



## Arc Facilitating Advocating Collaborating Teaching Supporting

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**Winter 2011**

In an effort to join the electronic age Ruthanne Kehr and Steve Dolan are working hard to maintain our wonderful website (Steve) and a facebook page (Ruthanne). Please check out our webpage at [www.thearcofmidland.org](http://www.thearcofmidland.org) or our Arc of Midland facebook page. In addition, Ruthanne is working hard to get our e-newsletter up and running so that we can reach a much wider audience with news and information about the work that we do. If you know the email address of people who might be interested in our newsletter please send them to Ruthanne at [kehr@thearcofmidland.org](mailto:kehr@thearcofmidland.org).

Don't worry we will still get to our members without internet access by mail, phone or personal contacts!

This issue of the newsletter is filled with information about current events and activities. Be sure to note that this is tax season and Pam and Ruthanne are ready, willing and able to help folks with their income tax returns.

In addition, read about our upcoming fundraiser, Plates for People. This is going to be a very special event that we hope will attract a new audience and will put a spotlight on the gifts and talents of people with developmental disabilities.

Also enjoy updates on some of our programs including

Project Lifesaver, a microenterprise that we support, our dental services program and an upcoming expansion of our transportation program.

We do an awful lot of work to promote the success of people with disabilities in our community. Please consider joining us in this great work to help people be contributing members of this community.

Jan Lampman

## THANK YOU!!!

The holidays have come and gone, the first of the New Year has passed!! It's a time to reflect and look forward, at the same time. We'd like to thank each and every person who contributed to our end of the year campaign. There are a number of programs that the individuals we serve receive support from during the holidays-Sharing Tree and Community Closet. As we know, times are tough and that isn't enough. We need help to support the individuals we serve every month of the year. With their utility bills, getting basic groceries and supporting basic needs. YOU came through for them!! Truly it humbles us, the sharing that our members contributed to help others!

As some of you may know, there was no increase in the Social Security benefit that people get for this year; as was the same for last year. Although other goods continue to increase and impact their budget: gas prices, groceries and more. We have to be creative, to think outside the box to continue to meet individual's needs. We do this, with your support.

Thank you again, for each one of you who sent in a Kroger card or funds for one. Thank you to each of you who sent in money for general assistance. This will help people now,

and in March, April and every month forward!

**Important Reminder: The 2011 Membership Drive is underway! If you have not already renewed your membership with The Arc of Midland, NOW is the time to do so. We rely heavily on the support of our members.**



**For your convenience, you can submit your membership form and payment online at <https://arcwalk2008.wufoo.com/forms/become-a-member/>**

**Help us make a difference!**

### **Dental Services off and running**

In January of 2010 The Arc of Midland received funding from United Way to increase opportunities for folks to receive dental services in Midland. During the course of the year, we provided funding to the Helping Hands Dental Clinic so that they could serve 244 people, provided vouchers for emergency dental care to 124 individuals and assisted individuals who could not get into the Helping Hands clinic to get into a local dentist office to have 44 restorative procedures. We are off to a fast start to 2011 in the program, already serving 20 individuals in the emergency program and connecting two people to a local dentist for restorative work.

## PLATES FOR PEOPLE

Join us for Brunch, Entertainment and Introduction  
to an exciting Online Auction.

Molly's Bistro, 134 Ashman Street, Midland

Sunday, March 6th!

Two seatings available: 11:30 and 1:30

Cost \$75.00 per person

(\$50.00 is tax deductible)

*Proceeds from this event benefit The Arc of Midland*



Plates for People is an annual fundraiser for the Arc of Midland. Every person has a story. Be inspired by individuals in our community who have persevered. Their stories are a reflection of their past, present and a dream for their future.

Take home a free hand-crafted plate...more importantly a personal story!

Tickets can be purchased at:

The Arc of Midland, 220 W. Main St., and *spacestudios*, 16 N. Winding Dr., Midland  
or online <http://www.thearcofmidland.org/platesforpeople.php>

## Lift Equipped Van

For the past two years, The Arc has benefited from the donation of a lift equipped van. The van was donated to The Arc by the Troy family, parents of Natasha Rose. In the time that we have owned the van it has been used to transport boy scouts to scout camp in the UP, to get folks to medical appointments outside of Midland county and for other day trips out of the scope of DART. To date, the van has mostly been used only when either an Arc staff or staff from a provider agency is available to drive. We started slowly with only Arc or provider staff driving the vehicle so that we can sort of work out the kinks in our vehicle loan program. Now we are ready to offer the use of our van to individuals on a wider scale. If you have a loved one who uses a wheelchair and needs a lift equipped vehicle in order to get to medical appointments out of the county or just want your loved one to be able to participate in a family activity, you may be able to borrow our van. The procedures and policy are as follows:

- The driver of the vehicle must bring us a copy of a valid drivers license, insurance certificate that covers the driver in a borrowed vehicle and proof of clean driving record(fewer than 6 points).
- The vehicle can be borrowed for day trips and can be picked up at 8am and must be available for the next user by 8am the next morning
- The borrower must pay for all gas used plus a mileage rate of \$.30 per mile to help cover the cost of insurance, registration and maintenance of the vehicle.
- The borrower must also agree to pay the cost of any damage that occurs while the van is in the borrower's care
- Reservations are first come/first serve, with medical appointments taking priority if multiple requests come in at the same time

Contact Lori Murphy at The Arc of Midland to get more information or to reserve the van.



