

Challenger

A NEWSLETTER THAT CONNECTS, ENGAGES AND INFORMS

Our 2024 Annual Campaign

Larin Krautbauer is well-known and adored in The Arc community. Not only is Larin a kind and happy presence, her parents, Mark and Jennifer, think Larin has participated in just about every Arc program over the years. An active 24-year-old, Larin is busy with Day Hab five days a week and she loves to attend evening and weekend group respite activities. Larin also has a job at the YMCA. It's a job she secured after she graduated from Project SEARCH, The Arc's job skills training program and then completed successful job coaching through our Supported Employment program. **Larin is a shining example of how The Arc positively impacts our valued participants.**

SEEKING ANSWERS AND DEFYING THE ODDS

Jennifer had a normal pregnancy, but Larin's first few years were filled with persistent illness, missed growth milestones and many concerning questions. She was diagnosed with Turner's Syndrome and Failure to Thrive. Neurologists told Larin's parents she would probably not walk or talk. Jennifer and Mark shifted their expectations and worked to provide Larin with all the love and support they could find. Larin defied the odds and despite cognitive delays, Larin is a walking, talking ray of sunshine who loves to try new things and show the world what she's capable of.

THE ARC FILLS IN THE GAPS

Larin started at The Arc when she aged out of mainstream after-school daycare options at age 12. Needing safe and appropriate care for Larin so Jennifer and Mark could continue to work full-time, they met with Whitney Alber, The Arc's Senior Program Manager. Jennifer learned that The Arc was the only agency in town to provide extended daycare for people with special needs. *"We didn't know, quite frankly, that The Arc existed!"* Whitney helped Jennifer and Mark fill out Medicaid Waiver paperwork and Larin began her relationship with The Arc.

"IT'S EVERYTHING! WE ARE SO BLESSED!"

Finding The Arc was a gamechanger for the entire family. Larin found her community of friends, has an active social calendar and continues to grow and learn through Arc opportunities. She gets to do what Jennifer describes as "normal things." Her current favorite activity is the Young Adult Social Club. Jennifer says, *"You know, with The Arc, you just don't have to worry."*

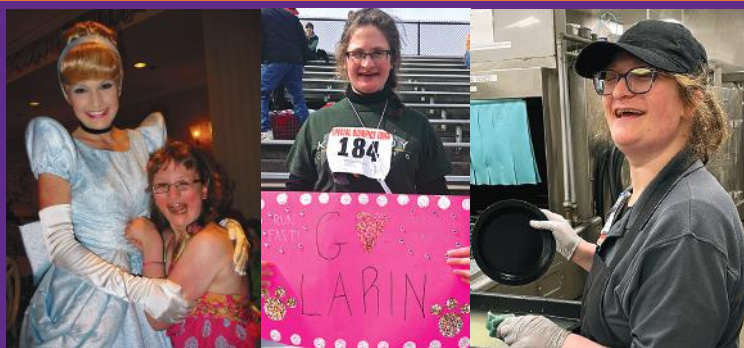
The Krautbauers are consistently one of the top fundraising families for Arc March. *"It's just everything! The Arc has been there for us, and we want to be there for them. I don't know what we would do without The Arc."*

THE ARC NEEDS YOU!

The Arc of East Central Iowa relies on the support of our community to continue to provide meaningful programs and services like the ones that mean so much to Larin and her family. **Please join us in supporting Larin and our entire Arc family.** Your donation will stay right here with The Arc of East Central Iowa and will help us continue to be the supportive resource that so many families need.

Your gift will truly make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve and their families.

THANK YOU!



The Arc is grateful for ALL donations and ALL donors!

Thanks to the generosity of the Busse Foundation, The Arc will receive a dollar-to-dollar match on the following gifts:

- First time donors
- Donations that are an increase from last year
- Donations from those who have not given for 3 years or more

**The Busse Foundation to give up to a total of \$20,000*

Please mail your donation to:

The Arc of East Central Iowa
680 2nd Street SE • Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Attn: 2024 Annual Campaign
or donate online at www.arceci.org.

