

Arc Facilitating Advocating Collaborating Teaching Supporting

SUMMER 2010

Special Points of Interest:

- *The Arc of Midland has a new office location — details on page 2.*
- *There have been lots of staffing changes, meet our newest staff members on page 3*
- *Bike Camp was a great success — more information on page 5*
- *Get your pens and calendars ready—Schedule of events on page 5*

FROM JAN'S DESK

I am so proud to share with our membership the fact that our association has been honored by the Governor's service award committee. The Arc of Midland was one of five finalists for the Governor's Service Award for our efforts to encourage and promote volunteerism. We were nominated specifically for the work that we do to support individuals with disabilities to volunteer and contribute to their community. Did you know that we have 6 individuals with disabilities and 3 people without disabilities that volunteer in the office on a regular basis? Did you also know that Count me in! mobilizes over 500 volunteers including several individuals with disabilities to present the program? We also have mentored social work students from SVSU who experience disabilities, giving them an opportunity to fulfill their internship requirement while also providing the support that they needed to be successful. We have had over 50 different people help us over the last three years with our Loon's fundraising, again including people with and without disabili-

ties. The People First group selects a community service project each year and this past year they made holiday cards for people in nursing homes, decorated Christmas cookies and sang Christmas carols for the nursing homes as well. We also have volunteers working with the faith group, Project Lifesaver, Everyone in Education and many other activities of the Arc. In fact, this week we have 40 volunteers (many of them teens) at the Midland Area Bike Camp. Due to the hard work of these volunteers, by Tuesday three kids were already riding on two wheels!

I am proud to be a part of an organization that includes so many citizens who work together to make our community a good place to live. I know that the Governor's Service Committee made a good decision by selecting us to be part of this honor.



The Arc of Midland - helping people
with developmental disabilities

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BIGGER AND BETTER — OUR NEW LOCATION

If you haven't been down to our office in a while, you may not know that we have moved!!! The Arc of Midland has officially outgrown its longtime office space in suite 101. So we went in search of a larger office space that would accommodate our growing agency. Fortunately, our solution was found right next door., which made the

move a little bit easier.

We are still located within the Strosacker Building, but are now in suite 102. If you haven't had the opportunity to see our new office space yet, come down and visit us.

- Ruthanne Kehr



“As a competitive walker, I can tell you that it is so motivating and inspiring to have the road lined with people yelling out words of encouragement and holding signs”

SAVE THE DATE

**The Arc
Stroll, Roll & 5K Run
Save the Date!
Saturday, August 28, 2010**

The event will be held at Northwood University at the Hach Center. We will have a competitive 5 k run and walk as well as a fun run/roll/walk/stroll. Everyone is welcome. Check out our website for more details and to register for the race.

This year we also want to increase the number of spectators for our competitive events. As a

competitive walker, I can tell you that it is so motivating and inspiring to have the road lined with people yelling out words of encouragement and holding signs. So, we are asking folks to come on out to the event even if you are not a runner/walker/roller or stroller. Listen to the great music. Have a snack. Buy a last minute raffle ticket for the wonderful quilt that we are raffling off. Most importantly have FUN and cheer for our competitors.

- Jan Lampman

HAVE YOU BECOME A MEMBER YET???



If you have been a member of the Arc of Midland, now is that time of the year to renew your membership. If you haven't joined our membership in the past, now is the perfect time to do so! When becoming a member of The Arc of Midland you will not only be helping out the

organization and the people we serve but you will also have better opportunities to become more educated personally. We at the Arc hope to see all of you on our membership list soon!

-Brianna Beaulieu

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

BRIANNA IS BACK



After being gone for a few months due to budget cuts, our college co-op, Brianna Beaulieu, is back in action at the Arc. She is currently on summer break until classes resume in the fall when she will continue at Delta College. At Delta she is currently working on getting credits to transfer to Northwood University as part of the 3 & 1 program. Brianna is planning to get her degree in business management.

If you get a chance, come down to the office to welcome her back.

JEREMY SAUVE

My name is Jeremy Sauve and I'm a Midland High graduate. I've spent most of my life in Midland and I'm glad to be back with an opportunity to work with everyone at The Arc. I'm currently a senior at Alma College where I'm pursuing a bachelor's degree in History with an emphasis on Secondary Education. I like to stay involved in my college community; I'm a member of the Alma College Football Team and I'm also Vice Presi-

dent of my fraternity, the Delta-Tau chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

After I graduate from Alma College I plan on pursuing a career in the military as an officer in the U.S. Army. I'm sure that my experiences here will help me as I try to make a difference during that career.



OUR NEW RECEPTIONIST LORI MURPHY

If you've called the office lately, you've probably been greeted by a new voice.

Lori Murphy is the new receptionist for The ARC of Midland. She enjoys working with the public and has over twenty-five years experience in customer ser-

vice. Lori is a life long resident of Midland, and is married to her husband Michael of twelve years. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteer work, reading, and spending time with friends and family.

