



Mission Statement

Mission Statement:

To Champion and Empower a life of inclusion, ability, opportunity, and equality for individuals of all ages and backgrounds with intellectual and developmental delays and other disabilities.

Vision Statement:

We achieve this through advocacy, education, and resource support. We identify barriers, build partnerships, and realize positive solutions.



The Arc of Indiana County receives funding through Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust Fund, The PNC Charitable Trust Fund, Indiana Endowment Fund, The Foundation of the Arc, and The United Way of Indiana County Summer Community Grant Program.



The Arc of Indiana County



The Arc of Indiana County, founded in 1973 as a non-profit organization, has been dedicated to supporting and empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families for 50 years!

The Arc offers a wide range of resources and services to parents, students, agencies, organizations, and the broader community.



Achieve with us.

120 North 5th Street, Suite # 2, Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: 724-349-8230

Email: info@arcindiana.org

Website: www.arcindiana.org

Facebook: The Arc of Indiana County





Staff Members

Meet the Arc Team!

Michelle Jordan: Executive Director (Left)

Oversees all operations and carries out The Arc's mission according to the strategic direction of the Board of Directors.

Michelle Ferrington: Administrative Office Assistant (Right)
Responsible for maintaining all office operations at the Arc.

Becca Boston: Advocacy & Program Coordinator (Left)
Is the lead Educational Advocate working with parents and school districts to ensure each student receives a **Free Appropriate Public Education**. Develops and coordinates the implementation of programs, services, and events.

Alyssa Charles: Assistant Program Coordinator. (Right)
Assists with the planning, preparation, and implementation of programs, services, and events.



Logan Paul: IM4Q Program Coordinator

Oversees the execution and management of the Independent Monitoring for Quality programs and surveys.



Internships



The Arc is an affiliated organization with the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. We are committed to collaborating and guiding interns toward their professional objectives and educational goals.

The Arc of Indiana County offers 6- 15-week internships to IUP Students during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Become a Member – Support Our Mission

Why? Together, your voice and our members' voices will help improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families.

When you join The Arc of Indiana County, you will also become a member of The Arc of Pennsylvania and The Arc of the United States. You will receive newsletters, information, and resources about advocacy, legislative priorities, and programs.

Membership Levels:

- o Basic Membership \$25.00
- o Family Membership \$50.00
- o Silver Membership \$75.00
- o Gold Membership \$100.00
- o Corporate Membership \$200.00

Did you know individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can become a member at no cost?

To become a member, register online at www.arcindiana.org

Or

Fill out a form at The Arc of Indiana County
120 North 5th Street, Suite #2, Indiana, PA 15701

Fundraisers

Kickball Classic – 2nd/3rd Sat in June: The Arc of Indiana County invites agencies, organizations, service providers, and businesses to play an adult game of kickball. This is an annual fundraiser that occurs during the summer. Teams register for a fee and compete to be the champion.

This event benefits the cost-free advocacy services, programs, and trainings offered year-round to individuals with disabilities.

Professional Football Basket Raffle – Spring
Professional Hockey Basket Raffle – Fall



Scholarships

Annual John Angelo Secondary Transition High School

Senior Scholarships

In honor of John Angelo, the son of Joseph and Shirley Angelo, just a few of the Arc's founders, the Arc has introduced two \$1000 scholarships to award to students from the Armstrong/ Indiana Counties with developmental disabilities who demonstrate strong self-advocacy skills, personal responsibility, and a clear goal or plan for their transition to adulthood.



Health/Dental Initiatives

Dental Clinics

The Arc continues to partner with Golden Onsite Dental to provide individuals with disabilities a sensory-safe location to receive dental health checkups. The walk-in clinics take all insurance, and both adults and children are encouraged to participate. Visit www.arcindiana.org for more information about future clinics.



Programs

Educational Advocacy Program (EAP)

Our educational advocacy service is designed to provide guidance and support throughout the educational process, from individualized education program (IEP) development to transition planning and beyond. Call 724-349-8230 or visit www.arcindiana.org to complete an online intake form.



Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q)

IM4Q is an information-gathering method used to improve the lives of individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability. Independent teams interview individuals with disabilities and their families about the satisfaction and outcomes of the services/support received through the PA Intellectual Disability System.



