



ARCA's mission is working together to open doors for people with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities to be valued members of the community.

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Outlook

Volume II
2019

Opening Doors for individuals with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities since 1957. | ARCAOpeningDoors.org

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Please consider adding the ARCA Foundation to your will or estate plan.
Contact Elaine Solimon at (505) 332-6805



ARCA JOB FAIRS

Come learn more about ARCA! Apply and interview on site!

● July 10th and August 1st • at ARCA - 9am to 11am

11200 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque 87112

● July 12th • at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial - 10am to 1pm

1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

ON FRIDAY, August 9th

11am to 9pm

Chello Grill will donate
50% of sales to ARCA!



Coupon required. Valid 8/9/2019.

Dine-In and Carry-Out only. No deliveries.



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Moving Forward

"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

For the past decade we have been sharing information about funding gaps in Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver mandated services, including the closure of over 40 DD Waiver providers who were unable to continue their work. Throughout this time, ARCA has worked diligently to streamline processes and reinvent models of service in accordance with increasing regulatory requirements. We have eliminated positions, increased responsibilities and frozen salaries. We communicated our strong concerns to regulatory agencies and worked with community partners as we became increasingly dependent on philanthropic support to maintain our core, mandated services. Each measure has been taken to ensure our doors remain open and DD Waiver services remain available for the children and adults in our care.

Every five years New Mexico is required to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for federal approval to renew the DD Waiver Program under Federal 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver rules. The application process requires an external rate study. In January, 2019, The Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) contracted with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) to perform a study to recommend reimbursement rates commensurate to applicable regulation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving services through the traditional DD, self-directed Mi Via and Medically Fragile Waivers. Preliminary results from this study show DD Waiver services are underfunded from 12% to 126%.

At a public hearing held June 19, DDSD announced they intend to accept the recommendation of the report and will ask \$12.5 million be included in the Governor's budget. If approved, CMS would match these funds with an additional \$33.25 million (NMFMAP at 72.71%). If you would like to view PCG's preliminary rate recommendations, please visit our website at ARCAOpeningDoors.org/PCG-report. The final report



ARCA leadership at the Top Workplace Awards event.

will be released by mid-July 2019. Information on the final report and preparations for the 2020 legislative session will be included in the Fall and Winter issues of Outlook. To receive a copy of the final report, please contact Michele Cody at MCody@ARCASpirit.org. We hope this study will validate the evidence based concerns raised by providers throughout New Mexico for years and bring some level of relief to our industry.

I am proud of ARCA and filled with tremendous respect for our staff, who have taken on extraordinary responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and happiness of individuals receiving services during very trying years. One such example is Brenda Vasquez, who received the New Mexico Direct Support Professional of the Year from the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) earlier this year. I am proud of our community partners who actively celebrate the accomplishments of people we serve at our greenhouses, bowling alleys and homes while mindfully investing in their successful outcomes. I am in awe of people we serve, who often struggle mightily to face the day, but attend to education, work and recreation with joy and dignity.

New Mexico was once at the forefront of developing and implementing community based service models for children and adults with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities. Today is a watershed moment in the future of these supports.

Edward J. Kaul

Edward J. Kaul
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TOP
WORK
PLACES
2019

AlbuquerqueJournal

For a third consecutive year, ARCA received a Top Workplaces honor by The Albuquerque Journal. Based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey, the anonymous survey measures various aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution and connection.

This year, ARCA was also honored with the *Meaningfulness Award* based on employee survey responses. We are grateful for our incredible staff who go above and beyond every day, living ARCA's values and mission and making ARCA a great place to work!

Mark Your
Calendar!
Don't miss these ARCA events!

Certified Brain Injury Specialist 2019 Trainings

The Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists program provides the opportunity to learn important information about brain injury, to demonstrate learning in a written examination and to earn a nationally recognized credential.

AUGUST 5-9

SCHEDULE: Training: August 5-8 • 8am to 5pm

Testing: August 9 • 8am to Noon

December 2-6

SCHEDULE: Training: December 2-5 • 8am to 5pm

Testing: December 6 • 8am to Noon

Visit ARCAOpeningDoors.org/CBIS
to learn more.



Congratulations Brenda!!

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) presented Brenda Vasquez, a Direct Support Professional at ARCA, with a 2019 Direct Support Professional of the Year award in Portland, Oregon, on May 8, 2019, at ANCOR's Annual

Conference, *Bridges to Better Outcomes*.

