

## Achieve With Us!

Arc of Wabash County, Inc.  
595 South Miami Street  
PO Box 400  
Wabash, IN 46992  
Phone: 260.563.8411  
Fax: 260.563.8413  
Email: [arc@arcwabash.org](mailto:arc@arcwabash.org)  
Website: [www.arcwabash.org](http://www.arcwabash.org)

Jeff Patton, President/CEO

### Board of Directors

Sam Knight, Chairperson  
Cathy Garrett-Smith, Vice Chair  
Kathy Baker, Director  
Ann Higgins, Director  
Jeff Kolkman, Director  
Gary Larson, Director  
Shelly Myers, Director  
Dr. William Rauh, Director  
Casey Sausaman, Director



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WABASH IN  
PERMIT NO 9



# Arc de Triomphe

April/May/June 2020

Vol 2 Issue 2

— A United Fund Agency —

## From the President's Desk... Arc Membership Drive

Our community is currently pushing through a crises unseen since the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. But with every crisis also comes opportunities. The recent COVID-19 epidemic has demonstrated that The Arc Wabash County is the “go-to” provider and leader of high-quality services and supports for individuals and families with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Wabash County. Our staff was declared essential by the Governor and “kept the doors open” to provide advocacy, encouragement, support, and life-saving services to people with disabilities in Wabash County.

While you can certainly make a donation at any time to The Arc Wabash County without becoming a member, membership is a way to express solidarity and unity with the disabled in Wabash County. Arc is a statewide and a nationwide organization of hundreds of thousands of members whose membership contributions provide support for advocacy, programs, and services for Wabash County citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Nowhere can you make such a valuable contribution with such an affordable gift. You have three options to become a member of The Arc Wabash County, therefore YOU get to choose the plan that works best for you. You can become: [an Individual/Family Member for \\$25 per year, or a business/corporate member for \\$50 per year, or a sustaining member for \\$10 per month.](#) Contact our office today to begin your membership.

By becoming a member of The Arc Wabash County you become part of the largest national grassroots effort to provide advocacy and support for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Included in your Arc Wabash County membership is membership to the Arc of Indiana, the Arc of the United States, and quarterly newsletters from all three Arc organizations!

As we all begin to re-enter and re-engage this “new world” after the coronavirus epidemic, coming together will strengthen us and increase our impact. Please consider making an impact in the lives of people with disabilities by becoming a member of The Arc Wabash County today.

Jeff

*“The desire to live a meaningful life...resides in all humans.”*

~Paulo Braga

## Annual Meeting Canceled

Due to the social restrictions brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty of what those restrictions might be in mid-July, Jeff Patton, President and CEO, and Arc’s Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel The Arc of Wabash County’s Annual Dinner and Meeting for fiscal year 2020.

The highly-anticipated event was promising to be one of many changes. Primarily, this year’s meeting wasn’t to be a dinner at all. Although still held in Legacy Hall at the Honeywell Center, a midday luncheon was planned. Also, Suzanne Crouch, Indiana’s Lieutenant Governor, was planning to attend and address the agency about what is transpiring at the State level to further support Indiana’s citizens with disabilities.

An awards ceremony for consumers and staff will be held when it is determined it can be done safely and fewer restrictions are in place.

## Wabash Co. Special Olympics Basketball Teams Dominates

The Wabash County Special Olympics basketball teams had their winning season cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic. The teams, the three-on-three Wildcats and the five-on-five Wolfpack, were dominating the Area Five exhibition “tour.” After a solid showing at the introductory Area Five games, the teams went on to win 1<sup>st</sup> place in both the Grant



County and Huntington County Invitationals. The March 21<sup>st</sup> sectional/regional contests in Logansport and State championship games on March 28<sup>th</sup> were canceled.

Coach Tim Christle expressed confidence in his teams by saying he was sure they would have more than held their own at the state level and perhaps would have “won it all.”

## Membership Drive Underway!

“Strength Through Unity:  
Synergy, Growth, Impact!”

**CONTACT US TODAY!**

**260-563-8411**

But we cannot continue to be a top-notch community provider without YOUR help. Resources have been stretched thin and many have asked “How can I help?” Becoming a member of The Arc Wabash County is an affordable way for you to make a valuable contribution to our local community. June 1 to July 31, is the statewide Arc Membership Drive. The theme this year is “Strength through Unity: Synergy, Growth, Impact!” Coming together makes things happen and makes us stronger!

Many ask, “Why should I become a member?”

## Staff Spotlight

Nicci Upton

How long have you worked for Arc?

7 years

What does a Case Coordinator do?

Case Coordinators have the coolest job. A case coordinator makes sure each person they serve has the services provided to them for what best suits their wants, needs and dreams. And then they get to hang out with the clients and interact with them in daily activities and during quarterly and annual meetings, when the clients' team makes sure those services are being provided as expected.

Have you always been a Case Coordinator?

I started out working in the homes. Most of Arc's homes are supported by one or two 24/7 staff. Staff that help those with disabilities living in the homes achieve daily tasks. I had a lot of fun doing that while I finished my degree. I also delved into community employment for a short amount of time, supporting ones with disabilities who gained employment in the community. Then I landed Case Coordination and I can't imagine doing anything different! My caseload is actually all of the clients at Arc who live in our residential program plus a few more. I think my personal experiences from working in the homes help me with my current role as their case coordinator.

So, any mind-blowing, life-changing news to share?

After 5 long years of trying...



Any pets?

1 dog – Charli & 2 cats – Aldean & Miss Kitty

Hobbies?

Right now, it's sleeping – growing two humans at one time is exhausting.

Phobias?

Bacteriophobia. We will blame that on the Coronavirus.

