



Arc E-Friend Newsletter

The Arc of
Sedgwick County

June 2005

A Night of Celebration

The Arc Annual Awards night was held Thursday May 5th here at The Arc offices. The event brought out nearly 200 friends of The Arc as we celebrated all our accomplishments in the last year and the individuals that have made it happen.

Our Honorees Are:

Presidents Award

Sandra & Shawna Fielder

Professional of the Year

Betty Unruh & Tim Blasingame

Teacher of the Year

Merlin Kaiser

Para- of the Year

Cris Darmon

Case Manager of the Year

Delcie Trester & Brenda Staley

Employer of the Year

Center Industries

Wal-Mart (West) & Presto store #40

Volunteer of the Year

Cecil & Marsha Drennin

Adult Achiever of the Year

Corky Siebert

Robbie Carlstedt Young Achiever of the Year

Tavrick Lawless

Self Advocate Supporter

Gail Dody

Special Projects

Volunteer of the Year

Don Klock Family

Special Projects Volunteer of the Year

Leigh Schneider

Young Volunteer of the Year

Amanda Noland

Supervisor of the Year

Sallie Jensen

Mary Ann Truitt

Longevity Award

Victor Zakoura

Lucy Shifton Family of the Year

Wayne Yonce Family

Community Connect Award

Winston Brooks

Lorie Angelo

Deb Voth

Gene & Kim Mudd

Dr. Kore Liow

Deanna Clayton

Service Awards

Lois Bosley

Les Powell

Sheli Walton

Chisholm Life Skills Center



Summer 2005- Don't Miss Out!

Summer is here and all our summer programming is in full swing. YESS, Camp Pride, Tennis, and Summer Swims are either running or reservations are being made... Don't Miss Out!

Youth Education and Summer Socialization (YESS) is in it's 17th year serving students 6-21. We have moved to Horace Mann for our education portion

and our YESS Summer office, due to construction at Stanley. The afternoons will again be full of community activities with lots of great opportunities. Scholarships are available, so everyone can join in the fun.

Camp Pride is filling fast. This full week residential camp is held at Camp Hiawatha just north of Wichita. The Camp offers all

sorts of traditional camp activities like swimming, hiking, and horse back riding. As always The Arc goes above and beyond with great community activities.

The Arc Ace's Tennis Team returns to defend their state



championship title. The Ace's have competitors at all skill levels and compete throughout the summer.

The Arc Family Swims will move to Orchard Park this summer and will run there along with our dance nights.

For more information on any of these great summer activities call The Arc or visit our website.



Year One is One to Remember

It is hard to believe that a year has already gone by, but as of May I have officially completed my first year as Executive Director here at The Arc.

Stepping into this role has been an interesting transition. Lucy Shifton had served as Executive Director for over 30 years. She was known and loved by all and helped to establish The Arc as a prominent leader in innovative programming and supports for families.

As I stepped into my new role I knew I had big shoes to fill. I wanted to ensure that not only would all our services continue, but would continue to grow and thrive. As I shared at our Annual meeting we had our most successful year to date. I also wanted to establish a vision for our future. During the interview process and the open meeting with our membership I stated I wanted to establish a parent and guardian advisory

group. As an organization we need to listen to those we serve to know where we need to focus efforts and programming. Last June we had our first meeting. We have had monthly meetings ever since. From these meetings programs like the Arc Learning Series and the Parent Support Network were created. This is also a great sounding board to discuss new program ideas like our Circle of Friends mentoring program and program evaluations.

Another huge achievement for us in this last year was the establishment of our endowment through The Arc's Legacy of Hope. Within weeks of being named the Director I found myself on a golf course assisting with our First Annual Legacy of Hope Golf Tournament. Six weeks later I was overlooking 120 beautiful show cars at our Independence Day Car Show. Two

months later we had a contract on a piece of land donated to The Arc and were awaiting the delivery of a 1967 Jaguar for our 2005 Car Show. By the end of the year with the success of our new events, the generosity of our members and friends; as well as with a matching grant from the Wichita Community Foundation we had a \$200,000 endowment established. By May 1st our endowment had grown to over \$280,000 and we continue to develop this fund that will continue to support The Arc for generations to come.