"ARCA is proud of Brenda for this recognition, but more importantly for her dedication and commitment to true community inclusion for individuals we support," said Ed Kaul, ARCA CEO. "We cannot think of anyone who more clearly demonstrates the power of person-centered supports and we're grateful that ANCOR has recognized Brenda with this high-profile honor."

Awarded annually since 2007, ANCOR's Direct Support Professional of the Year award recognizes outstanding professionals who provide long-term supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The award and the accompanying presentation at ANCOR's Annual Conference were created to celebrate the important role Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play in ensuring individuals with

IDD can be included and empowered in their communities, and to raise awareness about a direct support workforce in crisis. Nationally, turnover rates near 50 percent amount to a significant shortage of DSPs.

"I started my career in the field of disability supports as a DSP, and so I know just how critical DSPs are to supporting individuals in their quest to live their best and most fulfilling lives," said Robert Budd, President of ANCOR and Chief Executive Officer at FREE, Inc, in Old Bethpage, New York. "DSPs rarely receive the recognition they deserve, and for that reason I'm proud of our association for recognizing Brenda and all of her significant contributions to the lives of the individuals supported by ARCA."

Barbara Merrill, ANCOR's Chief Executive Officer, added: "I often describe DSPs as 'community navigators.' Far more than just caregivers, DSPs do it all. From navigating civic life to supporting individuals to create a sense of community around them, DSPs make magic in their communities every single day. These awards represent just a fraction of the recognition that individuals like Brenda deserve."

About ANCOR • For nearly 50 years, the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ancor.org) has been a leading advocate for the critical role service providers play in enriching the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As a national nonprofit trade association, ANCOR represents 1,600+ organizations employing more than a half-million professionals who together serve more than a million individuals with I/DD. Their mission is to advance the ability of our members to support people with I/DD to fully participate in their communities.

Celebrating Spring

Every year we say it. Every year it's true. The geraniums we grew in our Corrales greenhouses this spring were more beautiful than ever!

We had a lovely celebration with 14,000 spectacular flowers, hundreds of friends and neighbors and an amazing brunch buffet catered by City Treats. ARCA Buddies Civitans sold stunning, handmade pinwheels in support of their Club and answered questions about their philanthropic work in our community.

Geranium season is over for now, but the greenhouses are always buzzing with activity. If you'd like to learn more about our farming operations, or to schedule a tour, please contact Michele at MCody@ARCASpirit.org.



Circle of Promise

ARCA is so fortunate to have ongoing, generous contributions to fund our mission and it is a treasured honor when the families of individuals we support make a lasting legacy through their estate. A shining example of this is Ken and Sue Levan. They have made provisions to ensure a bright future for their son, Kevin. They chose to establish an ARCA Foundation Donor Pooled Trust for him to be funded after their lifetime. In addition to ongoing supports for Kevin's supplemental needs, the Levans identified numerous activities, including weekly swimming and the annual festivities that go along with the Balloon Fiesta that are especially meaningful to Kevin. Having this information in the Joinder Agreement provides us with a road map when Sue and Ken are not able to carry out these wonderful traditions themselves. They also have named ARCA as the remainder beneficiary for any funds in the trust. They are leaving this legacy gift and are shining examples of Circle of Promise members who "make a promise today for promising futures tomorrow."

"Kevin has been served by ARCA for 20 years and we appreciate the care he has received during that time," began Sue. "His work at La Paloma greenhouse has been especially rewarding for him. He likes being outdoors where he can see the clouds. It is comforting knowing that he is respected and cared for at his ARCA home and has house mates whom he likes."



ARCA has encouraged and celebrated great lives for people we serve for more than six decades. There are so many ways each of us can help ensure bright todays and promising tomorrows. Please contact me to learn how you can leave a legacy for the hundreds of children and adults we serve today as well as those future generations who, like Kevin, will thrive with ARCA services tomorrow.

