

Arc Light

Since 1950...an organization serving people with developmental disabilities

From the Executive Director

Summer 2008

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(see attachment)

Almost six months of sitting in the director's chair has given me a whole new level of respect for those who preceded me and a far greater appreciation for the time and energy donated by the volunteers serving on The Arc of Arizona Board of Directors. Not a day goes by that I don't find myself drawing upon insights gained from working alongside many fine mentors, here in Arizona and from my former tenure at The Arc of Summit and Portage Counties in Northeast Ohio. I am thankful to have these experiences to tap into and, likewise, am mindful of the big shoes I have to fill in my current position.

Moving into this role at this particular time is at once exhilarating and humbling. Our organization is facing several converging challenges in the years ahead, as is the community at large. We're re-examining, and in many cases, redefining who we are, what we do, and how we do things — while holding tight to our traditional mission, goals and values.

As we navigate the challenges and uncertainties ahead — in maintaining and improving supports and services for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities, it will be increasingly important to strengthen our partnerships at the individual level, as well as our collaboration at the organizational level. The Arc of Arizona seeks to refine its efficiency and outreach in the coming months, and appreciates the patience and support of members, colleagues and those of you who look to us for help. We're counting on your continued support to help keep our organization moving forward stronger than ever: We are thankful for the open minds, open hearts, and open pocketbooks of those who generously contribute their time, energy and resources toward this end.

— Joe Bonanno, Executive Director

Become a Program Advocate — *As a Quality of Life Review Team Volunteer*

The Quality of Life Review program continues its ongoing evolution and is preparing for yet another metamorphosis as it seeks to increase its impact, while becoming even more user friendly. We aim to attract and retain volunteers without overtaxing the busy schedules that many folks are already juggling. Our monitoring instrument has benefited considerably by feedback received from a diverse assortment of project stakeholders and has been honed and refined with this purpose in mind.

Be on the lookout for upcoming training sessions for volunteers interested in joining The Arc's Quality of Life Review Team, working in partnership with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and residential providers to improve the quality of life for Arizonan's with cognitive and developmental disabilities. For more information on how you can make a difference, call Joe @ (602) 234-2721 or email us at thearc@az@gmail.com.

On a related note, The Arc of Arizona is proud to be assisting The Arc of Georgia with the development of a Quality of Life Review program in their state. This has been a mutually beneficial endeavor as the folks from Georgia are already looking at ways to return the favor — further testimony as to the

quality of Life Review program in their state. This has been a mutually beneficial endeavor as the folks from Georgia are already looking at ways to return the favor — further testimony as to the importance of collaboration!



Person Centered Planning...*The Arc of Arizona Style*

We've come to know Person Centered Planning as the state-of-the-art approach to planning for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities — a process that identifies and focuses on individualized needs, goals, life vision, and qualities unique to the individual for whom the plan is written. Popular approaches to planning include, but are not limited to, a combination of Personal Futures Planning, Making Action Plans (MAPS), Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH), and Essential Lifestyles Planning. This service is provided to consumers who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Eligible for the Arizona Long Term Care Program.
- Experiencing life transitions such as exiting high school to work or moving from the family home.
- Young adult 18-25 years old with family member(s) requesting "attendant care family" services.
- Moving from a nursing home, psychiatric hospital or Intermediate Care Facility to the community.
- Seeking an Individually Designed Living Arrangement.
- Participating in the Member Directed Supports initiative.
- Identified as planning priority to establish supports when an aging caregiver can no longer provide supports in their home

Talk to your DDD Support Coordinator about scheduling a Person Centered Plan with The Arc of Arizona today!

Legislative Update: Together We **CAN** Make a Difference!

As many of you already know, it's been a tumultuous legislative session this year, from the introduction of a bill to close The Arizona Training Program at Coolidge to efforts to include insurance coverage for kids with autism. While these and other issues strike a chord for everyone in the advocacy community, there is no strike as jolting as a hit to our collective pocketbook. Yes, the state budget was the big issue that marked the close of the session, and speculation about the many programs and services that depend on this budget sparked a grand finale of community activism.

