On Track and Moving Forward!

Maureen Westcott, Executive Director

What a busy year we had! In 2019, the Board of Directors and The Arc’s team went through a strategic planning process, ensuring the agency’s programs align with community needs. Outreach and Collaboration, Education, and Employment were identified as priorities. See our website for the full report. In this newsletter are testimonials about Advocacy (the core of our work), and updates from WAGES, Facing Forward, SibTalk, IM4Q, and DAT programs.

We often hear of the need to connect to make friends, share tips, and have fun, and so we have set up times to do just that! See page 2 to learn about our Community Appreciation Day at our office. We hope you will come to meet the team, tour the office, and win some great prizes! Then in the fall we will have Friends and Family Luncheons in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. Please join us. Registration information is on page 3.

We partnered with The Arc of PA on the Initiative to address COVID health disparities among people with disabilities, helping us reach community partners we may not have worked with previously. See our website for data related to this initiative.

Last, but certainly not least, the amazing team I work with is why The Arc successfully meets the needs of our community. We are excited to have Marilyn Vizcaino join our team, allowing us to serve those who speak Spanish. Watch for more as we learn how to incorporate this effort into our current work. And see page 5 for a listing of our Board of Directors who guide the agency with diverse representation. We are here for you so let us know how we can help!

Here’s What Community Members Have to Say About Our

Educational and Adult ADVOCACY

“Having an advocate come to the many meetings we had with the school district was very helpful. Recently, so many of my questions were answered as we started the process of working with SSI. I spoke with Amy before my child turned 18, and with the knowledge gained from our conversation, I have been able to go through this process feeling like I know what to expect. Words can’t express how very grateful I have been for this service throughout the years. Thank You!”

“The assistance from the Arc was invaluable. The advocate was very knowledgeable and connected me directly with someone at the Social Security Administration that specialized in single parent, child support, adult with disabilities, etc. situations. I would call The Arc again to get accurate and quick information.”
Our fabulous DAT presenters stepped back into the classrooms this past school year to provide grade specific presentations for children K-6! We provided presentations to over 5,200 children!

disAbility Acceptance Training (DAT)
Grade specific presentations for grades K-6 to help students achieve a greater understanding and acceptance of their peers with disabilities, showing all people have value

Our fabulous DAT presenters stepped back into the classrooms this past school year to provide grade specific presentations for children K-6! We provided presentations to over 5,200 children!

"I thought this was a FANTASTIC program. Our presenter earned my kids' attention right away because she was willing to be vulnerable and share the disabilities that she has herself. After her presentation, we debriefed as a class, and I had four separate students that felt comfortable enough to share their own disabilities with the class. Our presenter created that environment that made them feel safe enough to share. Awesome program and awesome presenter!"

Starting in the fall we will have TWO group options for families:
Families with Young Children
Dreaming and planning for an Everyday Life

Families with Transition-Age Children (New!)
Dreaming and planning for an Everyday Life

Contact us for more information!

Facing Forward
Helping Families with Young Children
Dream and Plan for an Everyday Life

Facing Forward this past year brought together 3 families of young children to discuss their vision of what a good life looks like. Amy Fisher, Advocacy & Family Support Specialist, facilitated the group. Using the Charting the LifeCourse Framework, the group explored what parents need to know and do now to support their children and work toward that good life. They talked about how to find and develop the supports they need to achieve their goals. Families had the opportunity to share their own experiences and perspectives with one another, do some goal setting, and create a one page profile for their child to help others understand their strengths, needs, and how to best provide support.

Saturday, July 30, 2022
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
116 W. Airport Rd.
Suite A
Lititz, PA 17543

Stop by to meet our team, enjoy complimentary coffee and donuts, and enter raffles for prizes!

Current Members Pick up a special gift and enter a raffle just for members!
WAGES has continued to grow, and we currently have 9 participants. Over the past year we heard from 3 guest speakers: the Talent Management & Development Manager and a panel of employees from Turkey Hill, a Life Coach, and the Director of Training and Development from Clark Associates. WAGES participants served as a focus group for the COVID Initiative for Healthcare Disparities. Additionally, we completed several sections from the W.A.G.E.S. curriculum. The group decided to change their name to include “Empowerment” instead of solely “Employment,” in order to focus on independence and self-advocacy alongside employment. Program highlights included attending The Arc’s Spring Gala, and enjoying dinner and ice cream together at Oregon Dairy!