COUNT ME IN — PASSING THE BATON

As June approaches "Tunes by the Tridge", will begin. It struck me that when a band or orchestra performs, each member contributes their own part of the same song. Played separately, each instrument can be beautiful, but it is their combination that makes the music spectacular! This image is so like our efforts to make Count me in! successful. Every team of volunteers strives for the same goal, yet each volunteer brings different gifts that make our program unique in each school. Every team member is a wonderful individual, but it is their combined effort that makes the program successful and spectacular!

While this year has certainly not been a simple song, we still created an excellent score.

Through the effort of over 500 volunteers, Count me in! was presented in 17 elementary schools, one preschool and over 5400 students. I'd call that working in harmony!

Any good band or orchestra needs a conductor to keep everyone on the same page and playing in unison. As I step into retirement and away from

BIG RED

It was just one year ago that Timothy and Tabetha Troy donated a lift equipped van to The Arc of Midland to be used by people we serve, especially children. They made this wonderful gift in memory of their beautiful daughter, Natasha. In the year since we received this gift, we named the vehicle "Big Red". We also put several thousand miles on Big Red, helping people we serve to do many things. A partial list includes:

- Taking some boy scouts with disabilities to scout camp in the UP
- Assisting several people (young and old) who use wheelchairs get to doctor appointments outside of Midland county – mostly in Ann Arbor
- Assisting some young people to go on day

trips, including to Lansing for Dim Sum

the podium, I know I'll miss the music, but I am totally confident that Michelle Vouaux will do a wonderful job as a leader and innovator. Here are a few words from Michelle:

Hello and happy end of the school year to everyone!!! My name is Michelle Vouaux and I will be the Arc of Midland Coordinator for Count me in! Anne is training me well. I look forward to preparing this summer and seeing all of you during this upcoming school year! I have participated with Count me in! over the years as a parent volunteer. Also, I worked as a Midland Public School paraprofessional for ten years and have experienced the program in the classrooms. Seeing the students expand their knowledge of individuals with disabilities is a powerful experience. I am blessed to be a part of this.

As you all are aware, there are many changes occurring in our district. We are prepared and plan for our program to be as strong as ever. Thank you all for everything you have done and thanks, in advance, for your future help!

- Anne House

Overall the van has been a wonderful addition to the supports that we can offer to our membership.

It is time to once again thank the Troy family and remember Natasha.

- Jan Lampman

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- July 22, 2010—5:30—7:30 Arc Annual Summer Picnic
- July 22-23, 2010—Michigan Academy on Self Determination: Summer Institute for Academy Graduate and Allies
- August 28, 2010—Arc 5k Run, Walk, Roll, and Stroll

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Join us on Thursday, July 22nd for our annual picnic and board meeting.

It will be at Chippewassee Park from 5:30-7:30pm

Come see friends and enjoy a wonderful summer evening! Please bring a dish to pass.

This event is rain or shine!



BIKE CAMP



Lose The Training Wheels™ is more than just a bike-riding program. Some children may have difficulty learning to ride a two-wheeled bike due to a disability. Some parents may not have the ability to train their child to ride a bike. Children, for whom riding a bike is a seemingly impossible task, can master this skill in less than a week's time. Within days of learning to ride, many children exhibit independent behaviors for the first time ever. This achievement, in turn, creates a gateway of opportunity, helping them gain assurance and self-reliance in many other aspects of their lives.

This year's Midland Area Bike Camp was huge success and a wonderful learning opportunity not only for the bike campers but the volunteers as well. We had a full camp at the Midland Evangelical Free Church this year with thirty campers and over forty volunteers! We also had terrific sponsors this year: Tender Ridge Angus, Rotary International, The H Hotel, The Great Lakes Loons, Midland Evangelical Free Church, McCredie Sales, and the Tri City Cyclists. The Arc would like to send out a big THANK YOU! To all of our sponsors, Lose The Training Wheels Staff, Our volunteers, campers and their families.

- Leah Hockaday

GOOD-BYE LEAH

After three wonderful years as, first a high school coop and then our office manager and then one of our community participation staff, Leah Hockaday is leaving us. Leah's last official day is Saturday, June 19th. She will spend the rest of this summer working with children with Autism. Then, in August she will start the second phase of her education at CMH, where she will enter as a Junior in the Education department. Leah hopes to finish her education and then work with children who have autism.

Leah has had a huge impact on The Arc, more than you would ever expect of a person who has not even turned 21 yet! She helped to develop and implement Project Lifesaver, especially focusing on getting information about the program to parents of children with

autism. She helped to create an atmosphere at the office that was welcoming and inviting to all people who enter. Leah actually took the added responsibility of being on call over the past several months. Her wisdom and good judgment in the face of medical and other emergency situations has been invaluable.

We will most assuredly miss Leah. However, I am sure that we have not seen the last of her. Someday I might retire and she should have just enough experience to take over the reigns.....

- Jan Lampman

