



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

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Outlook

Volume II • 2015

Opening Doors for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1957. www.ARCASpirit.org

Meaningful Lives.

For many people, the road to a meaningful life starts with a decision and moves forward through intentional activities. For someone with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), success often depends on the compassionate care and attention of a trusted advisor. ARCA's direct support professionals act as that trusted advisor each and every day to provide the individualized support children and adults with IDD need to succeed.



and in return RG envelopes everyone she meets in absolute joy. With limited verbal skills, RG helps others find genuine meaning in their own lives.

FM wanted a job. He found several that seemed to be a good fit, but they just didn't last. Staff worked diligently to help him learn new skills and now he is a leader in ARCA's Janitorial Services. He has meaningful work and contributes to our community. The ladies at our Woodhollow home needed to have their floors redone to accommodate their wheelchairs and walkers. Staff at a neighboring home welcomed them in during the work. What could have been an inconvenience turned into a celebration and skill building opportunities with tea parties and bingo nights! Whenever you see RG, whether at home or in the community, her hair is beautifully done, her nails are painted to perfection and she always has sunglasses and a snazzy purse. Staff spends the extra time it takes

Whether caring for a medically fragile infant, an adult with hopes and dreams or a senior with painful memories ARCA's staff values each individual, providing necessary and life enhancing supports with respect and compassion. September is National DSP Recognition month and I hope you will join me in recognizing the extraordinary successes made possible by the hundreds of caring staff at ARCA who have dedicated their own lives to helping others.

Edward J. Kaul
(505) 332-6825 • Ekaul@arcaspirit.org

Please consider adding the ARCA Foundation to your will or estate plan. Contact Elaine Solimon at 505-480-4321



To stay current with ARCA news, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/arcaopeningdoors>

SAVE THE DATE!

**NM STARS
FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 8:45 A.M.

DETAILS
ON PG 6

**ARCA'S ANNUAL
POINSETTIA CELEBRATION**
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

Our favorite part of launching the holiday season is inviting you to our annual poinsettia celebration!

Over 7,000 gorgeous poinsettias are being carefully nurtured and this year promises to be our most beautiful yet. Please join us Saturday, November 21, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. to visit with friends, enjoy delicious snacks from City Treats Catering and purchase perfect poinsettias for your home and office - always grown with love by ARCA.

Let Erica know you're coming at EHolmes@ARCASpirit.org. Can't wait to see you!



VSP Mobile Clinics

A very special thanks to the incredible volunteers with VSP Mobile Clinics! During their two-day visit with ARCA, over 140 employees received free eye exams and, when necessary, free eye glasses and referrals. Thank you for taking such good care of those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

ARCA's Home Grown Contribution

As one of the 2010 recipients of the Mayor and First Lady's Charity Gala proceeds, we know first hand what a difference this stellar community event can have in making a local nonprofit's dreams come true.

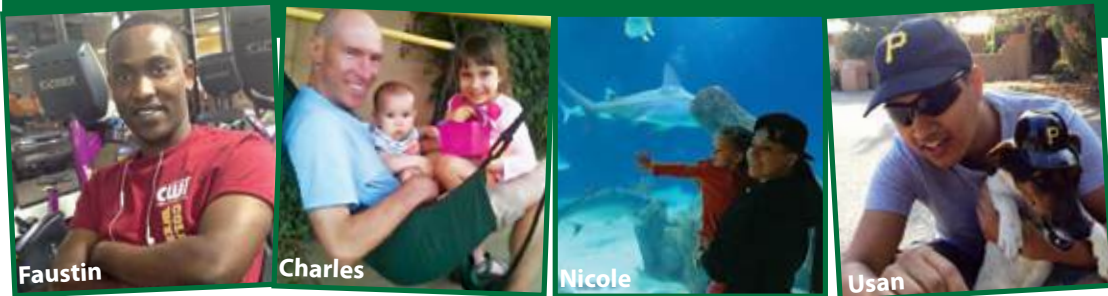
We were honored when this year's gala committee asked if we could donate our beautiful ivy geraniums as center pieces for the 2015 Gala and over the moon when they told us we would receive a portion of the proceeds from the table sales! We had a blast decorating the planters with glittery, silver swizzlers designed by Achievement Gallery's Melanie Burns and were awestruck when we walked into the room and saw them so elegantly displayed. Everyone was thrilled to see their gardening skills celebrated at such an esteemed event and humbled to receive much needed support.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to share our special skills and talents and blessed to be in a community that revels in them.



ARCA Celebrates National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

September 13 - 19, 2015



ARCA is honored to recognize 492 amazing Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who have dedicated their own lives to providing lifelong support for individuals in ARCA's care. DSPs make a tremendous difference each day, both in the home and in the community. Earlier this year, Natalie Kelly, ARCA's Recruiting Manager, introduced a weekly Facebook series, "Staff in the Spotlight," to share the diverse stories of why our workforce chose to build their career with ARCA and what keeps them here. In celebration of National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, we've highlighted a few of these exceptional stories. We hope you'll follow this inspiring series on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arcaopeningdoors.