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From the Director's Desk

Hello Arc Friends and Family!

We have entered the holiday season and are so grateful to have been the recipient of funds raised from the Gazette's Festival of Trees. We hope you had an opportunity to attend this event and get in the holiday spirit! The Arc appreciates this recognition and funding to help support our many programs and services that make a difference in the lives of the individuals and families we serve.



Theresa Lewis

The start of the new year will bring more information about the changes the state will be making to the Medicaid Waiver system. In July 2025, the Waiver system will go from seven (7) waivers to two or three waivers, one for children up to age 18, one for adults, and possibly one for the elderly. Instead of a menu of services specific to each waiver, children and adults will have access to the programs and services they need. Assessments of need will also be done differently, with levels of care being assessed and with those levels, allocation of service hours. This means the greater the needs of the individual, the more service hours they will be allocated, and the lower the needs, fewer service hours will be allocated. The Arc is excited about simplifying the waiver system, but does have some concerns about rates for services and how these assessments will be conducted. We will do our best to share information as we get it, but keep an eye out for communication about the HOME Project and Town Halls facilitated by Iowa Medicaid. These venues are your opportunity hear information first hand and ask questions.

In addition to this big change, the state is also making other funding changes. At present, The Arc receives funding from the Mental Health and Disability Services Region, and they pay for services for individuals not yet on a waiver and provide training reimbursement and other funding opportunities to providers like The Arc. In July 2025, there will no longer be this entity. The state is moving to Accountable Service Organizations who will cover regions of the state to form Aging & Disability Services regions and Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse regions. Being combined with Aging services instead of Mental Health services may open up new possibilities for service provision, but The Arc is still waiting for more information on the exact role of ASOs, what funding will be available, and how contracting with these entities will work.

Lots of change coming! We are grateful for your support of the work we do. The Arc wishes each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and/or Indigenous People's Day, whichever you celebrate.

With gratitude,

Theresa Lewis, Executive Director

Curl Jam 2024

Many, many, MANY thanks to the Cedar Rapids Curling Club for putting on Curl Jam 2024, a curling tournament to support The Arc of East Central Iowa. Ten teams spent Friday afternoon, September 27th at the ImOn Ice Arena learning how to curl and then competing in an actual tournament. Each team had at least one coach with them the entire day to teach the terms and strategies which made the day so much fun! Winning teams were awarded one-of-a-kind trophies that had been made by Arc Day Hab participants, with the help of the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy. It was a special day for all involved. The CRCC thought of everything! We are so grateful!

Plans are already in place a second event next fall. If you feel like you missed out on a fun and unique opportunity, be on the lookout for dates and details coming soon.



SUPPORT THE ARC BY SAVING YOUR HYVEE RECEIPTS!

Anytime that you shop at a Cedar Rapids or Marion HyVee or HyVee Drugstore save those receipts! Turn them into The Arc and we will turn them into cash for our daycare!

Welcome To The Arc



Hi, I'm Correy Daum and I am a new Service & Support Coordinator.

I have two adult children who are the light of my life. In recent years, I've worked with local nonprofits like Feed Iowa First and Advocates for Social Justice. These experiences have been instrumental in deepening my understanding of the broader fight for equity and justice in everyday life.

This journey led me to Kirkwood, where I am pursuing my Human Services Associate degree, and ultimately brought me here. I'm excited to help individuals access the support and skills they need to thrive.

Hi, I'm Dylan Anderson and I am a new Employment Specialist.

I greatly enjoy supporting and empowering individuals in our communities to see them flourish and grow. I have hobbies including coaching/playing soccer and skateboarding in my free time.



Hi, I'm Kate Litwin and I am a new Employment Specialist.

