

# Challenger

A NEWSLETTER THAT CONNECTS, ENGAGES AND INFORMS

## Our 2023 Annual Campaign

### MEET ELOISE!

A beloved member of The Arc family, Eloise is a charmer who loves to be a part of the world around her. She adores Peppa Pig, the sound of whistles and her little brother, Joey. Her story is one of both struggle and strength.

### SHE CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL AND HER FAMILY THOUGHT ALL WAS WELL

Born in Los Angeles, Eloise's birth story was joyful and routine. Her parents left the hospital with what appeared to be a healthy baby, but after a few weeks, Melissa (Eloise's mom) grew concerned that Eloise's constant crying might be a sign something was wrong. Medical testing started after other milestones were not being met, but doctors had no answers.

### SEARCHING FOR A DIAGNOSIS

Eloise and her family made many moves so they could lean on the support of family as they walked the difficult path of discovering Eloise's level of need. After years of testing, Eloise was eventually diagnosed with Microcephaly and Failure to Thrive, but even that analysis did not represent the extent of Eloise's challenges. Melissa explains that they just embrace the fact that Eloise is profoundly disabled and is a "total-care kid." They love and care for her through all of her successes and challenges.

### THE ARC IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF ELOISE'S SUCCESS

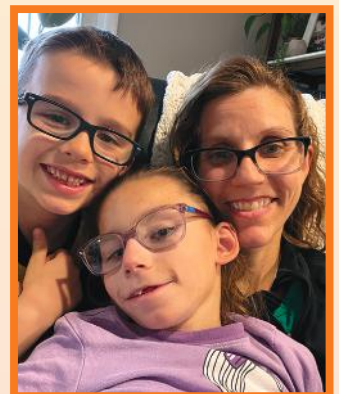
Melissa says, *"Without the services provided by The Arc, I couldn't work a full time job and be a contributing member of the community. But I am able to have a job that I love that brings me great personal satisfaction. My life has an equal mix of being a Mom, caregiver, worker and just myself and The Arc plays an important role in maintaining that balance."*

As with all our participant families, The Arc provides Melissa with a network of personal connections for peer support, access to respite and daycare services, as well as in-home care so she can spend focused time with Eloise's brother, Joey, and have a few moments of much-needed time for herself. Melissa says she appreciates the personal check-ins from Arc staff and says that The Arc is a reliable, knowledgeable, and vital resource to help her and her family navigate the life of loving and caring for someone with a profound disability.

The Arc may help Eloise, but Eloise also brings so much to The Arc and all who interact with her. Even though she's non-verbal, she communicates freely with those around her through body language, facial expressions, and verbal reactions. She has a network of friends and staff who truly love her!

### PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING ELOISE AND OUR ENTIRE ARC FAMILY

The supports and services The Arc provides to children like Eloise and parents like Melissa inspire hope, support the local economy, and provide stability. We are here to help them navigate life's ups and downs and twists and turns from birth through all stages of life. Your tax-deductible donation will stay right here with The Arc of East Central Iowa, helping us serve more participants like Eloise and the people who care for them.



*Don't wait...  
make your donation today!  
Help support wonderful  
individuals like Eloise.*

Please mail your donation to:  
The Arc of East Central Iowa  
680 2nd Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Attn: 2023 Annual Campaign  
or donate online at [www.arceci.org](http://www.arceci.org).

# Board of Directors

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# From the Director's Desk

Hello Arc Friends and Family!

As the holiday season approaches, it's the perfect time to reflect on the year that has passed and to usher in the festive spirit. This is a season for spreading joy, being grateful, and celebrating the successes, both big and small, that have come our way.

Our 70th Anniversary has been filled with accomplishments and The Arc has achieved so much in such a short time! We built a new recreation area and playground, had a beautiful mural painted on our building, celebrated our 70th anniversary of service and advocacy, initiated 2 new successful programs, and brought in many grants and other funding to help bridge gaps, improve our space, and reward our teams. We are pleased with the results of our hard work and dedication and challenge you to take time to relish your achievements as well.

As we wrap up 2023, let's make a commitment to be merry, grateful, and to celebrate our successes. Holidays are a time for giving, and this can take many forms. It might be donating to a cause you are passionate about (like The Arc!), volunteering your time to help those less fortunate, or simply offering a listening ear to a friend in need. By sharing your time, resources, and goodwill, you'll find that the act of giving can be just as rewarding as receiving. And in doing so, we can create an atmosphere that spreads happiness to those around us.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and festive holiday season. May it be filled with warmth, love, and the magic of being merry. The Arc looks forward to all we will accomplish together in 2024.