The Arc of Arizona has been busy ramping up its involvement in legislative affairs with our active Public Policy Committee and legislative lobbyist, keeping us on top of the issues and continually updated on related developments. Our outreach activities include a weekly Legislative Update to local Arc chapter presidents and executive directors so they can rally their local membership. When an issue is at a critical juncture requiring urgent action, the committee mobilizes our advocacy community across the state with email action alerts.

A little known secret about the legislative process is that representatives take notice when receiving even a handful of phone calls, even more so if the caller is a constituent who lives in their district. Legislators know that those who take the time to call about an issue, typically represent a proportionately larger segment of the community — those few represent hundreds or even thousands. Now imagine the impact of a couple-hundred calls and emails!

The "Senate version" of the budget passed both chambers!

- The Senate version, which protects most health and human services, passed both chambers. The House proposal (which would have devastated state agencies and human services) didn't even get a vote!
- In the Senate, four Republicans joined with Democrats to pass the budget. Senate President Tim Bee, and Senators Tom O'Halleran, Carolyn Allen, and Jay Tibshraeny supported the bipartisan budget proposal.
- Four Republicans in the House of Representatives, Jennifer Burns, Pete Hershberger, Lucy Mason and Michele Reagan, joined the House's 27 Democrats to pass the bills with the minimum number of votes needed to win approval.
- While all agencies and a few programs sustained some cuts, most major program line items were preserved.
- Health care and human services programs for low income people, including DD state only services, respite care, home and community based services, freedom to work, adult protective services, Kidscare and Kidscare parents, child care, domestic violence, homeless support services and many others were

care, home and community based services, freedom to work, adult protective services, Kidscare and Kidscare parents, child care, domestic violence, homeless support services, and many others were protected. In addition, the remaining balance in the DD Client Services Trust Fund was preserved.

- Given the dramatic budget deficit that we were facing, this is quite a **VICTORY**.

“Thank you to everyone who helped with this effort and/or contacted legislators!”

— The Arc of Arizona Public Policy Committee

Members of The Arc can sign up for the federal legislative updates by logging on to The Arc of the United States web site: www.thearc.org

Summer School for Parents? Relax, Re-Evaluate, Prepare for Next Year. Families who have children with disabilities will find WrightsLaw.com to be an invaluable resource for school-related issues. Sign-up to receive their newsletter and enroll in their fun and informative summer program for parents! Learn more at www.wrightslaw.com.

Guardianship Services Update

Arc staff and the volunteer board are diligently facilitating the smooth transition of wards to new fiduciary arrangements, channeling sentiments and concerns toward positive outcomes. In facing the challenges associated with this transition, it's important to remember that this “familial” concern is part of what distinguished the program all along. The Arc of Arizona is most proud of the quality of service provided by our organization over the past several years — Quality that can only be delivered by incalculable commitment and hard work, by dedicated caring staff and volunteers. Guardianship Services at The Arc of Arizona set the standard in the fiduciary community, and continues to work in the best interest of our wards as we move along this path.

A big  goes out to Business Banking Specialist, Timothy Schroeder and his Branch Manager, Donna Hobel at Wells Fargo Bank, Park Central Office for their superb service to GSC wards. **Thanks for caring!**

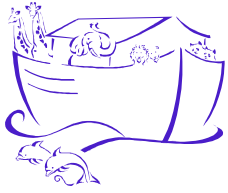
Bringin' It All Home

As part of The Arc of Arizona's ongoing efforts to minimize the impacts of rising business costs and ever-tightening funding streams, staff and volunteers are taking on additional tasks at our administrative office, as well as at our store, the Thrift Zone. Tightening our belt means performing many operations in-house instead of farming out projects or contracting with outside vendors. We are exploring and implementing the following strategies to increase efficiency and minimize costs:

- Relocating administrative office to share space with The Arc of Arizona Thrift Zone.
- Administrative staff training to perform bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable and payroll functions.
- Recruiting volunteers to perform Quality of Life Review visits at supported living sites.
- Membership Services conducted from administrative office.
- Executive Director facilitating Person Centered Plans.
- Thrift Zone operations restructuring to reflect current demographic and economic conditions.
- Thrift Zone job descriptions modified to incorporate cross-departmental duties.