Thank you,

Elaine Solimon

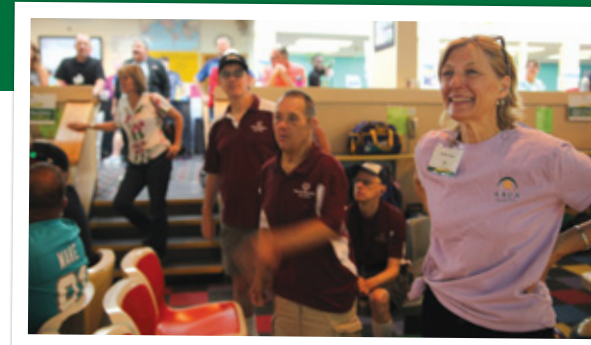
Elaine Solimon • Community Relations Director
(505) 332-6805 • esolimon@arcaspirit.org



Why ARCA?

DeAnn Eaton, CPA is CEO of Haverland Carter Lifestyle Group and former Adjunct Professor at Lewis University. She loves to travel, read, play the piano and ballroom dance. For over 15 years, she has also served on the ARCA Foundation Board of Directors, including nearly a dozen terms as Treasurer and two as President. She has served on many board committees and task forces, including audit, finance, business enterprises and ARCA Organics. DeAnn is a tireless advocate for children and adults with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities and shares the joy of ARCA celebrations from Bowl-a-Thons to farming.

We asked DeAnn why she chooses ARCA. She recalled, "I remember when ARCA celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner and dance. Staff, individuals receiving services, families and community partners came and we danced for hours! I will always remember that evening. It was pure joy. I think the core of my involvement is the desire to share the experiences I've had at



ARCA with others and that in turn, they might want to learn more about ARCA's mission."

She continued, "I know how difficult this industry is; everyone ARCA serves lives at or below the poverty level and is dependent on Medicaid funding for even the most basic necessities. The culture of ARCA is to find ways to maximize resources and create opportunities for their clients to experience all life has to offer. The ARCA Foundation Board works to find supplemental resources necessary to make opportunities possible. As a result, people have great jobs, meaningful relationships and enjoy life!"

ARCA is grateful for DeAnn's keen intelligence, warm spirit and compassionate heart.

ACES Volunteer Group Earns Presidential Recognition

In late 2018, Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque was approved to become a certifying organization for the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA) Program. The PVSA Program is the premier volunteer awards program in the country, encouraging citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition. ARCA's ACES Program was recently awarded the *Families and Groups Gold Level Award* for volunteering over 1,000 hours to Meals on Wheels!

Congratulations to John, Steve, James, Jason, Ben and Juan for your dedicated service!



ARCA's 11th Annual Bob Scanlon / Steve Mackie Bowl-a-Thon!!

What happens when 11 mayors, hundreds of individuals receiving ARCA services, dozens of families, staff and community partners and the one and only ARCA Man get together at Ten Pins and More? Why, ARCA's annual Bowl-a-Thon, of course!

Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull launched the day with *Mayors on Strike for ARCA*, where Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney took home the *First Strike Award* and Moriarty Mayor Ted Hart took home the grand prize of the *George J. Kominiak Leadership Award*. Steve Mackie, owner of Ten Pins and More, emceed the day and 1,000 bowlers heightened the competition by pledging strikes – and the strikes kept coming!

Bob Scanlon shared his thoughts about ARCA and his initial vision for the day in 2008. The laughter of Genevieve, Rolley, Nancy, Todd and so many others echoed his words, exemplifying the realization of his vision. While Bob expressed his gratitude to the bowlers, sponsors, families and staff, we quietly looked through his eyes and counted our many blessings.



George and Celeste



New Mexico is renowned for its rich artistry and nowhere is it more evident than at the Monday Afternoon Crochet Class at Los Volcanes Senior Center. In addition to the stunning gift of blankets, hats and scarves, artist Pauline made a soft, cuddly monkey and elephant for our silent auction at this year's Bob Scanlon/Steve Mackie Bowl-a-Thon. We had so much fun with these precious toys in the office – staff even named them Curious George and Queen Celeste! I know they'll bring many years of happiness into their new homes.

VitalityWorks

Since 1982, Vitality Works has produced botanical, vitamin and nutraceutical supplements, essential oils, and homeopathic products for international markets from their headquarters in Albuquerque. Several years ago, they approached ARCA about career opportunities for individuals receiving ARCA services. Today, Vitality Works employs between four and six individuals.