With gratitude,



Theresa Lewis  
Executive Director



Theresa Lewis

## The Arc's Wish List

From every day items to special requests. We are always in need of items to keep our office and programs running! Check out our General Wish List at [www.arceci.org/give/shop-wish-list/](http://www.arceci.org/give/shop-wish-list/) or visit our [Amazon Wish List](#).

Donations can be dropped off to The Arc's main office Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM or you can have them shipped directly to us. **Thank you for your support!**

# Advocacy Corner

## Post-Graduation Disability Fair: High School and Beyond

On November 13th, we were honored to host our first “Post-Graduation Disability Fair: High School and Beyond” for students and adults diagnosed with a disability, their caregivers, educators, and community members at the Cedar Rapids Downtown Library. We would like to extend a thank you to all 28 partner organizations who provided support at the event: Affordable Housing Network, Amerigroup Iowa, Area Payee Services, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, City of Cedar Rapids – Special Population Program, Discovery Living, Frank A. Varvaris & Associates, Goodwill of the Heartland, Horizon’s – A Family Service Alliance, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services – HIPP Program, Iowa Total Care, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Kirkwood VITAL Program, Kirkwood Accommodation Services & Autism Support, Kiwanis Miracle League, Linn County Lifts, Mental Health & Disability Services of the East Central Region, Options of Linn County, REM Iowa, Riverview Center, Social Security Administration, Special K Transport, Special Olympics Iowa, Systems Unlimited, To The Rescue, University of Iowa – UI Reach.

The organizations gathered to support local efforts of highlighting resources across Eastern Iowa in the areas of career & work programs, case management, civil rights, day programs, post-secondary education, estate planning, housing, legal support, payee services, recreation & leisure, social security, and transportation.

If you were unable to attend and would like to receive information on the resources provided, please contact Kristen Krambeer, Advocacy Program Coordinator at [kkrambeer@arceci.org](mailto:kkrambeer@arceci.org).



# Services Spotlight

## Look For Us This Winter!

The Day Hab and Aktion Club had a very fun opportunity a few weeks ago! The City of Cedar Rapids was looking for Organizations to help paint blades for snowplows to be used around the city this winter! The city dropped the blade off to us and we got to work! Special thanks to Heather Wagner from the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy who also joined in on the fun. Heather took ideas from the individuals and helped us bring the visions to life! We started out by drawing out the design on the plow, and then the individuals all took turns painting different parts of the plow. Over the course of a few days the groups created some amazing artwork. While most of us are not super excited about snow, we are excited for a little bit to be able to see our plow out in action! Be on the lookout this winter for the plow that we help create!



## Welcome To The Arc



Hi, I'm Bob Davis and I am the new Day Habilitation Supervisor.

I received my teaching degree from UNI in 1989. I taught in Waterloo and Tanager Place serving the severe behavioral disorders middle school and high school population. I burnt out getting my master's degree and moved on.

I have 2 cats and a bird they are all family. I like to read histories and am an ardent student of European, Middle East and international affairs. I like to cook but can not bake a cake to save my life. My hobbies are landscaping and smoking meats in the smoker. I have experience in this field in job coaching, day hab, group homes, and case management.

Hi, I'm Katie Miller and I am the new Recreational Specialist.

I am looking forward to settling into this new Role with The Arc and learning all the new things that come along with this position. I have been with The Arc since June of 2019 and have been working in Day Habilitation and Virtual Day Hab. I look forward to working behind the scenes and learning more about The Arc and our participants in a new role.



Hi, I'm Paul Toczylowski and I am a new Employment Specialist.

I am very excited to begin working with everyone and to help a lot of people. I am a huge fan of the New York Jets and the Chicago Cubs. I am a big sports fan in general and just love to watch football, baseball, basketball, or soccer when I get the chance. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting to know and work with you.

Hi, I'm Rachel Halm and I am a new Service & Support Coordinator.

I'm a recent graduate from the University of Iowa, (go Hawks!) and I love The Arc's mission. I'm so excited to be joining the team and to make a positive impact.



# Thank You 2023 Community Partners

The support of local businesses is an integral piece in The Arc's ability to carry out programs and services to as many participants as possible. We are incredibly grateful to the many businesses in the Cedar Rapids area who not only helped us fulfill our mission in 2023, but also underwrote the costs of putting on our Arc March, raffle and our 70th Anniversary celebration. It takes a village of support to make The Arc run and our business friends are vital to our success in all aspects of what we do!