### Spotlight on: The Bean Canteen

The Bean Canteen, located in the lobby of the 555 Building, is going strong! Owner Ingrid Schwartz and coworker Doreen Cobb have been serving customers for about three years. In addition to great coffee and cappuccino, the Bean Canteen offers breakfast items, snacks and cold drinks -- all served with a smile! Ingrid and Doreen are open for business Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., so if you're in the 555 neighborhood, please stop by!

### Taxes and changes in 2010

As usual Pam will be doing the traditional Federal, State, Property Tax and Home Heating Credit returns for our people. There are some new wrinkles to the area of credits and deductions that will benefit a few of them.

#### In the area of **Federal Taxes**

1. **Making Work Pay Credit** substitutes for the Stimulus Payment of past years. For most people it has resulted in lower deductions in each paycheck and thus, more disposable income each pay period. The program I use to complete taxes evaluates each entry from W-2s and calculates refunds as appropriate.
2. **Car Purchases** of new cars of the hybrid type can result in credit.
3. **Home Improvements in tax payer owned homes** can also be valuable. The credit is 30% of installation costs for heating and cooling equipment and a 30% credit on product costs for windows, insulation, and other parts of the building "shell" with a lifetime cap of \$1,500.

4. **First Time Home Buyer Credit** has been extended for owner occupied homes.

In the area of **State Taxes**

1. **Michigan is now offering an Earned Income Credit from the state.**

2. **Credit for the Purchase of Energy Efficient Appliances** is equal to 10% of the purchase price up to \$75 each for new insulation of furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, washers and dishwashers for purchases made after December 31, 2008 and before January 1, 2012. These items must have an EPA Energy Star rating. Receipts may be requested by the State

Thank goodness for computer programs to keep track of all of this!

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### **Join the National Participant Network**

The National Participant Network (NPN) is inviting all people who are self-directing publicly-funded long-term care services to network together. People self-directing their Home and Community-Based services, their family, friends, allies, advocates, personal assistants and direct support staff can join the NPN and strengthen the voice of people with disabilities in their communities, their states and the country. There is no cost to join the NPN.

The NPN members meet via telephone and computer to decide what they want to do and collaborate on projects with the National Resource Center on Participant-Directed Services (NRCPS). NPN members have created learning materials that can be accessed online, given report card grades to participant-directed programs and helped the NRCPS develop policies related to participant-directed services and supports.

You can be part of this national network, it is easy to join! Go to [www.participantdirection.org](http://www.participantdirection.org) , click on "Participant Network (NPN)" on the left side of the screen. There will be links to the General Membership Form and the State Delegate Form. Select the form you want to complete. You can complete the form electronically and click "Submit Form" in the upper right corner. This will directly email your form if you use outlook or another desktop email application. If you use web-based email like yahoo or hotmail, it will ask you to save your form to the desktop and then submit by attaching to an email. Please direct your email to: [membership.npn@gmail.com](mailto:membership.npn@gmail.com). Or, print out your completed form or a blank form to fill out. Fax completed forms to: Althea McLuckie at 617-552-1975. For more information or questions, please contact Althea McLuckie, NPN Coordinator at [membership.npn@gmail.com](mailto:membership.npn@gmail.com)

You can check us out on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Participant-Network/170656802944513?v=wall>

Find us on Yahoo: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/npngrps/>

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### **Project Lifesaver**

Project Lifesaver's mission is to use state of the art technology in assisting those who care for individuals with Alzheimer's, developmental disabilities, and other diagnoses that make them more vulnerable to the potential of becoming lost. Project Lifesaver places personalized radio transmitters on participants. These transmitters assist caregivers and local emergency agencies in locating these individuals if they go missing. The average rescue time of a participant in Project Lifesaver is less than 30 minutes.

The Arc of Midland, along with the Midland County Sheriffs' Office, Senior Services, and

Midland Area Community Foundation, offer the Project Lifesaver Program here in Midland County. To date we have served 26 participants, and that number is actively growing as awareness of the program increases. The majority of the participants are the elderly, often with Alzheimer's disease, and young children with autism.

If you have a loved one who may benefit from the Project Lifesaver program, please contact Ruthanne at The Arc, 989-631-4439 or [kehr@thearcofmidland.org](mailto:kehr@thearcofmidland.org).

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### **News you can use if you are a homeowner**

One of the major responsibilities of homeownership is ongoing maintenance. Any person can be challenged when they have to find a reputable contractor to put on a new roof. People that we serve are not different. Many individuals with disabilities are becoming homeowners. In addition many families have purchased a home for their family member with a disability and either rent that home to them or have placed the home in a trust. So now, many families are faced with the challenge of not only maintaining their own home, but also the home of a loved one. Some people, who own their own homes, do not have family to help with organizing ongoing maintenance.

It is, first and foremost, important to insure that a person has a way to finance the ongoing maintenance of a home that they purchase. This can be through a trust that is well funded, ongoing saving for maintenance or availability of loan funds that can be easily budgeted and repaid. When the question of where the money for ongoing maintenance will come from, then the question of who will help arrange for needed maintenance can be asked.

One answer to the question of "who will help arrange and supervise maintenance

projects for my loved one with a disability?" is found with our local realtors. Most realty agencies have staff that specializes in property management. For a monthly fee, the agency will assist with insuring that a home is maintained, including selecting, hiring and supervising contractors when needed.