I recently got married in June and share a home with my husband and a playful one-year-old border collie. I'm a Kirkwood graduate and have spent the last few years working with people with disabilities, which I truly enjoy.

In my free time, I love diving into sci-fi movies and hiking.

Hi, I'm Mecca Samuels and I am a new Service & Support Coordinator. I'm passionate about working with people, advocating for their needs, and helping them solve problems.

I'm also a recent graduate from the University of Phoenix and a proud mom of three.

Looking forward to supporting our team and community!



Hi, I'm Reegan Deputy and I am a new Service & Support Coordinator.

I was born and raised in the area and I am looking forward to giving back to the community. I recently graduated from Wartburg college where I played softball for four years and obtained my social work degree.

I love being active but, on the other side, I love to coop up in the house and read a good book. So far, I enjoy working with everyone at The Arc and they have all been welcoming and assisting me with this position. I can't thank everyone enough for helping me learn the ropes.

Thank You 2024 Community Partners

Stronger Together! Community Partners Make a Difference!

The support of local businesses is an integral piece of The Arc's ability to carry out our programs and services. We are so very grateful to the many businesses in the Cedar Rapids area who not only helped us fulfill our mission in 2024, but also underwrote the costs of putting on our Arc March, raffle and our first ever Touch -A- Truck event as well as Curl Jam. Having the support of the business community also says so much to our families. When our Arc families and participants see businesses stepping up and seeing the value of the work we do, it brings peace of mind and a sense of being valued.

We truly are all in this together! When our families feel supported and our programs are strong, we are all empowered to do the work we are so lucky we get to do.

If your company would like to be a Community Partner in 2025, or would like more information about our Community Partner program, please contact Jenny Bosking at jbosking@arceci.org or 319-893-6935 to learn more.



Presenting Partner

United Fire Group

Champion Partners

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust
Cedar Rapids Toyota
Van Meter Inc.
Veridian Credit Union

Advocate Partners

Crystal Group
GreenState Credit Union
In Tolerance
The Vander Leest & Wenzel
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Mercy Medical Center
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Donutland
Easy Street Boutique
Five Guys
GreenState Credit Union
Hollywood Nails
ImOn Communications
Isle of Capri
Jackie Nau
Justice Electric
Lion Bridge Brewing Company
Map Room

Modern Woodmen

My Chiro

Ohnward Bank

Olive Garden

Patty Walsh

Red Lobster

RS Welding Studios

Sam's Club

Scheel's

Smithfield Tennis &
Pickleball Center

The Barkery

Theatre Cedar Rapids

Theisen's

Thrivent

Grantors

Aegon Transamerica

Aldi

Alliant

Collins Aerospace

DHHS-Stabilization Grant
(ARPA Stipend)

Diamond V

GCRFC Organization

Development

Great America

Iowa Blueprint for Change
DIF Grant

Iowa Cancer Consortium

MHDS Campership Grant

MHDS Training Grant

United Way of East Central Iowa

Univ. of IA - UCEDD Health Equity

World Class Industries

Participant Spotlight



Susan Polglaze

About Me.

I am 32 years old and live in Cedar Rapids. I have one sister (Aria), two dogs (Harry and Rudy), and one cat (Maisy). Fun fact about me - I LOVE Scooby-Doo!

Favorite Arc Activities?

I love The Arc March! I also enjoy going bowling on Mondays and Karaoke Getaways. I love spending time with friends and singing fun songs!

Favorite Hobbies?

I enjoy reading and riding my bike.

Favorite Outdoor Activities?

Riding my bike and planting flowers.

Favorite Foods?

My favorites are Pringles and Birthday Blast Ice Cream.