It's bigger than just financial support too! Our Community Partners' fund programs that provide caregivers with peace of mind so they can work and contribute to our economy. It's an important and impactful cycle that has a positive financial impact on Cedar Rapids. Every program, every initiative, every outing relies on the financial support of local businesses and the ripple effect is incredible!

If your company would like to be a Community Sponsor for 2024, or would like more information about our Community Partner program, please contact Jenny Bosking at [jbosking@arceci.org](mailto:jbosking@arceci.org) or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024 to learn more.



## Presenting Partners

Travero  
United Fire Group

## Champion Partners

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust  
Cedar Rapids Toyota  
iHeart Media  
New Leader Manufacturing  
Veridian Credit Union

## Advocate Partners

Crystal Group  
GreenState Credit Union  
Linn Area Credit Union  
Skogman Companies  
TrueNorth Companies  
Van Meter Inc.

## Guardian Partners

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Climate Engineers  
IFF  
ImOn Communications  
Justice Electric  
Kwik Star  
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Riverside Casino & Golf Resort  
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Shuttleworth & Ingersoll  
Simmons, Perrine, Moyer,  
Berman, PLC  
The Vander Leest & Wenzel  
Group - BAIRD  
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TSF Structures, Inc.  
UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's  
Hospital

## Leader Partners

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Central Iowa Power Cooperative  
Dakota Red Corporation  
Dupaco Community Credit Union  
Hills Bank  
OPN Architects

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The Gazette  
Tidbits

## In-Kind / Event Sponsors

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Cheddars  
Cheri Lock  
Chili's  
CRBT  
Dick's Sporting Goods  
Donutland  
Easy Street Boutique  
Five Guys  
GreenState Credit Union  
Hollywood Nails  
Hy-Vee  
ImOn Communications  
International Paper  
Isle of Capri  
Jackie Nau  
Justice Electric

## Lion Bridge Brewing Company

Map Room  
Modern Woodmen  
My Chiro  
Ohnward Bank  
Olive Garden  
Pancheros  
Patty Walsh  
Quaker  
Red Lobster  
RS Welding Studios  
Sam's Club  
Scheel's  
Smithfield Tennis &  
Pickleball Center  
Smothers Family  
The Barkery  
Theatre Cedar Rapids  
Theisen's  
Thrivent  
United Fire Group

## Grantors

Collins Aerospace  
Diamond V  
GreatAmerica Financial Services  
Greater Cedar Rapids  
Community Foundation  
Henry Davidson  
Scholarship Program  
Linn County Economic and  
Community Development  
Mental Health & Disability  
Services East Central Region  
Mercy Cedar Rapids  
The Arc of the US  
United Way of East Central Iowa  
Walmart  
World Class Industries

# Participant Spotlight



## Quintin Hatfield

### About Me.

I am 25 years old and live in Marion. I have 2 brothers, Austin (23) and Griffin (21). I also have 2 chocolate labs, Lucy and Lily.

### Favorite Arc Activities?

I love Arc March and the music! I also enjoy trips to the park, playing on The Arc's new playground, and riding in the van for Day Hab.

### Favorite Outside Activities?

I enjoy going to Coe football games to watch my brother Austin play and going to family camp at Camp Wapsie.

### Favorite Hobby?

I love watching movies and reading books with dad. I also love going for rides, riding in the car, going for pontoon boat rides, ranger rides, and riding in mom's convertible bug!

### Favorite Foods?

GF chicken nuggets, pepperoni pizza, hot dogs, sunbutter & jelly sandwiches, spaghetti & meatballs, Freetos, and GF/DF cookies!

### Other Favorites?

I love my family! I love seeing all of my relatives and getting together for family gatherings, birthdays, and holidays.

# Planned Giving

## The Arc of East Central Iowa's Endowment

Do you know that The Arc of East Central Iowa has an endowment at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation? Our "Friends Fund" at GCRCF was started in 2000 by a group of Arc supporters who saw the value of an endowed fund playing a role in the longevity of our organization.

### What is an endowed fund?

An endowed fund is a permanent savings account that grows through strategic investing and financial contributions from donors. Endowed funds are used to provide stability and long-term growth to organizations. GCRCF manages our funds and helps with investments to help them grow.

### How do people contribute to an endowed fund?

Donors wanting to make a contribution to our endowment can do so by making a gift to GCRCF in our name. Your entire gift will help the fund to grow and The Arc will be able to use the interest from your gift to help with our annual operating costs.

