

Local fraternal groups and lodges will sponsor several top notch local music talents and bands for an afternoon of great food and music. This inaugural event will be held on **Saturday, July 9th 2011 from Noon to 6:00 PM.** Proceeds will benefit children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities living in Wabash County.

The Charity Jam will take place rain or shine on the Honeywell Center Plaza and the parking lot north of the building to include the Elks parking area. Fish or Pulled Pork dinners and drinks will be available with advance tickets costing \$5.00, or \$6.00 on the day of the event. There will also be T-shirts with the unique logo featured above available for \$10.00. Several prizes will be raffled off during the afternoon.

Don't miss this fun opportunity to enjoy the musical talent and great food that Wabash has to offer. Remember proceeds from the Charity Jam will benefit Arc of Wabash County and Wabash County Special Olympics.

Arc's Business Practices, Community, Employment and Residential Services are all accredited by

The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission.



Maintaining Medicaid Waiver Funding Now and in the future it is crucial for parents, guardians and siblings of people with developmental disabilities to understand how Medicaid Waiver funding for day services and residential services works. To insure that your loved one continues to receive the support necessary for them to enjoy being a part of their community, earning a pay check, living as independently as possible, and building friendships and connections with others, it is essential that Medicaid Waiver funding be maintained. As of April 1, 2011 all of the people served by Arc of Wabash County must have a Medicaid Waiver or be able to pay for their services out of their own pocket. Funding from Medicaid covers part, but not all, of the expenses necessary for Arc to provide services. What Medicaid does not cover must be raised locally, through individual donations and funding from the County, Wabash County United Fund and the Community Foundation of Wabash County.

Arc is also very dependent on local businesses and industries to provide subcontract jobs for our Sheltered Workshop, and to provide jobs in the community for the people we serve with disabilities.

Maintaining Medicaid funding requires a yearly redetermination process that can be intimidating to families who must faithfully respond to all correspondence from Medicaid. But it is crucial that Medicaid Waiver funding be maintained in order to receive services.

During this past year, Arc had several instances where we were not able to receive Medicaid Waiver funding for the services we provided because families did not respond to Medicaid's request for redetermination information in a timely manner. In some cases, this went on for months while we waited for families to do what needed to be done with Medicaid, so that we could be paid. Since Arc's funding has been cut so drastically, we find that we can no longer provide free services while waiting for Medicaid to be reinstated. To insure uninterrupted services, it is extremely important that parents and other family members respond as quickly as possible to Medicaid's request for redetermination information. Arc Case Coordinators, Judi Sears and Libby Waas, are familiar with the Medicaid Waiver system and will be glad to help families through the process.

Special Needs Trusts It sometimes seems like the government discourages saving money for rainy day expenses. It is easy for funds in a savings account to build up beyond the \$1,500.00 maximum allowed by Medicaid. When it does, you run the risk of losing Medicaid Waiver funding until the savings is spent back down to the allowed level. But there are so many things that Medicaid will not pay for that an extra account is often needed. One solution to saving money for future expenses is a trust. Usually referred to as a Special Needs Trust, it helps families provide for the financial future of their loved one without affecting eligibility for government benefits. Government programs are limited to basics like food, shelter and medical care. A Special Needs Trust can pay for items not covered by government benefits. Your family attorney may be able to assist you in establishing a Special Needs Trust. Other options are The Arc of Indiana Master Trust and the MetLife Center for Special Needs Planning, just to name a couple. If you are interested in more information about The Arc of Indiana Master Trust and/or the MetLife Center for Special Needs Planning, contact Linda Johnson, Arc's Program Director. If there is enough interest, she will make arrangements for a public meeting where representatives from those companies can present information about future planning.

Arc of Wabash County Wish List

We have a never-ending wish list. Your contributions have a significant impact on our ability to provide services and assistance to individuals and families in need. Below are a variety of items and ways you can help people with developmental disabilities by supporting Arc of Wabash County. Please remember we are a non-profit organization and your donations, both monetary and non-monetary, are tax deductible.