Faustin grew up in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Prior to coming to ARCA, he was a CNA and interpreter for a refugee agency. After two years as a DSP with ARCA, his reason for staying is "I enjoy working with people with disabilities. As soon as I started working with my individuals, they became my family. ARCA treats their employees very well and I enjoy being part of ARCA."

Charles owned a landscaping company in Florida and had a brother who worked at ARCA in the 90s. During visits to Albuquerque he met other staff and individuals and, when he decided to relocate, applied to ARCA. "I really enjoy the work I do and it usually doesn't feel like work," said Charles. "I have learned so much and have grown personally from the relationships with the individuals and staff. I also met my wife at ARCA!"

Nicole earned a degree from Eastern Illinois University before returning to her hometown of Albuquerque. "I have grown so much since I've been here," explained Nicole. "Everyday is a learning experience and always a worthwhile way to spend my time. I love what I do and I am eager to continue learning what I can from others in this field and from the individuals served. I feel so lucky to work for ARCA!"

Usan was raised in Nepal and moved to New Mexico to study Computer Sciences. He met an ARCA employee in one of his classes who suggested he look into ARCA. Usan recalls, "Since I started

most incredible gift I could be given professionally and personally. The individuals teach me life's most important lessons. Wow, where else do you have an opportunity to do this?"

Chris' mom was in a wheelchair since she was 16 years old. As a child, he was always helping her with cleaning, cooking and transportation. He says it made sense to find a job where he could use the skills he acquired growing up. As for why he stays, "It's the life lessons and experiences I've been through at ARCA. I've seen it all. It has helped me grow as a person and to apply these lessons to help others."

Trina remembers, "I was chatting online with an ARCA employee and he told me all about the great opportunities offered at this agency. I was afraid to move to Albuquerque from Silver City, but after I interviewed, I was sold! I've stayed at ARCA for so long because of the individuals we serve. I love the fact that I work in a home environment and not an office. I've established relationships that will stay in my heart forever. My supervisors and co-workers have made such a difference in my life! I am so proud to be associated with ARCA and the fantastic reputation of what we do for our community. Every day we make a difference in our individuals' lives. It's the best feeling for me knowing I put a smile on someone's face. I go above and beyond for them because they deserve it!"

Heartfelt thanks to ARCA's DSPs for creating opportunities for the cherished children and adults in our care to live great lives.



working with ARCA, I've never looked back! The individuals make the job interesting and rewarding!"

Jeanne has been with ARCA for 16 years because, "ARCA provides me with the opportunity to make a difference in a person's life. That is by far the

A Park Above

ARCA had the privilege of attending a sneak peek of **A Park Above** in Rio Rancho this summer. The beautiful six-acre facility is designed as a place for all kids of all abilities and ages to play together and it is truly a winner!

Congratulations to the dedicated staff and volunteers who made Phase I of this ambitious dream a reality. Heartfelt thanks to our community for donating time, talent and treasure to create an enchanting haven filled with musical instruments, water splash area, shade structures, basketball court, special equipment, hills, tunnels, slides - and an awful lot of pride.

If you'd like to learn more about this innovative park you can visit their website at www.AParkAbove.org.



Under the Sea... Sunny, summer days and brilliant smiles revitalize campers, staff and volunteers at ARCA's annual Apple Mountain Camp. Swimming in the Olympic sized pool, making innovative art and crafts projects, playing bingo, singing by the campfire, exploring nature and adventures in fishing are all in a day's fun! This year it culminated in the big "Under the Sea" themed dance where costumes, decorations and music were all a little fishy...

ARCA staff and volunteers work for months to make this a stellar experience for individuals in our care. By Friday afternoon they are tired and achy, yet, still giggly while reminiscing about the bounty of new experiences, relaxed camaraderie, smiles, laughter and endless hugs that are Apple Mountain Camp.

After an exhausting week of action packed activities, what do campers talk about on the ride home? Apple Mountain Camp 2016, of course!

Thank you to our extraordinary staff, volunteers and donors who make this cherished event possible for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our care.



THANK YOU to ARCA's 2015 Apple Mountain Camp Staff & Volunteers!!

A HUGE Thank You to Cindy McDuff for creating this awesome "Under the Sea" backdrop for the dance.

A special shout-out to the family of Faylene Wytewa-Alire! Her husband, Richard, and children, Ricky and Alexis, are always there helping with the various details of camp.



