

Challenger

A NEWSLETTER THAT CONNECTS, ENGAGES AND INFORMS

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

The Arc's first Touch -A- Truck event was a great success! We enjoyed perfect summer weather while we welcomed over 3,000 visitors who enjoyed getting up close to over 40 different large vehicles. We are deeply grateful to our event sponsor, Van Meter Inc and our location sponsor, Kirkwood Community College, for helping us put together this special day. We are also thankful to all the businesses who said, "YES" when asked if they could join us as well as the many volunteers who gave their time to make this day a success.



- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Area Ambulance | FedEx | Linn County Emergency Management | Tegler Wrecker & Crane |
| Barnhart Crane & Rigging | Fizz Wagon | Loosie's | Two Men and a Truck |
| Cedar Rapids Fire Dept. | Harley Davidson | Los Ortega's | UPS |
| Cedar Rapids Police Dept. | In Tolerance Grill | Performance Food Group | Van Meter |
| Cedar Rapids Public Library | Iowa DOT | Peterbuilt | Vozenilek Racing |
| City of Cedar Rapids | Iowa National Guard | Pita'z | Wendling Quarries |
| Corridor Camaro Club | Kazimour Farms | Rexco | Z102.9 |
| County Line Trucking | King's Materials | StoryMaker with PaperPie | |
| Don Hummer Trucking | Kirkwood Community College | | |



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From the Director's Desk

Hello Arc Friends and Family!

Happy Summer! Our summer programs have ended, and we had such an amazing time with both our children and adults. August is the beginning of many new happenings here at The Arc and in the community. We are grateful for Corda for sponsoring the Party At The Arc Park on August 3, and we held a very successful family event, Touch –A- Truck, on Saturday, August 10 with over 3,000 in attendance! We are also very grateful for the businesses and vendors who lent their vehicles for the event, and to Z102.9 for promoting it and live broadcasting that day. At the end of this month, come and see us slinging drinks for tips at Market After Dark.



Theresa Lewis

In September, we are hosting Curl Jam 2024 in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Curling Club, then in November we are this year's nonprofit beneficiary of the Gazette's Festival of Trees! We are grateful to have so many partners in the community who see the impact and importance of The Arc, especially the individuals and families we serve and the incredible DSPs who make everything possible.

This fall we will be planning for more changes and in January 2025, we will be starting a new day program for adults. This program will help us add capacity so that we can serve more individuals and reduce our waiting list. This expansion aligns with our new strategic plan, specifically the Execute goal, which focuses on meeting the needs of our community. Here is a snapshot of our focus areas for the next two years and the goals and strategies that will advance our work and further impact the lives of the people we serve.

Advocate	Invest
Goal: <i>Engage and educate our communities to create change</i>	Goal: <i>Staff and board are engaged and have the knowledge, skills, and supports for success</i>
Key Strategies: Advocacy Professional Networking Family Events Marketing & Outreach	Key Strategies: Succession Planning & Professional Development Compensation Culture & Morale Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Execute	Sustain
Goal: <i>Programs and services meet the needs of participants and caregivers</i>	Goal: <i>Financial balance and sustainability will be achieved</i>
Key Strategies: Prioritization Accountabilities & Checks and Balances Technology Leadership Development	Key Strategies: Meet/Exceed Service Targets & Reduce Waitlist Fundraising & Grant Writing Diversification Risk & Compliance Management

Thank you for supporting The Arc! Your investment of time, talent, and treasure means we can continue to offer and add quality services and supports that allow the individuals we serve and their families to live, learn, work, play, and advocate with dignity and full inclusion in our communities.

With gratitude,


Theresa Lewis, Executive Director



Advocacy Corner

Your Vote Matters – Make Sure it is Counted!

The presidential election of 2024 is expected to be historical. Make sure your vote is cast and don't rely on others to represent what is most important to you. Choosing not to vote always favors one candidate more than the other, so make it clear who you want most, even if you don't feel your ideal candidate is represented. The platforms of the two parties offer very different views of how they see the future of our country. Our right to vote in a free and fair election is the most powerful tool we have as Americans... make sure to exercise this right!



To answer some questions you might have, the following information should provide you with all you need to cast your vote on Tuesday, November 5th.

1. Voter Information – <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx>

a. This will tell you if you are registered and the location of your polling site.

2. Voter Registration – if you are not yet registered, it is not too late!

There is still time and several ways to register.

a. In person voter registration:

i. Linn County – 935 2nd St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

ii. Benton County – 111 E. 4th St. 2nd Floor, Vinton, IA 52349

iii. Jones County – 500 W. Main, Anamosa, IA 52205

iv. Addresses for other locations – <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>

b. Iowa online voter registration: <https://mymvd.iowadot.gov/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fVoterRegistration>

c. Other voter registration options:

i. By mail – get copy of form here: <https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3701/Iowa-Voter-Registration-Form-PDF?bidId=>

ii. Iowa DOT when obtaining an Iowa license or nondriver ID

iii. Election Day Registration – this is highly discouraged, but should this become necessary use this information to guide you – <https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/386/Election-Day-Registration>

3. Absentee Voting – is a way for you to cast a ballot in an election without voting in-person at a polling place or vote center.

a. To request an absentee ballot, go to: <https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3702/Absentee-Ballot-Request-Form-PDF?bidId=>.

b. Requests must be received no later than 5:15 PM on Thursday, October 16th.

