of wires. This is how the best assistive technology is invented. One person with a desire to do a job, two inventive Job Coaches, and a guy with some wood and a hammer made this happen!

Mark your calendars for upcoming ARC events

July 5th

Independence Day: ARC Day Services Closed

July 20th

ARC Annual Dinner & Awards

August 21st

13th Annual Garden & Herb Fest at Paradise Spring Historical Park

(ARC will sell Candles & other handmade crafts)

September 6th

Labor Day: ARC Day Services Closed

October 16th

American Heritage Craft Show: Honeywell Center
(ARC will sell Candles, Wreaths and Cards)

November 25th & November 26th

Thanksgiving: ARC Day Services Closed

December 27th through December 31st

Christmas & New Years: ARC Day Services Closed



Everyone at ARC feels a sense of pride whenever we make success happen for the people we serve.



ARC is a United Fund Agency

Search & Shop to Support ARC

Included in this newsletter is a bookmark to help you remember how easy it is to support ARC when you are surfing the internet.

GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com make it simple to donate to ARC. Each time you use GoodSearch.com when you need to search for something on-line, a penny is donated to ARC. Now, that doesn't sound like very much but in our economy every penny counts!

If you are planning to purchase something on-line all you need to do is start at the GoodShop.com site where you will find links to your favorite on-line stores. There are many great discount deals and coupons available for GoodShop users. When you make a purchase from one of the 600 merchants listed, a percentage of each sale is added to ARC's account.

If we all use GoodSearch and GoodShop and ask our family and friends to use it, too, the pennies are going to add up pretty fast.

All you need to remember is to select "The Arc-Wabash County" as the organization you want to support. The identification number for ARC of Wabash County, Inc. is #874555.

The easiest way to access GoodSearch and GoodShop.com is by going to ARC's website www.arcwabash.org and click on the link found on the homepage.

GoodSearch

GoodShop



We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.

Sandra Day O'Connor

Manchester College SEA Activities

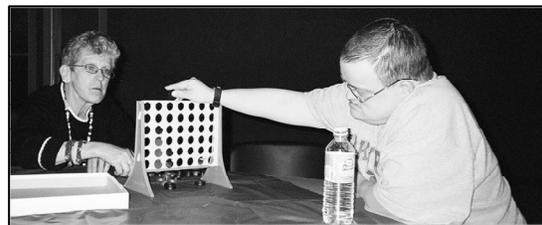
The Manchester College Student Education Association have given people served by ARC an invaluable opportunity to get away from work and home, and enjoy being on a college campus, spending time with college students.

In December, 20 members of the Manchester College Student Education Association hosted a Bingo Night at the North Manchester Church of the Brethren. Thirty-two people from ARC attended, won prizes and enjoyed snacks.



BINGO with Mike Yoder, Lee Lambert and a SEA student

In February a Valentine Dance was held on campus at the College Science Center, a fabulous location! Eighteen SEA students hosted 32 ARC individuals and provided music, dancing and treats for all.



GAME NIGHT with Linda Sands and Kevin Case

In March, the college students hosted 24 individuals from ARC for Game Night with a nice assortment of game activities and refreshments.

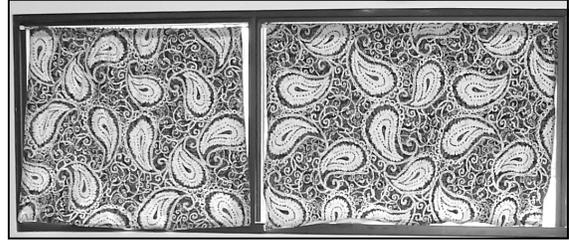


GAME NIGHT with a college student, Richard Hundt, CJ Hubbard and Brandon Jacobs

SPRUCING UP OUR FACILITIES

What better time for cleaning and sprucing than the spring time and that's just what ARC has been doing. Sprucing makes everything look better and, this time it will save ARC money, too! Since we do a lot of subcontract work in our Warehouse these days, we had foam insulation sprayed on the interior of all the exterior walls and under the ceiling. This should make a big difference with regard to a cooler climate in the Warehouse in the summer and much warmer temperatures during the winter months. It should definitely save on our heating costs! We also had the uneven concrete floors, cracks and holes in the Warehouse ground down to make them more smooth and safe to prevent tripping. Of course to accomplish all this we first had to completely clean out the warehouse. So now everything looks great and is much better organized.

