

Achieve With Us!

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“Uncertainty is an uncomfortable position. But certainty is an absurd one.” ~Voltaire

From the President's Desk.....



Transformers

This Photo by Un-

“Teamwork...is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”
Andrew Carnegie

Why the High Fives???

See Page 2 to find out...



Now is the time to start following Arc on Facebook! Last week, Arc’s Facebook followers got to meet some pretty special people during DSP week. They were also treated to some fun and heart-warming videos demonstrating the sheer joy of what takes place at Arc on a daily basis. With so much going on and with the expansion and addition of new programs and services, this is the best way to stay in the loop. You’ll find a variety of job positions, event postings, a ton of fun pictures along with stories that will move and inspire you.



The premise behind the *Transformers* toy line is that an individual toy's parts can be shifted about to change it from a vehicle, a device, or an animal, to a robot action figure and back again. The franchise's taglines, "More Than Meets the Eye" and "Robots in Disguise", reflect this ability. The fun of playing with Transformers is we get to create and make changes, transform into something different. Please indulge me for a moment. I was a Pastor for 16 years before coming to The Arc of Wabash County, and “Transformers” reminds me of the great Bible doctrine of “transformation.” In the Bible, Romans 12:2, commands Christians to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” The original Greek word for “transformed” is “metamorphoo,” translated into our English word “metamorphosis,” such as when a caterpillar changes into a butterfly! **The point is that shifting our patterns and focus can change our life.** We find the same “transformational” word in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the churches of the Philippians (3:21) when he holds out the powerful Christian hope that “our bodies will be transformed” in the next life – which is particularly transforming news for anyone with a disability! Not only is change coming; change is here! Change (or transformation) begins at conception and is a permanent part of life. Transformation is a constant. But...transformation can be both unintentional and intentional; spontaneous or planned; negative or positive; resisted or embraced; reactive or proactive. Managing change (or transformation) is such a reality of life that there is an entire global industry built around it to the tune of 2.4 billion dollars a year! The winds of change have been impacting the world of pro-

grams and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across the USA as well. The Arc of Wabash County has taken great strides to research these changes, embrace these changes, plan for these changes, control (as much as possible) these changes, and leverage these changes to benefit our program and service participants. The best approach to transformation (change) is to understand it and see it coming, get a little ahead of it, prepare for it, then turn and embrace it – on your own terms. Perhaps the greatest change in IDD programs and services is related to employment models. Currently there is a nationwide movement and push toward competitive, integrated employment for people with IDDs – they have made their voices heard loud and clear – this is what they want – and research undeniably demonstrates that those with disabilities experience more personal growth and satisfaction when working in an integrated environment with people who do not have disabilities. The research also demonstrates bottom-line benefits for employers. This nationwide movement also includes efforts to see people with IDDs making a more competitive wage (see The Arc US’s position statement here <https://thearc.org/position-statements/employment/>). These are truly “transforming transformations” for people with disabilities, for service providers, for families and support teams and for employers and the local economy. The Arc of Wabash County has done a great job of staying ahead of the curve by researching employment trends and models for people with IDDs and launching a plan to meet transformation head on, and thus we are becoming “more than meets the eye!”

Jeff

Arc Wabash Sends Delegation to Annual Convention

For the first time ever, The Arc of Wabash County will send a delegation to The Arc National Convention being held this year in Denver, CO, November 8-12. The Arc and its supporters from across the nation will gather in the Mile-High City to learn from experts in the fields of advocacy, legislation, programs, and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The National Convention is the largest gathering in the country of people with disabilities, parents, guardians, staff, and government officials. "Learning Tracks" and workshops will be available for people of all interests and all levels. Along with four Arc of Wabash staff, **Arc will send two program participants to the National Convention: Autumn Allen and Jessica Baker.**

A motto at The Arc of Wabash County is "nothing about us without us." Autumn and Jessica serve on The Arc's Council of Persons Served as self-advocates and The Arc of Wabash County feels strongly that persons with disabilities should be represented at National Convention in order to articulate the issues facing people with disabilities – to make their voices heard. Autumn and Jessica will be able to attend workshops specifically designed for them and related to self-advocates and the issues people with disabilities face. While Arc is covering the cost of their registration, other expenses will be paid by Autumn and Jessica. Even after saving and planning, they find themselves still in need of \$1200 each. You can use the donation envelope in this newsletter if you'd like to help them with this amazing opportunity.



The Fun in Fundraising

The Arc of Wabash County Welcomes Brooke Vanderpool

Arc of Wabash County recently welcomed Brooke Vanderpool to its staff. "Brooke is Arc's Director of Fund Development and Public Relations," Jeff Patton, President/CEO announced. "This is a brand-new position for the agency." Brooke will lead The Arc of Wabash County's fundraising efforts that provide programs and services for people in Wabash County who have intellectual disabilities.

"I am excited to share the stories of our wonderful clients and all the programs available through The Arc of Wabash County," Brooke shared.

Brooke will also oversee Arc's communications, marketing, public relations, and social media platforms. Brooke comes directly from Manchester Alive, where she was the Executive Director. "Brooke brings a vibrant enthusiasm and proven track record to this position," Patton attested. "And she has a passion to see people with disabilities flourish."



Brooke Vanderpool, her husband, Ben, and their three sons live in North Manchester



Garrett-Smith Exits as Board President

After serving for two years as Arc of Wabash County's Board President, Cathy Garrett-Smith left the Board of Directors after her extended term on the board expired. "The coolest part of the last 6 years that I have served has been watching the amazing evolution of the leadership team within Arc and the creation of a strategic business plan for Arc. I had the pleasure to work with both Nancy (Hoffman) and Jeff. Both share a passion for Arc and for the consumers we serve. It was hard to see Nancy leave but it has been a pleasure to watch Jeff step in, build a wonderful leadership team and put steps in place to expand the services that Arc provides." Cathy's co-members of the Board, along with Jeff, gave her a cheesecake send-off at her last meeting on June 21st. She was

also presented with a desk clock as a memento of her distinguished service. "It has been an honor to work with a board that has such a diverse and rich mix of experience and love for our community. I cannot wait to see what is next for Arc. I know it will be impactful and meaningful."

"Arc is in capable hands with Gary Larson, CFO of Ford Meter Box, stepping up as Board Chair," Patton reassures. "He is heavily invested in the Wabash County community as he serves on several Boards and has a proven track record in wisely guiding organizations. But we'll miss Cathy for her skill, wisdom and spirit and will always be grateful for her valuable 6-year service to this agency. We know that she'll continue to be an avid supporter of Arc of Wabash County."