Meetings

Local Task Force (LTF)

A monthly workshop designed to support parents of school-aged children with advocacy and education. Educators, parents, service providers, and agency/organization professionals come together to address advocacy, transition planning, special education needs, concerns, and interests. This group meets every first Monday of the month (Sept-May). All parents, providers, and educators are welcome to attend.

Indiana Voices of Equality (IVE)

Indiana Voices for Equality (IVE) serves as a safe space to engage in difficult conversations, where community members can share their voices on topics like discrimination, public policy, bias, inequality, and community issues. IVE will collaborate on equal rights initiatives and participate in community growth and inequality awareness. The meetings are quarterly, on the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM via Zoom unless otherwise specified.

Community Disability Awareness Workgroup (CDAW)

We invite individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals, and service providers to discuss ways to promote disability awareness and inclusion in the community. Join us at our quarterly meetings, on the 2nd Monday of the month 10 AM, at The Arc of Indiana County.

Rural Health Initiative

To unite local leaders/organizations and healthcare providers alongside members of the Disability community, fostering collaboration to diminish disparities and overcome barriers encountered by our populace residing in rural counties. The initiative is dedicated to closely aligning with each county's Community Needs Assessment, leveraging its data to guide the concerted efforts of subcommittee workgroups. These workgroups will tackle identified risk factors, enhancing the overall health and wellness of each rural county's residents with a particular focus on combating the healthcare disparities of individuals with intellectual, developmental delays, and other disabilities and their families. Meetings are quarterly via Zoom. Contact Michelle Jordan, Executive Director, mjordan@arcindiana.org

For more meeting information, contact

mjordan@arcindiana.org

Check our website for meeting dates more information.

Events/ Community Outreach

Spirit of Food (Year-round)

The Arc of Indiana County in partnership with Giant Eagle offers cooking classes and a free food box to participants and their household. The Arc is continuing to offer this program for individuals with disabilities to promote health & wellness and community inclusion. As well as to combat social isolation and food disparity. Visit www.arcindiana.org for more information.



Act-Up Theater Classes/Mikey's Playhouse (Year-round)

This program, hosted by Eve Urban, a teacher with The Centers for Applied Drama and Autism, provides fun and engaging activities for individuals to express themselves and interact with others. The Arc is working to coordinate more Act Up Theater classes in the future. Check back on our website for future dates.

Family Funfest (March)

Each year the Arc attends the annual Family Fun Fest, hosted by the Children's Advisory Commission at the Indiana Mall! Families can win fun prizes when they complete the interactive bingo sheets that are handed out. The Arc was one of over 40 tables to offer crafts, games, and activities for children 2-10 years old and their families.



Parent Empowerment Night (Fall)

Are you looking for valuable resources and information to better support your student's individualized Education Program (IEP) or Post-Secondary Transition needs? Parent Empowerment Night is a FREE workshop dedicated to providing parents with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively advocate for their

students. For more information about future dates call: 724-349-8230 or visit www.arcindiana.org. For updates and info on this event, check our website in the Fall.

**All events, meetings, updates,
and resource info can be found on
our website at**

www.arcindiana.org

Legislative Advocacy



The Arc of Indiana County has taken proactive steps to engage with local and state legislators. The Arc advocates for the rights and quality of life of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Legislative Meetings and Visits

- **Purpose:** Regularly scheduled to discuss and advocate for legislation impacting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Addressing funding needs to support the community service system.
 - Ensuring equitable opportunities for individuals to live, work, and thrive in the community.
- **Engagements:**
 - **Formats:** Virtual and in-person meetings.
 - **Inclusion:** Self-advocates share their personal stories, priorities, and advocacy needs.



Advocacy Events

- **Disability Advocacy Policy Days:**
 - Representation at state and national capitals.
 - Advocacy for legislative priorities in partnership with state and national Arc chapters.
- **Local Advocacy Events:**
 - Participation in the annual *Chamber Eggs to Issues* event to stay informed about legislative developments affecting local and state governance.

Real-Life Advocacy Initiatives

- **Legislator Home Visits:**
 - Facilitation of visits to rural communities to provide legislators with firsthand insights into the challenges and needs of families.
 - Advocacy for solutions to address:
 - The Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing crisis.
 - The wage rate increases to sustain community-based support systems.
 - Medicaid changes to cover whole-care dental and other health issues not currently covered,



This organized structure highlights The Arc's multifaceted approach to advocacy and its commitment to addressing critical community needs at all levels of governance.