4. Voting Assistance – https://issuu.com/iowasecretaryofstate/docs/specialneedsvotingbrochure_2018

a. I need assistance filling out my ballot...YES!

You may request assistance for reading or marking your ballot.

b. Can someone bring a ballot to my car...YES!

Precinct officials will bring a ballot and election materials to the voter's vehicle.

c. I can't leave home, can I still vote...YES!

Request an absentee ballot and mail it to your county auditor.

5. Key Dates To Remember

a. Tuesday, August 27th – First date to request absentee ballots.

b. Wednesday, October 16th – First day absentee ballots will be mailed.

c. Monday, October 21st – Last day to request an absentee ballot.

d. Monday, November 4th – Last day to vote in person at your county auditor's office.

e. Tuesday, November 5th – Election Day Polls in Iowa are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Please note that as a registered 501(c)(3), The Arc of East Central Iowa is not allowed to endorse candidates.

Summer Has Been A Blast!





Come join us to celebrate the end of summer at a Party at The Arc Park!
This event is brought to you by Arc families and is for all Arc families!

Come enjoy spinning tunes by DJ Sam Claussen, eat some popcorn, and purchase Peppy's Ice Cream from their truck. There will be dancing, playground antics, and other fun activities!

Friday, September 6th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at The Arc

**This is an outdoor event – in the event of rain, check social media for updates.*

Participant Spotlight



Liam Kruse

About Me.

I am 7 years old and live in Cedar Rapids. I live at home with my mom and dad, my golden retriever (Buster) and cat (Charley). I like to be independent and help others. A high-five from a friend is always welcomed.

Favorite Arc Activities?

I love going to The Arc! Some fun things I've done have been the Mississippi River Museum, Children's Museum, Play Cafe, Swimming & Splash Pads, and of course the amazing Arc playground!

Favorite Hobby?

I enjoy cleaning and rearranging. I'm quite the interior decorator at home. I'm also a chef - helping mom and dad cook meals. I also have an interest in trains, animals, construction, tractors, fire fighters, and farming.

Favorite Outdoor Activities?

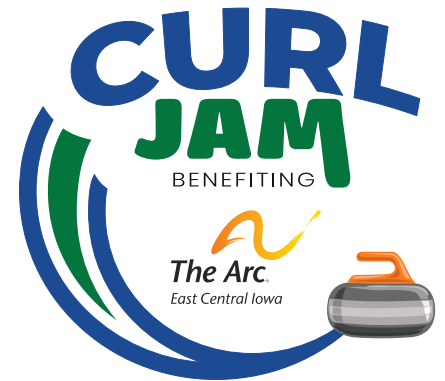
I love to play in sandboxes, snow, and water. I also enjoy basketball, jumping on trampolines, bike rides, and walks to the park. I also like to watch vehicles and trains go by... so interesting!

Favorite Foods?

Ice cream and cookies are the best! But I also like pizza, french fries, cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, fruit, and broccoli.

Curl Jam

The Arc was approached by The Cedar Rapids Curling Club about hosting a curling tournament that will fully-benefit The Arc of East Central Iowa. We are not only deeply honored to have been considered for this opportunity, we are all VERY excited to be a part of such a fun and unique event! There are only 12 teams allowed to compete and spaces are filling up. If you'd like to consider joining us for this special event that really puts the FUN in FUNdraising, go to: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/curljam/event/curljam2024/> to learn more and sign up! No experience is necessary...just bring your enthusiasm (and rubber-soled shoes!)



Friday, September 27th | 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM
ImOn Ice Arena

Annual Meeting & Awards

Please join us as we celebrate the success of the past year and recognize the wonderful award winners that help make a difference in our community and at The Arc!

Monday, September 30th at 6:30 PM

Hybrid - In Person OR Online

**Cedar Rapids Downtown Library
Beam Auditorium A**



If you will be attending online please RSVP to Theresa at tlewis@arceci.org for the link prior to the meeting.

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 May through July 2024.