We have had a lot of successes this last year. Through this year I have learned an awful lot. None of these accomplishments would be possible without you... our members, volunteers, friends, and staff. No one person can do it all. The Arc family is an interwoven group

of family members, professionals, concerned citizens, and self advocates. I inherited an amazing staff here at The Arc, who are truly devoted to our mission. From our management team to every department and program we have a team working together for our families. We have a strong board with vision for our future who continues to support me in our quest to better serve our families. We have the greatest volunteers anywhere committed to helping us succeed.

I want to say thank you to you all... the many people who have given so much to The Arc and to those who have supported and encouraged me over the last year. I can't say thanks enough.

As I head into year two I am excited about all we have planned and hope to have an even better report in 2006.

The Parent Support Network

Another result of our Parent and Guardian Advisory group. The Parent Support Network is about parents supporting parents.

It is quite evident that our parents have vast experience and knowledge gained through years of navigating the system. They have learned through triumphs, heart breaks, and from other

parents and professionals. Most importantly they are willing and interested in sharing their expertise. This is not a support group, but rather a resource for families who have questions and want to hear from someone who has faced similar struggles.

Some parents have already taken advantage of this resource looking for assis-

tance is preparing for IEP's.

Another group of parents is looking for ways of offering support through additional training opportunities. Next fall, an employment skills training (surviving community employment) will be offered. This self made committee is taking the experiences of their kids and their friends to develop a train-

ing to help prepare for community employment and most importantly to keep employment. This pilot program in the fall could open the doors to countless other opportunities.

It is exciting to see how our parents and guardians are actively reaching out to support those in need and we want to say Thank You!



Our 52nd Annual Meeting

Our 52nd Annual Meeting of The Arc of Sedgwick County was held on Monday, May 9th at 7:00 PM.

Dick Keck, Arc Board President, presided over the meeting of the members. This year's meeting was separated from our awards night to allow for an actual Annual Report and to allow more time at both events.

In addition to the annual report: votes on the proposed revisions to the By-laws, and voting on the board positions we needed. The Revisions to the By-laws were passed unanimously. The

changes clarify types of membership to The Arc, set a one-time annual due date, and a requires membership be current a full week prior to voting on membership matters.

Board elections offered many wonderful candidates. Five new nominees were introduced : Tom Racunas, Mitch Guthrie, Darcy Eads, Tim Reimer, and Dena Griswold. A nomination from the floor was made for long time Arc member and parent Larry Jeter.

During the counting of the votes recognition of their service was given to the board members leaving

the board. Iva Goodwin, Carl Fry, Timmie Teppe, Barbara Bennett, and Rebecca Kay, received thank you gifts and applause for their hard work.

The Annual Report shared highlights from 2004. A short presentation touched in some of the many successes we achieved during this year of transition with notable gains in participation and funds raised. The report will be published in our summer '05 issue of Sparks.

The 2005-06 Arc Board

Officers

President Paul Carlstedt
 1st VP Bill Gale
 2nd VP David McGuire
 Sec, Linda McCurry
 Tres. Steve Fisher
 Past Pres. Dick Keck

Directors

Marge Zakoura– Vaughan
 Jane Duling, Steve Rogers,
 Tom Racunas, Darcy Eads,
 Tim Reimer, Mitch Guthrie,
 Dena Griswold, and
 Mike Suellentrop.

Leaving a Legacy

Legacy– *something left to another, a gift.*

For over 52 years the families, volunteers, and staff at The Arc of Sedgwick County have created a legacy for all those who live in Sedgwick County. From the parents who first envisioned The Arc to those working daily the programs of The Arc and what it represents is a Legacy.

Through 5 1/2 generations- hundreds of staff, and countless volunteers have carved a place in our community offering

innovative services and supports, but most of all hope.