WAGES Self-Advocacy Group
Working on Gaining Empowerment Skills for Adults with IDD or Autism

A Time to Connect, Share, and Have Fun for Kids Who Have Siblings with Disabilities

Our Sib Talk group continued to meet by Zoom over the past year...and are now looking forward to meeting in-person again in September! With time to play games, make crafts, and share commonalities and differences of living with siblings with disabilities, our Sib Talk group really supports one another. Program Manager, Amy Austin, and the kids enjoyed celebrating the end of the school year at Sky Zone in June!

Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q)
Collecting Information to Improve the Quality of Lives of People Served and Supported by PA ODP*

The IM4Q survey year ended on June 30th, and by that time we completed 105 surveys through video conferencing in Lancaster County, and assisted Forest and Warren Counties with 20 surveys as well. A huge thanks goes to our contracted monitors who conduct the surveys and document any needed services or supports for each individual. Our Program Manager, Amy Austin, then follows up with County Supports Coordinators to ensure the individuals’ voices are heard and needs are met.

*S, Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs

Friends and Family Luncheons

Join us for sandwiches and plenty of additional sides, beverages, and desserts! We look forward to spending time together, making new connections, and sharing agency updates!

No Cost to Attend
Registering in Advance is Required

Links to Register:
Lancaster: https://ArcLancasterLunch.eventbrite.com
Lebanon: https://ArcLebanonLunch.eventbrite.com

Lancaster
Sat., September 17, 2022
12:00 - 2:00 P.M.
Faith United Methodist Church
1290 Fruitville Pike
Lîttitz, PA 17543

Lebanon
Sat., October 15, 2022
12:00 - 2:00 P.M.
Quentin United Church of Christ
11 East Main Street
Quentin, PA 17083
We enjoyed gathering together in person again this past April at our annual Spring Gala & Auction, held at Bent Creek Country Club in Lititz. Thanks so much to all our Gala & Auction participants!

Together we raised $25,000 to support individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism!

Thank You to Our Gala and Auction Sponsors!

Employment Recognition Awards
for Employees and Employers

2022 Nominations Due Soon!

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Employment Coalitions in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties will be recognizing those who have shown outstanding accomplishments in the area of employment. Awards will be presented in October.

Nomination forms for both counties may be found on The Arc’s website: www.thearclancleb.org

Lebanon: Due 7/31
Award recipients will be highlighted on the Work With Us Facebook page.

Lancaster: Due 8/26
Award recipients will be posted on The Arc’s Facebook page.
Board Updates

We are excited to welcome on new board members, Alison Anderson and Amanda Katchur. We would like to thank our outgoing board members this year for their dedicated support to the mission of The Arc: Elspeth Moffatt, Sadia Batool, Ryan Hyde, and Shawn Sweigart. THANK YOU; you will be missed!

2022–2023 Board Members

Lorita Valente*, Chair, Luthercare for Kids
Michelle Butler, Vice Chair, Magnolias of Lancaster
Josh Stoudt, Treasurer, Assured Partners
Ina Hosszu*, Secretary, Family Representation
Alison Anderson*, Cocalico Biologicals
Brittany Beals, TW Ponessa
Kerri Clauser, Pine Grove Area School District
Dave Dietrich, Faithful Transport
Lucy Dowd*, Lucy Dowd Law
Amanda Katchur*, Community Services Group
Yvonne Tejada*, ERM
Maureen Westcott*, Executive Director

*Has a family member or is a person with a disability

OUR MISSION

Empowering people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and Autism and their families to lead full, satisfying, independent lives of their choice.

July 2021 – July 2022 Financials

Would you like to receive our monthly email updates? Contact us at info@thearclancleb.org or 717-394-5251 to be added to our list!
Welcome to the Team, Marilyn!

Your Team at The Arc

Maureen Westcott  
Executive Director

Amy Austin  
Program Manager

Amy Fisher  
Advocacy & Family Support

Marilyn Vizcaino  
Community Outreach

Michelle Meck  
Administrative Assistant

Ways to Support The Arc

Become a Member
Your membership supports our programs for Lancaster and Lebanon residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism and their families. Learn more at www.thearclancleb.org/membership.

Make a Donation
Donate online at www.thearclancleb.org/support, or mail a check made payable to "The Arc Lancaster Lebanon."

Eat at Knight & Day or Park City Diners and when you pay your bill, let them know you want to make a donation for "The Arc." A donation will be made to us and doesn’t add to your bill.

Use Amazon Smile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to us, at no cost to you when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Select The Arc of Lancaster Co.