Thank You

General Donations

Agency Fund of the GCRCF, Alliant Energy, Sabrina Augustine, Donelle Baker, Angie Barton, Will Baumann, Andrew Bellagamba, Jane Bockenstedt, Adam Brewer, Charities Aid Foundation, Cheryl Britt, Cargill, Challenge Grant Fund of the GCRCF, Tyler Clark, Crescent Janko Masonic Foundation, Jessica Fahey, Raymond & Lois Fergus, Friends Fund of the GCRCF, General Mills, GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation, Sharon Harris, Sharon Harschnek, Louis Harvieux, Frances Hatfield, Ruth Hojka, Heather Houg, Virginia Hunstad, Kenneth & Connie Hurmence, John Jayne, Ann Jeffries, John Deere, Justice Electric, Walter & Ida Kansky (Walter & Ida Kansky Charitable Foundation), Jeffrey Keslar, Mary Koohy, Joan Ledesma, James LeMaster, Thea Leslie (Roger & Thea Leslie Fund of the GCRCF), Lynette Marling, Tracie McCulla, David Maier & Matt McGrane, Robert & Connie Meier, MidAmerican Aerospace, Nordstrom, Danica O'Brien, James & Lynn O'Connor, Nicole Ohrt, Mary Parrish, Todd Penaluna Memorial Fund of the GCRCF, Tom & Sonja Penaluna Family Fund of the GCRCF, Leslie & Matthew Petersen Memorial Fund of the GCRCF, Susan Polglaze, James Potts, Raytheon Technologies, Regis Middle School, Jess Rockwell,

Rotary of Cedar Rapids-Daybreak, Robert Rush, Emmett Russ, Anthony Schwendinger, Peggy & Thomas Shedenhelm (Peggy S & Thomas L Shedenhelm Trust), Marcy Shie, Amy Shoemaker, Mindy Sorg, St Pius X Parish, Kay Stallman, Starbucks, Kim Stark, Shelly Strellner, Joseph Terfler, The McIntyre Foundation, The Ability Experience, The Standard, The University of Iowa, Bonnie & Robert Tiedtke, Keith & Gretchen Wright Fund of the GCRCF, Zachary Zenk Fund of the GCRCF

Memorials

Bill Conway

Connie & John Chamberlain, Don Serovy & Carol Wager

Bill Quinby

John & Eve Chandler, Mike & Karen Delaney, Jim & Liz Efting, Melissa Frick, Pat & Ron Gonder, Dave & Sharon Loecher, Michael & Annemarie Moran, Janet & Steve Noonan, Leslie Petersen (Leslie C Petersen Guardianship), David & Karen Quinby (David & Karen Quinby Family Fund), Michael Redmond

Sara Smith

Ryan Smith

Cody Whittaker

Cheri Whittaker

Membership

Arc Builder

Mark Hanrahan (MidAmerican Aerospace), Jim LeMaster, Clint & Gale Mote

Arc Friend

Dale & Judy Fitzgibbons, Dave & Diane Graham, Larry & Angie Ihnen, Mindy Kruckenberg, Dale & Debra Rettenmeier, Albert & Marcia Simon

Arc Advocate

Kerri & Terry Benda, John & Mary Florang, Laura Grempe, Margaret Kenney, Doriene Loomis, Edna Lyons, Bill & Sandy McVicker, Leslie Petersen (Leslie C Petersen Guardianship), Michelle & David Pfoff, Scott & Terrie Seibert

Volunteers Hours - 94

Kristen Aller, Adam Brown, Jeff Corrigan, Jessica Fahey, Terese Fisher, Maria Gaffney, Teri Gibson, Nathan Haas, Brad Hauge, Bill Holtz, Christopher Johnson, Amy Johnson, Shelby Kobliska, Jeff Koffron, Cherri Lock, Carol Meade, Mercy Urgent Care South, Ben Mulholland, Jackie Nau, Michael Neuerburg, Max Newman, Danielle Rodriguez, Kristin Schaefer, Erica Smothers, Cindy Smothers, Jay Smothers, Mindy Sorg, Amy Stevens, Shelly Strellner, Blake Wilkinson

Welcome To The Arc



Hi, I'm Angela Becker and I'm the new Accounting Coordinator.

I'm happy to be working for The Arc in the Accounting department. I have 12 years of experience in Accounting.

I live in Cedar Rapids. My husband and I will be celebrating our second wedding anniversary in August. In our spare time we like to listen to live music and travel.



For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Non-Profit Organization
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Member of The Arc of Iowa & The Arc of the United States

The Arc of East Central Iowa

680 2nd Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Phone: 319-365-0487
Fax: 319-365-9938
www.arceci.org

Address Service Requested

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



Raffle for a Cause

Sponsored by:
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We have many great packages up for grabs!

1. Backyard Pizza Oven
2. Beauty & The Beast
3. Broomball, Party Of 16!
4. Cedar Rapids Pizza Tour
5. Family Fun In The Corridor
6. Get In Top Shape At Top Shape Gym
7. Host A Legendary Local Party
8. I'll Take The Cash, Please!
9. Iowa Women's Basketball Tickets
10. Meander Through Marion
11. Newbo/Czech Village (The District) Shopping
12. You'll Be Ready With Your YETI

Package descriptions are available at arceci.org.

There are many ways for you to purchase your raffle tickets.

- Buy them online at arceci.org.
- Stop by The Arc's main office Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 3:30.
- Purchase them from any office staff member.
- Purchase them from an Arc Board Member.

Drawing will be held Tuesday, Oct. 1st via Facebook Live. Need not be present to win.



TICKET PRICING: 1 - \$5.00 • 3 - \$10.00 • 10 - \$25.00 • 50 - \$100.00