The Arc is grateful to those visionaries from 20 years ago who saw the value of starting an endowment. And we are grateful for all our Arc supporters who have contributed to our fund for the last 2 decades. Are you interested in making a donation to The Arc's Endowment? Reach out to Jenny Bosking to learn more. [jbosking@arceci.org](mailto:jbosking@arceci.org) or 319-365-0487.



The Arc is forever grateful for the five founders of The Arc Endowment Trust in the fall of 2000. Left to right: Ron Gonder, Rich Murphy, Bill Kin, Dan Rockwell, Doug Horton.

# 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 2023.

## Thank You

### General Donations

Alliant Energy, Donelle Baker, Andrew Bellagamba, Best Buy, Hayleigh Boardman, Jane Bockenstedt, Cargill, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, Cedar Rapids Toyota, City of Cedar Rapids, Pat & Sandi Cobb, Kenneth & Karla Cole, Doris P Fry Trust, Dorothy Easton, Judy & Steve Fuemmeler, Rosemary Gabe, General Mills, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, Katherine Hance, David Harris, Henry Davidson Organization, Todd Henry, Ruth Hojka, Ann Jeffries, John Deere, Sara Kelley, Jeffrey Keslar, Paul Kicksee, Knights of Columbus #11942, Patti & Kyle Kunz, Linn County Econ & Comm Development, LLB Enterprise LLC, Patty Lynott, Lynette Marling, David Maier & Matt McGrane, Medicom Communications Corp, MidAmerican Aerospace, Modern Woodmen, Iris Muchmore, Laurel Murphy, New Leader Manufacturing, Nicole Pedron, Susan Polglaze, Raytheon Technologies, Raygun, Jess Rockwell, Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids, Robert Rush, Saint Pius X Parish, Kristin Schaefer, Anthony Schwendinger, Laura Smith, Wilma Stallman, Amy Stevens, Gary & Nancy Strandberg, Shelly Strellner, Joseph Terfler, Cheryl Tlusty-Marsh, TrueNorth, Deborah Uhrina, Clint Wade, Jacqueline Wilhelm, World Class Industries

### Memorials

**Theresa Clark**  
David & Diane Graham  
**Cathy Dahm**  
David & Diane Graham  
**Madonna Hartl**  
David & Diane Graham  
**Karen Johnson**  
Karen Bachman  
**Sara Smith**  
Ryan Smith  
**Cody Whittaker**  
Cheri Whittaker

## Membership

### Arc Angel

Suzanne Revers

### Arc Builder

Paul & Cheryl Kiburz, Jim LeMaster, Clint & Gale Mote

### Arc Friend

Adam Brown, Scott & JoAnne Carbaugh, Terese Fisher, Annette Kenney, Emmett & Ann Scherrman, Joel & Sandra Schmidt, Sharon Wilcox

### Arc Advocate

Kelvin & Terri Bronner, George & Sandy David, Melissa Frick, Robert Jansen, Darrin Keller, Dawn McArtor, Ellen Mouw, Jeff & Kristin Schaefer, Loren & Lois Schmitz, Chester & Janet Sullivan, Blake & Angie Wilkinson, Larry & Peggy Wright

## Volunteers

### Hours - 211

Whitney Alber, Stephanie Beary, Amy Belice, Steve Bosking, Jenny Bosking, Adam Brown, Riley Caven, Jeff Corrigan, Jody Donaldson, Wendy Dostal, Mina Epley, Jessica Fahey, John Fahey, Bobbie Feaker, Terese Fisher, Bailey Freese, Maria Gaffney, Teri Gibson, Katie Goedken-Fennell, Haley Goldsberry, Nate Haas, Devin Hartl, Brad Hauge, Chris Johnson, Darrin Keller, Heidi Kinder, Shelby Kobliska, Jeff Koffron, Kristen Krambeer, Theresa Lewis, Cherri Lock, Sara Matthews, Jill McDowell, Carol Meade, Kaitlyn Miller, Leah Moser, Desteni Moyle, Ben Mulholland, Jackie Nau, Michael Neurenburg, Spencer Ohl, Gary Olson, Shea O'Malley, Eileen Parker, Kathy Patrick, Cheryl Pettit, Tora Phelps, Karla Pisarik, Ashley Rathmell, Danielle Rodriguez, Waldemar Rodriguez Sanchez, Kristin Schaefer, Cindy Smothers, Tyler Smothers, Erica Smothers, Mindy Sorg, Laura St. John, Amy Stevens, Shelly Strellner, Melissa Tandy, Jason Varney, Blake Wilkinson, Lauren Zimmermann



For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

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### 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](http://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](http://www.arceci.org)



# SAVE THE DATE!

**April 6, 2024**  
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 **27th Annual Arc March!**