



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

11300 Lomas Blvd. NE • Albuquerque, NM 87112
Tel: (505) 332-6700 | Fax: (505) 332-6800
www.ARCASpirit.org



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Outlook

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

What would a butterfly quote, on looking in the mirror? 'The adventure was worth it!' ~ Manali Oak

The farm has been alive with butterflies flirting with our geraniums this year – sometimes it looks like the petals have taken flight! It was great fun to see so many friends and neighbors celebrating our spring beauties. We had lots of help from Intel staff, who kept the patio stocked with an assortment of plants. With ongoing public health restrictions, we're extremely limited in on-site volunteer opportunities, so talented folks from Intel collected various sized terra cotta pots and hand painted them with beautiful scenes for our associate farmers – one even included a family of Easter Peeps!

The 2022 Legislative Session funded the 2019 Rate Study, effective July 1, 2022. Per Federal Medicaid requirements, there will be a new Study conducted this year. With your help, we're hoping the recommendations will be fully funded next year. Sustainable reimbursement rates are critical to the health and well-being of children and adults with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities in New Mexico. The 2019 rate study showed 81% of expenditures directly supported the workforce, 16% went to training, facilities, transportation, equipment/supplies, depreciation, gross receipts tax and other operating expenses and the remaining 3% was funded by the provider agencies themselves. It included an inflation factor, which has still not been incorporated.

Without a significant increase in the available workforce, supports for people currently receiving services are in jeopardy while individuals allocated for DD Waiver services through the Super Allocation will not find placement opportunities. The core mission of providers is to offer meaningful supports for people with IDD, which can only be done with sufficient, trained staff. It is imperative reimbursement rates support

competitive wages for direct support professionals, which will encourage people to return to working in this field. In just the past year, 16 New Mexico providers have closed programs and nearly 100 are unable to accept new clients. Sustainable rates directly correlate to a sustainable workforce.



The butterflies at our farm remind us that systemic change is never easy, but the outcomes make it necessary. In the meantime, we work within the parameters of today's world to recognize opportunities and help individuals and staff realize their dreams. We're grateful for your support, expertise and guidance in helping to ensure their future.

(505) 332-6825 • EKaul@ARCASpirit.org

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Please consider adding the ARCA Foundation to your will or estate plan.
Contact Nadine Mary at (505) 313-3514



New on the Scene

Anjolaoluwa Adegbola is pursuing a nursing degree at CNM/UNM and was looking for a job in her field. Her mom told her about ARCA and within 24 hours of submitting her application she had an interview scheduled!

Anjie's required training conflicted with her class schedule, but she was able to work with ARCA's Training Department to align these requirements with her school commitments. Natalie, ARCA's Recruitment Manager, worked with her to find a position close to home. She met with the Service Coordinator and it was a perfect fit. Anjie said, "At ARCA, they prioritize staff's comfort. Lucky me, the house is perfect, with two lovely ladies and wonderful staff."

Welcome to ARCA, Anjie!



Mark Your CALENDAR

Certified Brain Injury Specialist Training (CBIS) will be held:

**December 5 – 9, 2022
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

For more information, contact Clarissa Garcia at CGarcia@ARCASpirit.org.

Congratulations, Theresa!

Theresa was introduced to ARCA Janitorial through APS Transition Services when she was hired as an Associate Employee. It was only her second job, and Theresa describes herself then as a "hot mess." She says "I spent more time talking than working!" It didn't take Theresa long to realize she wanted more and set her sights on becoming a Janitorial Coordinator. She scheduled a meeting with her leadership team and together they developed a plan for Theresa to learn the necessary skills to qualify for her dream job. After six months of hard work, a Coordinator position opened up and Theresa was hired. She supervises her team with a clear understanding of contract expectations, staffing needs and how to help each of them be successful. After two months in her new job, Theresa only has one thing to say about being a Coordinator, "I love it."



Congratulations, Theresa and good job!



Circle of Promise

If you are 72 or older, you're probably looking good and enjoying the freedom and adventure of retirement! You may also be thinking of your Required Minimum Distribution, (RMD). Many retirees are pleasantly surprised by how little of their nest eggs they need to live a rich life.

At age 72, or 70 ½ if you were born before July 1, 1949, the IRS requires you make an RMD from retirement accounts such as a Traditional IRA. These withdrawals are considered taxable income. The amount of your RMD is calculated by dividing the value of your IRA by a life expectancy factor. You can always withdraw more than your RMD, but all distributions are taxed as income.

One way to reduce or avoid paying taxes on your RMDs is to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is a distribution directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as the ARCA Foundation.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution:

- Is a cost-effective way to support an organization
- Allows you to save other, less-taxed assets for your loved ones

You can arrange a QCD by asking your IRA custodian to pay all or part of your RMD to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity.

When you consider making the ARCA Foundation the recipient of your QCD, you are ensuring hundreds of people with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities will continue to receive the quality supports they need to succeed in the workplace, live in a safe home, enjoy friends and family and live a life of maximum independence.

As always, please consult your financial planner for more information or to see if this is the best option for you.

Sincerely,

Nadine Mary

Nadine Mary
ARCA Endowment & Pooled Trust Coordinator
(505) 313-3514 • NMary@ARCASpirit.org



Greatest of All Time

It was such a treat to open our doors in celebration of ARCA geraniums! Hundreds of friends and neighbors came by for a quick visit and a chance to buy a variety of spring plants. Special thanks to Intel volunteers Akshay Gowda, Vishal Chhabra, Ruiping Zhou, Moe San and Haoyuan Wang for all their help!

Luisa, ACES Program Supervisor, brought a beautiful, red geranium home for her young son, Mario. It was doing great until their pet goat, Lollipop, decided it was a delicacy too delicious to pass up! We always thought our geraniums were the greatest of all time. Looks like Lollipop agrees!



Out and About

Tim hopped a plane to Mesa for a long weekend with his brother, Matthew.

Marya is a huge fan of the WWE. With help from Monica and Luisa, she went to New Jersey to see them live!

ARCA on the Move is in full swing and Ruben, Patricia and Marc were all spotted at the gym working on their health and wellness!

Andrew, Paul, Mark and Phillip had a great time at the Isotopes vs. Sugar Land Space Cowboys game.

Special thanks to FRENCH for the tickets!



Milestones

- Congratulations James, Kenny, Kimmie, Raymond and Jon for the excellent work you do at Vitality Works and your recent raise!
- John's dream of moving into his own apartment at Sandia View came true!
- David wanted to add more hours to his job in Janitorial. After working with his team, he accepted one additional day each week at the library!



Thank you Intel, for the beautiful hand painted pots! We love them!

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