Favorite sports team?

My husband would be very upset if I did not say the Boston Celtics (NBA) and the Indianapolis Colts (NFL) however, truth is: I'd rather lick door knobs in an airport than sit through any sports game.

Favorite food?

Potatoes! In all its many glorious forms!

What is one thing working at Arc has taught you?

To take a step back and look at life like those who we serve look at life. They have so much they could be bothered by and upset with, but they are so happy people, happy to be alive!

Where do you see yourself in five years (professionally)?

Case Coordinator! I told you, I love my job.

## Nicci Upton receives National Accolades



Arc is thrilled to announce that one of its own, Nicci Upton, was selected as January's QIDP of the Month by The National Association of Qualified Intellectual Disability Professionals. The award recognizes a QIDP or case manager who consistently goes above and beyond – someone who deserves a little extra recognition for a job well done.

She was nominated by President/CEO Jeff Patton. "Nicci is an "advocate by nature," meaning she is naturally car-

ing, attentive, and in tune with the personalities, preferences, and needs of those she serves. She always speaks and interacts with those we serve with gentleness, patience, and respect. Her caseload is composed of all 13 clients who live in our supported living residences and so she is current with the minute, daily intricacies of each person, delivering a holistic service to each individual that addresses his/her medical, social, mental, and employment needs and preferences. She is upbeat, positive, bubbly, and encourages each person she serves to pursue avenues and decisions that promote the greatest independence and self-sufficiency while at the same time promoting inclusion and integration into community social groups. She is absolutely where she wants to be and should be in her career-calling, and it shows!"

"Nicci lives outside her official job description; she will do whatever it takes to help those she serves achieve their goals or receive what they need. She chaperones trips with her clients, she sits with and nurses sick clients in their own homes, she advocates in "the gap" with case managers, employers, and community stakeholders on behalf of her clients. Nicci recently volunteered to do 16 weeks of on-call duty per year, which entails being ready at the phone 24/7 to solve problems and help her clients in times of their greatest need, thus often sacrificing her own free time. Last year, Nicci turned down an advantageous job offer from another company because she just "couldn't leave her clients" and co-workers. Nicci works in the lunchroom every day for an hour, helping clients prepare and eat their meals. Nicci is not "just" a Case Coordinator QIDP - she has chosen to be a part of the lives of those she serves: family gatherings, birthdays, funerals, trips, vacations, medical appointments, problem-solving, and personal counseling and encouragement. As her President/CEO, I would do whatever is necessary to keep her at Arc Wabash County - we would not be the same without her."

Nicci was notified by email of her award. She received a framed certificate, a gift from NAQ and a prominent write up on their website.

NAQ is the "go to" organization for QIDPs - providing an avenue for connecting with other professionals, sharing evidence-based best practices, and serving as a resource for learning and continued education.



## The Arc Re-opens!

*"The beginning is always today."*

As The Arc Wabash County re-opens programs and services after 10 weeks of a stay-at-home order, I'm reminded of the 1978 Peaches & Herb smash #1 hit, "Reunited." They crooned their way to the top of the charts with "reunited and it feels so good." The Arc Wabash County is finally being "reunited." Everything we do here at the Arc we do with the health and safety of our clients, staff, and customers in the forefront of our thinking. With that said, The Arc Wabash County has initiated a 3-Phase Re-opening Plan. Phase 1 begins June 1, Phase 2 begins June 16, and Phase 3 begins June 30. The clients we serve will return to programs and services in phases on the dates previously mentioned. The clients we serve have been contacted and informed about when and how to safely return to The Arc Wabash County.

The Arc Wabash County will be following all CDC and Indiana State Department of Health guidelines and Governor Holcomb's Indiana Back on Track Plan. For all employees, clients, and customers, we will be initiating social distancing, handwashing, face masks, virtual meetings, temperature checking, and other health and safety initiatives. In order to practice social distancing and prevent the coronavirus spread from reappearing, transportation bus routes for clients will be temporarily halted until further notice. Our CSP, PAC, Community Employment, and Pre-ETS (high school/young adult program) will be slowly and safely "rebooted" in due time. Like all of you, we anticipate it will be a slow journey back to "business as usual," and we appreciate your understanding and your cooperation with health and safety guidelines during this time.

During this time of separation I have come to appreciate the "Arc Family" even more: the individuals we serve, staff, parents and guardians, and all our partners and supporters. Like Peaches & Herb sang in 1978, "Me without you is a lonely ride." I'm glad we're all being reunited! ~Jeff Patton



Empty for months, Room 1 is now staged for re-opening!

## A Path to the Future

### Arc Hires Strategic Planning Consultant

President Abraham Lincoln said, "The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it." The Arc Wabash County is excited to announce a "creative" partnership with **Good Seeds Consulting LLC** and **Anne Hudson**, of Indianapolis. Anne, and Good Seeds Consulting, will be working with the Arc for the remainder of 2020 to help us establish a strategic plan for the future of our organization. Strategic planning is the process of defining our direction and then allocating our resources to pursue that direction. Strategic planning is all about creating a dream and vision for what we all want Arc to look like and to be in the future. This strategic planning process will involve all of Arc's partners, stakeholders, staff, customers, and clients. It takes a village to raise a strategic plan! Good Seeds will be involving all of Arc's partners and stakeholders in discussions and information-gathering surveys and small group discussions to capture what we all envision The Arc Wabash County to be in the future. Many of you will be contacted by the Arc or Anne because we value your input as a partner in providing valuable advocacy, programs, and services for Wabash County citizens who have developmental and intellectual disabilities. Someone once said, "Nothing we do can change the past, but everything we do changes the future." We are excited about coming together to "change the future."