Also, because there were cracks and crumbled areas in the concrete Workshop floors, we had new polymer flooring installed in the Workshop. Not only is it much safer now, but the floor looks beautiful and really brightens up the place! Staff decided since the room had to be emptied and cleaned for the flooring that they wanted to paint the walls, too. Eric Sargent, Kim Barnett and David "Smitty" Smith took on the task and did a great job painting! Many thanks to them for their hard work! Donna Marshall made new curtains for the Workshop that are a perfect match to the flooring, with material purchased by Smitty for the job. A big thanks goes to Donna for her excellent sewing skills and to Smitty for donating the cost of the curtains! We invite you to come and see how great everything looks!



New curtains in the workshop



New floor brightens up the work area.



GRANT AWARDED FOR NEW VEHICLE

In March ARC submitted a grant request to a Special Capital Assistance Program of the Indiana Department of Transportation for funds to purchase a new Low Floor Mini Van with Ramp to expand ARC's transportation fleet. In April we learned that the grant will be awarded! Through this program, ARC will only have to pay 20% (\$8,000) of the total \$40,000 cost of the new vehicle. It is anticipated that the new vehicle will be delivered in March 2011. We are very grateful for this funding!

Pictured below is an example of the type of mini-van we will be purchasing. This design is built to be easy to operate and easily accessible



Three ARC Staff Attend INARF Conference

In March ARC Program Director Linda Johnson, Supported Living Supervisor Lisa McCoy, and Publications and Case Coordinator Judi Sears attended this year's INARF Annual Conference in Indianapolis. The theme was *Intellectual Stimulus Package* and the intent was to help participants "connect and recharge". According to Linda Johnson, "This was a chance for us to connect with hundreds of colleagues throughout Indiana, experience outstanding educational and informational presentations, and access products and services available directly from exhibitors representing a multitude of companies."

The conference started with a keynote presentation by Jeffrey Cufaude, who calls himself an "Idea Architect", titled *Connecting and Communicating in a 2.0 World*. He stressed the importance of understanding the best practices for using social media. Break-out sessions throughout the three-day conference offered a little bit of everything from improving quality supports and supervision skills to discussions of specific disabilities. The conference closed with a speaker who sang several humorous and thought provoking songs about life in the human service system.

Linda, Lisa and Judi will be presenting training sessions to our ARC staff based on what they learned at the conference.

The INARF web site at www.inarf.org states "Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc. or INARF is a statewide membership organization which provides leadership and support to its constituency in the development of resources and promotion of quality services to increase our members' ability to effectively serve the comprehensive needs of people with disabilities."

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF EARTH DAY – RECYCLE PAPER

"We trash enough paper to build a 12 foot wall from Los Angeles to New York City. Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil, 4,100 kilowatts of energy, 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space, and 60 pounds of air pollution." – from The Rainforest Site on the World Wide Web

ARC would like to help you save our environment.....Bring your outdated confidential documents to ARC to be shredded and recycled for just 25¢ per pound. Not only does this save our environment, but it helps to protect your identity, and it provides paid work for Wabash County citizens with disabilities. Please call ARC at 563-8411 for details. We'd like to hear from you!

ARC recently submitted a grant request to the Community Foundation of Wabash County for the funds needed to purchase a cardboard baler and we just learned that our request was successful! Our intent is to expand our recycling services to cardboard, as well. There are many local industries and even small businesses that need to get rid of cardboard. What better way than to recycle it through ARC!



Shark Shredding

25¢ per pound

Recycle and support people with disabilities at the same time.

NEXT STEPS Store... Shop for shirts

We have the best prices on T-Shirts Sweat Shirts and Hoodies.

All Licensed Collegiate Ware.

Located in our ARC facility at 595 S. Miami St. Wabash, IN



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.arcwabash.org

Raise money for ARC:

Use goodsearch.com (powered by yahoo).

We are Charity #874555

Call Judi Sears at 260-563-8411

with questions.

ARC of Wabash County, Inc. Membership Drive

*Add your voice of support
for all people with developmental disabilities
in Wabash County*

~ 2010 Membership ~ ARC of Wabash County, Inc.

Individual Membership \$20.00

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Return this certificate and your membership and/or donation
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Thank you for your generous support!