The Arc is more than an agency, it is a gift passed on from generation to generation. With each adding to it in their own way. The programs we are known for were all developed through the vision of our families looking for ways to fill the needs of all our families.

Today, we are looking forward. We look toward what needs our families have today, and what is to come in the years ahead. Strategic planning is being done for all our programs

to help us develop a master plan for the next 5 years and beyond.

The Vision of the Securing the Future Campaign of the 90's and the Legacy of Hope today, both are part of the Legacy we are leaving. Many don't remember where we came from, the obstacles have cleared, but they will be recipients of this gift you have left.

So, what contribution are we making today? What is the gift we are giving to the next generations at The Arc and how will we be remembered?

“Noble is the man who plants a tree for someone he may never meet” unknown

Leave Your Mark on The Arc

Add your name or the name of a loved one on The Arc patio. Bricks will be engraved and added permanently to our patio area West of the building . Funds generated will help to maintain the grounds at The Arc.

The **Gallery of Honor** is open to those who want to honor an Arc participant.

GALLERY of HONOR

Pictures will be hung in the main hall of the Arc for those interested contact Kristen at The Arc 943-1191.



The Arc of Sedgwick County

The Arc
2919 West 2nd
Wichita Ks 67203

Phone: 316-943-1191
Fax: 316-943-3292

www.Arc-sedgwickcounty.org

If you would like to be added or removed from The Arc E-list please email:
kfish@arc-sedgwickcounty.org

We're on the web!
Visit us at www.arc-sedgwickcounty.org

Independence Day Car Show

Century II * July 4th
Doors open at 10:00AM

Come for the Show and Stay for the Fireworks
We will have a drawing for our 1967 Jaguar.

You can get chance to win tickets from The Arc or at
The YESS office at Horace Mann.

Make Plans to Attend this wonderful event supporting The Arc's Endowment for programs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

See you on the 4th!

“Planning For The Future of Your Children or Dependents with Special Needs”

Important Issues That Need To Be Addressed:

- Government Benefit Eligibility
- Guardianship and Conservatorship/Guardian Ad Litem
- Financial Security and Funding Options

MetDESK Specialist, Scott Adams, will present this workshop (MetLife's Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids) and parent of Three Children with special needs.

Date: Thursday June 30th

Time: 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Place: The Arc of Sedgwick County (2919 W. 2nd)

RSVP: Alex Kuebler w/ Special Olympics Kansas (800) 444-9803 or email_kueblera@kssso.org

Building Outreach and Awareness

How did you hear about The Arc? Think about it a minute... what led you here. When I have spoken to parents over the years the most common response is that another parent told them about this 'wonderful organization that has grown to mean so much' to them. For some, it may have been a case manager or a teacher, but how ever they came to learn about us the response is still... "I wish I had heard about you sooner..."

It is a privilege to have so many families who have come to know and love The Arc, but there are

so many still in our community that do not know.

We have made an increased effort to bring awareness into our community through special events and presentations. The Pride Performers continue to be a wonderful awareness tool sharing their stories and talents with members of our community.

In this next year we'll strive to double the number of contacts made through presentations, media, and awareness of programs and services.

We need your help in this endeavor. We are looking for opportunities

to share our story and the stories of those we serve. We are looking for civic organizations, clubs, churches, and other groups to present to. We want to expand our audience and reach those new families who need our services.

This outreach effort can also help us reach new potential donors or sponsors. The first hurdle we have when approaching any potential sponsor is having to introduce them to The Arc for the first time. People tend to support things they know. People are not as comfortable sup-

porting programs or organizations which they are unfamiliar with. The Arc has a 50+ year history of offering one of a kind innovative programs, we should be known.

If you are interested in:
*Having The Arc come share with your group.
*Inviting the Pride Performers for a special event.
*Or If you are interested in speaking at one of these events or sharing your story.

Please contact The Arc office.

It is up to you to reach-out to those you know in our community. We appreciate your assistance.