Business office items and supplies

- Digital camera
- Photo paper
- Printable Business card stock
- Card stock paper (all colors)
- Envelopes - assorted sizes
- Blank CD-Rs
- Pens, pencils, highlighters

Dining room items and supplies

- Refrigerator
- Paper plates and cups
- Plastic spoons, forks, straws

Leisure items and supplies

- Two Nintendo Wii consoles, controllers and games
- Two 32" flat screen TVs
- Portable karaoke machine
- Table games (Life, Monopoly, Checkers, Trouble, Concentration, Yahtzee, Uno, etc.)

- Decks of cards and dice sets
- Nerf or other easy grip balls (medium and large sizes)
- Plastic letters and numbers
- Books and magazines for our onsite library
- 50-piece puzzles (prefer photographs rather than cartoons)
- Arts & crafts materials (art easels, paints and brushes, table easels, markers, art paper, glue)

Hygiene items and supplies

- Clothes Washer and Dryer (electric)
- Travel size personal hygiene supplies (shampoos, hand and body lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, mouthwash, etc.)
- Tissues (Puffs/Kleenex type)
- Depends (adult briefs—assorted sizes)
- Wet wipes (flushable)

First aid supplies

- Assorted size band-aids, gauze pads, first aid tape

Workshop items and supplies

- Adult sized work gloves and aprons
- Tools (ratchets, hammers, punches, table vice, etc.)
- Sturdy scissors

Services

- Carpet cleaning
- Vehicle cleaning
- Window washing



“Approximately 12,000 Hoosiers receive services through the Medicaid Waiver, but about 20,000 more linger on a wait list for the same services, in some cases for 10 to 12 years. Because many individuals have significant needs, most are unable to pay for these services out of their own pocket.”

“For people with developmental disabilities and their families, Indiana is in a state of crisis. Due to the state’s fiscal concerns, reimbursements to those who provide services to individuals have been cut. And cut. And cut. Problem is, without reimbursements from the state, the community organizations that provide essential services can’t function, let alone survive. And without these organizations,

many people with developmental disabilities have nowhere to go. And no one to listen.”

**Speak
out.**

Mark your calendars for these events and closings:

- May 14th Special Olympics Spring Games at Wabash High School
- May 30th Memorial Day Holiday: Arc Day Services Closed
- July 4th Independence Day: Arc Day Services Closed
- July 9th Charity Jam (see page one for details)
- July 12th Arc Annual Dinner

Quotes are from the INquietCrisis website
Visit www.inquietcrisis.org
for more information.

We are busy...



Above left: Jamie Pearson rocks with Manchester College Students.

Above right: Jeff Morris enjoys refreshments at an SEA party.

Center: DJ Smitty spins some tunes.

Left: Steve Straitiff is sorting grocery items at Friends In Service Here (FISH)

Below: Arc staff Donna Marshall, Mary Ogle, Kim Barnett, Jane Willmert, Lisa McCoy and Amber Lewis team up for an elf chorus line during our Christmas celebration.



Special Olympics News

Special Olympics provides athletes with developmental and intellectual disabilities the opportunity to experience and succeed in sports like bowling, swimming, basketball and track. Wabash County athletes train year-round to prepare for competition in local, state, national and, even, world competitions. Participation in sports is a great way to improve health and quality of life. If you know someone who is interested in becoming a Special Olympics athlete or if you know anyone interested in volunteering, contact Wabash County Special Olympics at (260)563-5469. Volunteer help is needed for coaching, officiating, event organizers and helpers.



April 12th visit from...

John Dickerson, Executive Director of The Arc of Indiana, stopped by on his whirlwind tour of Arc locations throughout the state to celebrate The Arc's new brand/logo and increase awareness of the work being done on behalf of people with disabilities in Indiana. Mayor Bob Vanlandingham was there to greet Dickerson and he spoke briefly with those assembled for the reception. Dickerson expressed that the intent of the new logo and tagline "Achieve with us." is to 'communicate the collective power of The Arc and the energy and determination The Arc brings to supporting and embracing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their



Nancy Hoffman, Arc of Wabash County Executive Director, with Mayor Vanlandingham and John Dickerson

families across the arc of their lifetimes.' He noted

that we are one of over 730 agencies that, when combined, form one of the largest non-profits in the country that provides invaluable services, support and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The logo and new identity will take us forward and command the kind of respect and recognition on a national basis that our organization needs to achieve our goals.



Bethany Kingsbury (holding Sharkie) and Buddy Ireland, in the safe hallway, listen for instructions during the tornado drill.

