



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

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Contact Nadine Mary at (505) 332-6805**



Movie Night

Flamin' Hot is the story of Richard Montañez, a Frito Lay janitor and inventor of Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

The movie was filmed in Albuquerque and our own Lora Cunningham played the pivotal role of Patti. We were tickled pink when Lora joined us for movie night and answered all our questions about her experience filming the movie!



*Wishing
you and
yours
a happy
holiday
season!*



Outlook

Volume IV
2023

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

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My Thanksgiving is perpetual." –Henry David Thoreau

Reflecting on this past year leaves me reinvigorated. I am grateful for the opportunity to accept new people into ARCA's service. I feel the excitement among staff and individuals for the new and renewed opportunities to live, work and socialize in our community. ARCA experienced enormous growth in 2023, welcoming 115 people into residential, vocational, rehabilitative, respite and day programs. ARCA's Community Integrated Employment Program alone worked with 53 adults to enjoy meaningful employment; ten have done such a great job they no longer need our help at work!

Bob and Angie Scanlon hosted a dinner to introduce their friends to ARCA. Judy Greenfeld spoke about having a child with autism and the cultural and societal changes she's seen during his 60 years. She shared a newspaper article from the early 80s describing the lack of opportunity her son would face. While Ricky will never be totally independent, with ARCA's support and encouragement he continues to thrive. I know her son's success, along with hundreds of children and adults with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities, is dependent upon direct support professionals and their expertise in providing compassionate, community based teaching and support. I am profoundly grateful for each person who has chosen to focus their career on creating opportunities for others.



I also know none of this would be possible without you. Every day, you supplement gaps in Federal and State funding and enrich the lives of people served through the generous gifts of your expertise, spirit, time and treasure. Some of you have family in ARCA's care and know, first hand, the joy and challenge of caring for a loved one with disabilities. Some of you met your first friend with a disability at ARCA.

I am privileged to live in gratitude for the blessings we share and wish you and yours a healthy, happy holiday season.

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BHI Summit



The Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Initiative hosted its 3rd Annual Provider Summit in October. The Summit is an opportunity for providers to connect with, and learn from, one another to effectively coordinate behavioral health services.

Michael Langford, NeuRoads NMTM Division Director, was invited to present on Brain Injury Essentials as well as train providers on using the HELPS Brain Injury Screening Tool to assess and manage suspected brain injuries. Michael praised the Summit, saying, "it was apparent that providing educational support for providers is a priority. Their innovative approach toward teaching those who provide direct support to the community invoked insightful and inspiring learning opportunities."



Wombats and Wellness and Witches, oh my!

There is nothing like autumn in Albuquerque and we enjoyed every minute of it! Zoo Day was exciting and our health fair was informative AND fun thanks to the hard work of our HR team. ARCA's Customer Experience Improvement Team threw a howling Halloween karaoke party.





Annual Poinsettia Celebration


We revel in rainy days and when the first big storm of the season hit during our poinsettia celebration it didn't dampen our spirits one bit! Visiting with our Circle of Promise members, legislators, families and friends who do so much to help children and adults in ARCA's care live great lives is extra special when we get to say thank you with 7,000 home grown poinsettias.



Thank You

Every donor is important in the lives of children and adults with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities served by ARCA. Thank you for making dreams come true.

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 **Circle of Promise Member**
Every effort has been made to compile a complete and accurate list of donors from 11/15/2022 - 11/15/2023. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or misspelled, please accept our deepest apologies.

Old and New Friends

Bob and Angie Scanlon opened their home to old and new friends, sharing a meal and introducing them to ARCA and our Circle of Promise (C of P) Legacy Society. They shared that while they do not have a loved one with IDD, they want to ensure opportunities for children and adults with disabilities will always be available. Judy Greenfeld shared her family's decades long relationship with ARCA, "I appreciate all of the concern and support we have received along the way and don't know where we would be without it. However, it will always be necessary." C of P members Kris Stichman, ARCA Foundation Board President and DeAnn Eaton, past Board President, spoke about the personal fulfillment of safeguarding ARCA's future.

Unless otherwise designated by the donor, all realized planned gifts are invested in ARCA's endowment funds. We are grateful to our C of P members for their ongoing belief in the work we do and the cherished children and adults in our care now and for generations to come.



Circle of Promise

In an agency-wide effort to maximize efficiency, ARCA's Nursing Department moved to Lomas West while NeuRoads NM and Property moved from 4th Street to Lomas East. Lots of new and familiar faces in the halls!

It got me thinking about how many people, services and programs, operating separately but cooperatively, it takes to deliver the care and support ARCA provides to 508 individuals.

Individuals in our homes depend on caring, well-trained direct support professionals who rely on our nurses and nutritionists to guide them in their daily responsibilities. We all rely on IT staff to keep the lines of communication open and computer systems functioning. Just as essential are our property personnel who keep our homes and vehicles warm and safe, office support staff who are skilled in keeping a complex system organized and finance and case records experts ensuring persons in our care remain eligible for their benefits and ARCA is compliant with intricate regulatory requirements. Our HR team recruits new employees, manages our benefits and always fosters a safe and positive work environment.

It takes every note in this symphony to meet our goal of health, safety and happiness for children and adults with intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities in ARCA's care.

We were thrilled to welcome DeAnn Eaton and Steve Azar as new Circle of Promise members. DeAnn and Steve have been an integral part of ARCA's family for decades and we are profoundly grateful they will continue their legacy for as long as there is a need.

We are *grateful* for our long-time friends and benefactors and look forward to a growing number of Circle of Promise members in 2024!

Nadine Mary • ARCA Endowment & Pooled Trust Coordinator
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Annual Meeting

ARCA's Board and leadership gathered at our Sandia View apartments to meet prospective new members Cindy Faris, Deanna Mielke and John Phillips, MD. Residents of the complex participated in Jenny Archuleta's cooking class to make cookies for everyone to enjoy!



At ARCA's 67th Annual Meeting, Ed Kaul, ARCA President/CEO, highlighted work done during the year to stabilize the workforce, primarily the Workforce Improvement Team's efforts to raise starting wages to \$14.65 - \$18.00 per hour, maintain a robust benefits package and develop a path for DSP's who wish to advance their careers without becoming a supervisor. He reported the theme for the coming year is "moving forward and rebuilding our legacy" following difficult times navigating COVID. Joan Campbell and Jim Culpepper were recognized for nine years of Board service. Barbara Lewis was recognized for her leadership as Board Chair.



Barbara recognized Elaine Solimon as the 2023 recipient of ARCA's Award of Distinction.

Jennifer Lehman provided the Nominating Committee's recommended Board Slate. Toni Benton and Jim Saya were presented for their third three-year term, Cindy Faris, Deanna Mielke, and John Phillips were presented for their first three-year term. There were no nominations from the floor. The members approved the nominating slate by voice vote.



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