Of course there will be some adjustment pains, but staff has exhibited amazing perseverance and flexibility, as well as a heightened understanding of the underlying factors driving us to work smarter and leaner — for the good of the organization and our advocacy efforts. Bear with us as we fine tune our operations and settle-in mentally, professionally, and physically (at our “new” former location).





Help Us Build A Strong ARC...

Donate your gently-used clothing, furniture and household items to our thrift store: The Thrift Zone at 5610 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix. Call Yolanda today to schedule a pick-up at (602) 234-2721...or simply drop off your donations at our store before you shop! Remember it's your tax-deductable donations that help fund The Arc's programs and outreach efforts. You can also help by shopping our store. Stretch your budget with our recession-buster coupon...

Money-~~\$~~aving Coupon

**Present this Coupon for 50% off your next purchase of \$10 or more!
at the Thrift Zone**

5610 S. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ

(Not for use with any other offers or promotions)

...New items arriving daily from across the valley!

Advocacy in Action

Staff at Community Outreach Providers for the Deaf (COPD) recently responded admirably to an awkward incident that occurred at a local shopping mall. Support staff defended the rights of a woman who relies on them for supports and services, following an emotional disagreement among housemates. The group was approached by a passerby claiming to be a doctor, who remarked that such behavior was inappropriate and should be controlled with medication. The comments persisted until staff took her phone number suggesting a follow-up call from the residential director. The director saw this as an opportunity to educate this doctor about a person's rights to express emotion in public — We see this all the time in public places (e.g. children at play, fans at sporting events, etc.). They also discussed the philosophy surrounding non-chemical interventions. The doctor finally apologized for any misunderstandings and thanked director for helping her see the bigger picture. Good work COPD! ...for addressing fears, breaking down barriers and dissolving stereotypes, while maintaining professionalism under fire.

Got Paper?

Help us reduce our environmental impact and cut costs at the same time...The Arc of Arizona Thrift Zone needs your used newspapers to wrap delicate items for bagging. Donating is easy — Just place your bundle in the special newspaper receptacle near the cashier station at the front of the store.

...But be prepared to shop — New items arrive daily! Remember to bring your coupon from inside this newsletter for additional savings!

Want to go green while helping The Arc cut costs even more? Have your next issue of Arc Light conveniently delivered electronically. Simply send us an email at thearcaz@gmail.com stating "I want my Arc Light" and we'll add you to our confidential email distribution list.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED for The Arc's Annual Awards Luncheon: Save the Date!

The Arc of Arizona Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Luncheon will be Saturday, October 18, 2008. Casa Grande will be the site of this year's event. Watch for details on location, time and other pertinent information in the coming weeks. In the meantime...

Please began submitting your nominations for the following awards to be presented that day:

(please see email attachment for nomination form)

Bill Sackter Memorial
Developmental Disabilities Community Leadership
Edith Davis Lifetime Achievement
Employee of the Year
Employer of the Year
Extraordinary Service to The Arc of Arizona
Floyd Spar Membership Unit Development
Juanita Sheppard Memorial

May H. Kizer
Media (print)
Outstanding Citizen of the Year
Outstanding Self-Advocacy Group
Outstanding Self-Advocacy Group Advisor
Outstanding Self-Advocate
Outstanding Self-Advocate Volunteer
Parent of the Year

Reginald Sheppard President's
Social Service
Teacher of the Year
Volunteer of the Year

The Arc of Arizona 2008 Nominating Committee is busy coordinating the 2009 slate of nominees for officers' positions with The Arc of Arizona Board of Directors. Voting by the delegate body will occur at the October 18th Annual Membership Meeting. **Please join us!**



The Arc of Arizona, Inc.
3839 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
602-234-2721 (office)
602-234-5959 (fax)
thearcaz@gmail.com (email)
www.arcarizona.org (web site)