The Circle is Unbroken

Two of my most treasured experiences this summer were completely unexpected. I received a call from one of our beloved Circle of Promise members letting me know she had received a "windfall" and wanted to pass it along to ARCA in gratitude for the compassionate care her daughter has received over the years. Just this week, I received an email from another Mom who wrote she wanted to meet with me to set up a donor pooled trust because her daughter "has been with ARCA for over 30 years and I do believe there is no one I trust more to take care of her after I am gone than ARCA."

Having been part of the ARCA family for over 30 years, I am touched beyond measure by the ongoing gift of being part of the lives of people with

intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. I am profoundly grateful so many of you have prepared for the future well-being of both your loved one and ARCA in your estate plan. If you would like more information about ARCA's Donor Pooled Trust or joining our Circle of Promise, please contact me!

With gratitude and bountiful blessings,

Elaine Solimon

Elaine Solimon
505-480-4321 • esolimon@arcaspirit.org



7th Annual Bob Scanlon/Steve Mackie **BOWL-A-THON**

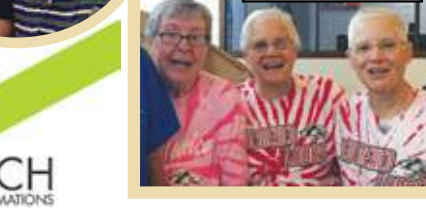


Mayors and mascots and FUN – oh my!!!

Each year our annual Bob Scanlon/Steve Mackie Bowl-a-Thon seems to take on a new facet to its personality. This year, eight of our local mayors participated in the first annual Mayors on Strike for ARCA and it was so much fun! Mayor Knowlton, Village of Bosque Farms, won the competition and was presented the George J. Kominiak Leadership Award. Mayors Berry, Hull, Kominiak, Gwinn, Hill, Cordova and Hart tied in their generous spirit, compassion, sense of humor – and number of hugs given and received. We are particularly grateful to Mayor Hull for not only having the idea for Mayors on Strike but all his work in making it such a success. Sherman McCorkle, amidst the high-volume, joyful chaos, was a spectacular emcee. Lobo Louie and Orbit charmed the crowd of over 1,000 friends and neighbors and in return received a bounty of heartwarming smiles. Peter Menice donated his time and considerable talent to craft an extraordinary caricature of ARCA's own "Mayor Scanlon." My favorite overheard comment of the day, "I feel like the energy in the room could blow the roof off - everyone is so happy!"

In the past seven years friends, families, local businesses and staff have contributed over \$600,000 to ARCA through our Bowl-a-Thon. Even more important are the cherished friendships seeded, nurtured and grown strong. From the bottom of our heart, thank you for opening your heart to the joy of ARCA.

Can't wait to see you next year!



Child-Centered Enhancement

ARCA's Foster Care Services provide specialized foster care, support, advocacy and assistance to medically fragile infants and children. These vulnerable kiddos with special needs have been removed from their natural family by CYFD for a variety of reasons and are in need of loving, safe homes and quality care. ARCA is the sole provider for these precious little ones in New Mexico. They have nowhere else to turn, yet this crucial program is severely under funded.



Thanks to the generosity of the UWCNM Community Fund, ARCA developed a sensory corner to support the physical, social and emotional development of children within our care. Our Sensory Corner is a child-centered enhancement and therapy room, focusing on parent-child interaction, child development, sensory and fine/gross motor skills activities, exercise, active play, rehabilitation and therapy strategies and solutions. This support has made it possible for ARCA to purchase fun, brightly colored adaptive therapy products to create a stimulating learning environment for medically fragile children and their families. We are delighted that of the 90 children in our foster care program this year, 16 enjoy spending time together with their biological families and siblings in our family room and sensory corner.

For more information about ARCA's Foster Care program please contact Michele at MCody@ARCASpirit.org. To help support these remarkable children, please indicate Foster Care on your check or Credit Card donation to the ARCA Foundation.

Geranium Celebration

We love welcoming Spring at our annual geranium celebration! This year over 200 of our friends and neighbors stopped in for a visit and purchased geraniums for their home, office and yard. We enjoy helping Albuquerque bloom and are grateful to you for inviting our bounty of blossoms into your life.



Opening Doors...

Experience of a Lifetime!

The New Mexico Stars are hosting a flag football camp, followed by a tournament celebrating ARCA on **September 19th at Haynes Park, 2006 Grande Blvd SE, in Rio Rancho.** Tracy Duran, owner of the New Mexico Stars, said, "We want individuals receiving ARCA services and their staff to have fun playing flag football for the championship."

People of all abilities, families and friends are invited to join in the fun. The day will launch with registration at 8:45, where the players will receive an official tournament t-shirt. Camp will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Coach Adrian Perez and players of the Stars working with players to hone their flag football skills. Coach Perez says, "The training camp will include drills and practice; all participants will be well versed in football." At 11:00 we will break for lunch, thanks to Chick-Fil-A at Cottonwood. At noon we will divide into teams and begin the tournament. Teams will be comprised of individuals receiving ARCA services, ARCA staff, families, friends and Stars players. The tournament will culminate with an awards presentation at 2:00 p.m.