On March 16th, when the severe weather siren was tested at 10:15 AM here in Wabash, Arc participated in the state wide **Severe Weather Preparedness Week** by having a tornado drill. Governor Mitch Daniels' goal for the week was to make sure people in Indiana know what to do during severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Arc regularly has practice drills for severe weather, power failure and chemical spills. During these drills each person goes to an area in our building that has been determined to be safe by our local firemen. As you can see in the picture above even the agency cat participates in these drills. Arc also conducts regular building and vehicle evacuation drills throughout the year.

Friday Fun at Arc...

By the end of the month, many of us are tired of the rigors of work and training activities. While we can't afford to make every Friday a fun day, we can at least add some excitement on one Friday afternoon a month. Our Fun Friday's involve various activities which provide a little break at work without hampering our work/training schedule. Fun Friday's help both consumers and staff create a happy and healthy work environment. It breaks the monotony of work and acts as a great stress-buster to energize people. Besides, a little mischief and nonsense can be a very powerful team-building activity. Watch for handouts with more details.

May 26th - Movie Day - watch a movie and enjoy a snack.

June 24th - Celebrate Summer - Free Lunch: Hot Dog, Chips & Fruit.

July 29th - Ice Cream Day - Cool off with a cold treat.

August 26th - Pie Throwing - Sing-a-long - 10 people will be randomly selected to throw a pie at a volunteer (we've volunteered Smitty!).

September 30th - Mix Match Clothing Day - We'll have a Style show with prizes for the most mixed-up outfit.

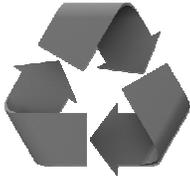
October 28th - Team Door Decorating for the Holiday Season - starts at 9:00 AM.

October 31st - Door judging and awards presented - snacks provided.

If you want to buy a drink, pop at Arc is 50¢.

Arc, Expo 2011 and the Environment

Mutual Bank of Wabash sponsored a booth for Arc at the Wabash Business Expo held on March 5th and 6th 2011 at the Honeywell Center. This was a great opportunity for Kathy Bakehorn, Workshop Operations Manager, and Sarah Cochran, Community Employment Supervisor, to make connections with other vendors and visitors to the event. Kathy's big push was to provide attendees with information about our recycling efforts and let potential customers know that Arc can handle shredding, as well as dispose of cardboard and aluminum cans. Paper shredding costs 25¢ a pound and for businesses with large amounts of shredding, Arc will pick up the materials. Cardboard recycling is a much needed service in Wabash County and Arc already has 6 local customers. Cardboard pick up and drop off works about the same as the paper shredding, except there is no charge. These recycling operations provide paid work opportunities for the people in our Workshop, AND it saves the environment!



For Sarah, attending the Business Expo was an opportunity for her to make face-to-face connections with potential employers. These connections are crucial when it comes to helping a person with disabilities find a community job. It can be like having a foot in the door when the job market is low. Knowing what kind of worker employers are hiring and what type of work skills are needed helps Sarah match employers with interested employees who have the right skills for the job. With services funded by Vocational Rehabilitation, Sarah teaches job-seeking skills such as resumé development, filling out applications, interviewing skills, and she supports them throughout the job-finding process. Then when hired for a job, Sarah can also be there for those first few weeks to help the new employee and employer learn how to work together.

This year's Expo was also the first opportunity for Arc to show off our new logo. Judi Sears, Publications Coordinator, was able to display a few signs using the new logo. She also made information cards outlining the services Arc of Wabash County provides, which she passed out to visitors. Visitors to our booth also had the opportunity to enter a drawing for shirts from our Next Steps store and a lighted potpourri basket.

Winners of the drawing were:
 Tony Hunt - Shirt
 Joyce Summers - Shirt
 Kim Pinkerton - Lighted Potpourri Basket

Arc's involvement in this year's Expo made a great opening to the March Disability Awareness Month activities that were staged all over the nation. We would like to thank Mutual Bank for supporting our participation in this year's Expo.



Above: New Arc logo, sign-up jar and the lighted potpourri basket



Judi Sears, Sarah Cochran and Kathy Bakehorn man the Arc booth at Wabash Business Expo 2011

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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

Donation \$ _____

Name : _____

Mailing _____

Address : _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email: _____

Phone : _____

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