Supporting The Arc: Past, Present & Future

In the 1980's, Julie Beckett and her daughter, Katie Beckett, drove important change on a national scale when they took their advocacy all the way to the White House. President Reagan signed into law The Katie Beckett Waiver, which was the beginning of the Medicaid Waiver program in the United States, allowing for community-based services and supports that allowed Katie, and others like her, to receive care at home. Julie's advocacy efforts were to demonstrate that home care was more cost effective and offered a better quality of life for kids and their families, which ultimately waived the financial eligibility aspect of Medicaid for children who met institutional level of care due to their significant health and disability needs. In Katie's case, this allowed her to go home on a ventilator/respiratory care and receive home nursing services. This local Cedar Rapids family worked tirelessly to make life better for every family across the country who cares for and loves someone with a disability, and we are all forever grateful!

Julie Beckett passed away in early 2022 and she continues to support the work we do through a transformational planned gift she provided to The Arc of East Central Iowa. We are thrilled and grateful to announce the creation of the Julie and Katie Beckett Arc Program Fund at The Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation. Funds from this Endowed gift will provide annual financial support to our respite program...a program that the Becketts so fiercely fought for and benefited from all those years ago.

Planned gifts are a remarkable and meaningful way to impact a mission that means so much to you. In the case of Julie Beckett's estate gift, it is ensuring for years to come that families will continue to have access to safe, healthy care for the people they love.

If you would like to explore making a planned gift, or if you have already named The Arc of East Central Iowa in your will and you want us to know that, please reach out to Jenny Bosking at 319-893-6935 or jbosking@arceci.org.



You Make a Difference

Thank you for all of your continued generous contributions to The Arc. This edition of the Challenger recognizes volunteers, donors and members who generously supported The Arc from August through October 2024.

Thank You

General Donations

Donelle Baker, Mark & Denise Bauermeister, Angie & David Becker, Andrew Bellagamba, Jane Bockenstedt, Barbara Boebel, Bright Funds, Cargill, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, Choreo (Kimberly Hillyard), Tyler Clark, Patrick & Sandra Cobb, Mary Collins, Katie Curtis, Melissa Dahm, Doris P Fry Trust, Dina Dusek, Jessica Fahey, Terese Fisher, Peter Fries, Rosemary Gabe, General Mills, Jason & Megan Glass, Renee Grummer-Miller, Jennifer Hamdorh, John & Victoria Hansen, David & Sharon Harris, Keela Herr, Ruth Hojka, John Deere, John Jayne, Ann Jeffries, Jeffrey Keslar, Michael & Kathleen Kleiman, Knights of Columbus #11942, Mary Koohey, Joan Ledesma, Theresa Lewis, Clayton A & Rebecca P Lindwall Charitable Fund, MidAmerican Aerospace, Tom Moore, Sharon Mullin, Claudine Linnenkamp Estate, Market After Dark, Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company, New Leader Manufacturing, Debbie Neumeyer, Cal & Andrea Norris, Lisa Northrup, Nicole Ohrt, Mary Parrish, James & Karen Peiffer, Peterson Family Foundation Charitable Fund (Philip & Barbara Peterson), Susan Pohlman, Susan Polglaze, James Potts, Bruce & Myra Ray, Raytheon, David & Joellen Ritchie, Jess Rockwell, Ruth Schroeder, Anthony Schwendinger, Bill & Rocki Shepard, Amy Shoemaker, Lora Slechta, Mindy Sorg, Wilma Stallman, Gary & Nancy Strandberg, Shelly Strellner, Joseph Terfler, Texas Roadhouse, The Standard, Mary Updegraff, Variety the Children's Charity, Veridian Credit Union, Carolin Walker, Brenda Wallrichs, Johnathan & Sharon Weeks, Judith Whetstine, Laurel & Richard Worden, Tim Zrudsky

Memorials

Sara Smith

Ryan Smith

Cody Whittaker

Cheri Whittaker

Membership

Arc Angel

Suzanne Revers

Arc Builder

Paul & Cheryl Kiburz,

David & Mindy Sorg

Arc Friend

Annette Kenney, Jeff & Tracey Koffron, Danielle Rodriguez, Kyle & Philip Schramp, Amy Stevens