We recently visited and it's hard to tell who is happier about this remarkable relationship. James assembles boxes for product distribution. Ask him how his job is going he'll answer through an enormous smile. He deeply respects his co-workers and his self-confidence has grown immeasurably. He even found a generous sponsor for his Bowl-a-Thon team! Kendrick loved his job washing barrels, buckets and utensils, but had an allergic reaction to the cleansing process. He talked with his job coach and, with her help, wrote a letter of resignation. Kendrick scheduled an appointment with his supervisor, and with a heavy heart, explained he would have to leave the company. His supervisor's response was, "No, you are too valuable an employee to lose." Together, they found a new job in the company where Kendrick continues to work. "Supervising Kenny and Kendrick is an absolute privilege," says Liz Benavidez. "Their loyalty and work ethic to Vitality Works has been paramount to the success of day to day duties. Their positive and friendly attitudes have created a wonderful working environment, they truly have changed the culture of our department for the better.

Having a meaningful job is transformational – it changes your label from someone with a disability to someone whose skills are valued. When you share this with Juno Raby, Chief Administrative Office at Vitality Works, he just smiles. "James, Kendrick, Kenny and all our employees from ARCA not only do a great job, but bring a presence into our workforce. Every time I see James he stops whatever he's doing and says, "Hey, I like you, buddy." His simple acts of kindness make me smile. He is a valued member of our team."



Walmart Donation

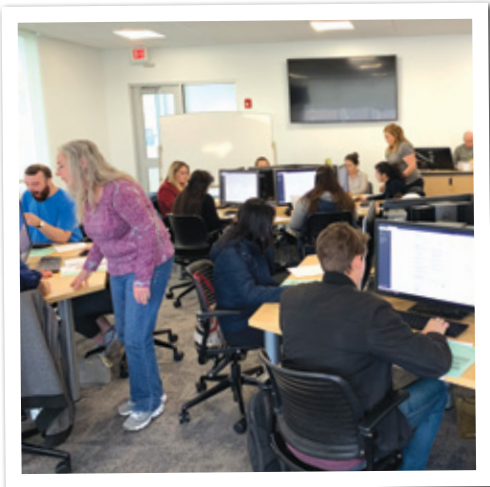


After completing renovations, Walmart store #850 kicked off their grand re-opening with a celebration of community. Select local non-profits, including ARCA, were invited to be part of the celebration where Marie Short, store manger, presented ARCA with a check. Thank you Walmart for all you do to keep our community strong.

Tax Returns

With the help of Beta Alpha Psi students from UNM Anderson School of Management and volunteers from Atkinson, REDW and ARCA, tax returns for 199 ARCA individuals were prepared and submitted. Federal returns for individuals exceeded \$23,000 and New Mexico refunds were over \$21,000.

Thanks to everyone's top notch skills, the day went smoothly and no returns had to be amended! Thank you to everyone for a great job in preparing and reviewing these returns.



Sharing the ARCA Story

Maureen and Mike Gannon opened their beautiful home for dinner and the debut of our documentary film 57 • 17 • 77. Filmmakers Phil Hughes and Jenn Daugherty flew in from Los Angeles to answer questions and share insights about why they chose to donate their time and talents to ARCA and the experience of making this very special movie. Guests enjoyed a spectacular dinner prepared by City Treats Catering and, following the movie, reminisced about their own time with ARCA. For some, the evening was their first introduction to ARCA and a lovely opportunity to learn about this beloved Albuquerque landmark. If you'd like to see 57 • 17 • 77, please visit our website at www.ARCAOpeningDoors.org/news or our YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/1Q6V-vo_4wU



Eat for ARCA!

In the mood for flame-grilled kabobs or a tender and delicious gyro sandwich? Curious to try something new like Koobideh, Gheimh or Ghormeh Sabzi? You can find these and so many more delicious Mediterranean specialties, including a wide variety of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free delights, at Chello Grill. **Mark your calendars for August 9** and bring your sweetie, along with the coupon on the back page of this issue, to Chello Grill for lunch or dinner and **they will donate to ARCA 50% of sales with an accompanying coupon.** This offer is valid August 9th only and patrons must present the coupon to qualify. Yum!



Super Summer Games

ARCA Buddies Civitan Club hosted their first annual **Super Summer Games** in collaboration with Albuquerque High School (AHS) students on June 20th and it was so much fun! AHS Students and individuals with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities teamed up to play games and make new friends. Grilled hamburgers, cold watermelon and lots of water and sunscreen made for a perfect day. A huge thanks to **everyone** who came to help!



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