Arc Advocate

Melissa Frick, Maria Gaffney, Darrin Keller, David & Karen Kroeger, Dawn McArtor, Ted & Nancy Priebe, Jeff & Kristin Schaefer, Erica Smothers, Chester & Janet Sullivan, Blake & Angie Wilkinson

Volunteers Hours - 74

Whitney Alber, Katie Beckman-Shaull, Adam Brown, Jeff Corrigan, Jessica Fahey, Terese Fisher, Maria Gaffney, Teri Gibson, Nathan Haas, Brad Hauge, Shawn Knighton, Shelby Kobliska, Jeff Koffron, Sara Kruse, Cherri Lock, Carol Meade, Ben Mulholland, Candice Murphy, Jackie Nau, Michael Neuenburg, Jessica Pleggenkuhle, Danielle Rodriguez, Kristin Schaefer, Erica Smothers, Mindy Sorg, Amy Stevens, Shelly Strellner, Nikki Wilcox, Blake Wilkinson

Wish List

From every day items to special requests. We are always in need of items to keep our office and programs running. Donations can be dropped off at The Arc's main office M-F 9 AM - 3:30 PM or shop our [Amazon Wish List](#).



Kitchen Needs

Cascade Dishwasher Pods
Kitchen Garbage Bags
Paper Plates & Paper Towels
Plastic Disposable Cups
Plastic Spoons & Forks
Ziploc Bags - Reg & FREEZER (Gallon, Quart)

Snack & Cooking Activity Items

Applesauce
Canned Fruit & Vegetables
Fruit Snacks
Juice - 100% Apple or Grape
Snack Crackers - Variety Packs

General Supplies

Baby Wipes - Unscented/Sensitive
Bandages - Assorted
Deodorant - Travel Size (Men & Women)
Febreze
Hair Combs & Hair Pick Combs
Hand Lotion - Travel Size
Hand Sanitizer Refills
Hand Wipes
Kleenex/Tissues (Cube Boxes)
Lint Rollers
Liquid Hand Soap Refills
Menstrual Pads (Variety Packs of Sizes)
Reusable Hot/Cold Packs
Tide Pods - Free & Gentle
Toothbrush Covers
Toothpaste - Travel Size

Office Supplies

#2 Pencils
Ball Point Pens (Blue or Black Ink)
Batteries (AAA, AA, C & D)
Construction Paper (Black)
Dry Erase Markers & Washable Markers
Sharpies

Program Needs

Coloring Books - Adult & Children
Crafts
Craft Felt Fabric Sheets & Pipe Cleaners
Digital Kitchen Timers
Fidget Toys - Pop-its, Stretchy Toys, Noodles, Dimples, Fidget Spinners, etc.
Gift Cards - Aldi, Walmart, HyVee, Gas
Gift Cards (Community Activities) - Sky Zone, Potters Obsession, Speedeez, Fun Station, Air Fx, etc.
Googly Eyes - Various Sizes
Kinetic Sand & Sand Toys
Painting Canvases - All Sizes
Perler/Fuse Beads
Play-Doh
Suncatchers

Clothes

Blankets
Clothing - Sweatpants, T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Athletic Shorts - All Sizes, Youth & Adult
Hats & Gloves - Adult
Socks - Ladies & Mens, Size 8-11
Towels - Kitchen & Bath



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

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Phone: 319-365-0487
Fax: 319-365-9938
www.arceci.org

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Mission Statement

The Arc of East Central Iowa empowers individuals with disabilities and their families to engage in lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work, play, and advocate with full dignity and inclusion in their communities.

Make a Difference
Donate at www.arceci.org



SAVE THE DATE!

March 29, 2025

Lindale Mall

8:00 AM - Activities Begin | 9:30 AM - Walk Starts



Join us as we walk together to raise awareness about intellectual and developmental disabilities at the **28th Annual Arc March!**