Special guests scheduled to attend include Mayor Gregg Hull, Rio Rancho; Tracy and Crystal Duran, New Mexico Stars Owners; YOUR New Mexico Stars players; Christy Waite, 2015 Miss New Mexico and Bellator MMA fighter, Rocky Ramirez.

For more information or to register for a team, please contact Erica at EHolmes@ARCASpirit.org.



Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans

ARCA is grateful for the friendship of our Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans (ABC)! With over 300 people in attendance at our staff appreciation carnival this spring, we needed lots of helping hands. ABC happily lent their support and expertise and grilled the best burgers in town! Speaking of amazing burgers, ABC once again hosted their annual picnic for ARCA at EXPO NM. It was pouring rain, but over 200 individuals receiving services, families and staff joined in this summertime tradition.

Heartfelt thanks to every member of Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans for your tireless dedication to making a difference in the quality of life of so many Albuquerqueans.



Journey of Hope



The Ability Experience was founded by members of Pi Kappa Phi in 1977 with the mission of using shared experiences to support people with disabilities and develop the men of Pi Kappa Phi into servant leaders.

Their annual program, The Journey of Hope, was founded in 1987 and today covers 32 states. Each summer, four fraternity teams bicycle a different route across the country, all leading to Washington, D. C. Along the way they visit with providers, families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities making new friends and garnering experiences they will carry for a lifetime.

We were so excited to host a barbeque for the 36 cyclists on the South Route Team at our Sandia View Apartments. Ed Kaul was barbeque chef extraordinaire, Sandia View staff helped with the side dishes and made sure everything was picture perfect and our ARCA Buddies Civitan Club did a fabulous job decorating! Several individuals offered to show the cyclists their beautiful apartments and everyone was inspired by the warmth and enthusiasm of these young men.

We look forward to visiting with next year's team!

For more information about The Ability Experience, visit their website at www.abilityexperience.org.

Take me out to the Ballgame!



Individuals in ARCA's care love to watch our Albuquerque Isotopes play ball, but often can't afford a ticket. Thanks to the generosity of Lewis University and the Isotopes' "Take me out to the ballgame!" program, dozens of individuals enjoyed a summertime tradition at the park. Lewis University included a much coveted t-shirt along with each ticket!

Quality of life experiences like these would not be possible without your generous support and we are grateful.

In Loving Memory



Pamela Schneider, Past President, ARCA Foundation Board and Past Vice President, ARCA Board passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Pam had a deep passion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and used her well honed marketing skills and resources to increase awareness about ARCA and the cherished children and adults in our care. Pam, along with her team at Rick Johnson & Company, created a public awareness campaign including ARCA's logo and the tag line each of us lives by every day – "Opening Doors." More than anything, Pam reveled in, and regularly contributed to, the abundance of joy and laughter she found at ARCA. We miss her.



Marianne Bennett joined the ARCA Foundation Board of Directors in 2005 and throughout her decade of service remained a strong advocate and resonant voice in support of the rights and diverse talents of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As an attorney, Marianne's distinguished career included providing legal counsel to residents of state institutions and serving as Consulting Attorney for the Protection and Advocacy System for New Mexicans with Developmental Disabilities, Inc. As a cherished member of our ARCA family, Marianne unreservedly shared her wisdom, spirit, humor and endless capacity for unconditional love with each of us. She is missed.



Ramon Bayron, 76, passed away on June 17th. Ramon had a great sense of humor and loved to joke around. When he found something funny and started laughing, he got the whole house going! He enjoyed dressing up and going on social/leisure outings such as Dinner Club, events involving music and Special Olympics. Ramon would tell everyone that going to the State Games in Farmington every year was his "vacation." He could always be counted on to help out around his home.

Ramon was very close to his family, including keeping in contact with family in Puerto Rico. Ramon is deeply missed by everyone who knew him, especially his best friend, Mike.



Byron Neumann, 24, passed away on May 18th. Byron was a uniquely gifted person: exuberant, caring, energetic, joyous, mischievous, generous, and passionate about everything he did. With his contagious smile and irresistible enthusiasm, Byron quickly made friends with everyone he met. He was very involved in a variety of self-advocacy activities. Byron was a member of the Homecoming Court at Manzano High School and delivered a speech at his graduation ceremony. He was a hard worker and a valued member of the La Paloma Greenhouse team. Byron was a stellar ARCA ambassador, lending his unique experience and energy to many ARCA Foundation efforts. In his down time, Byron loved to play video games, spend time with his girlfriend and joke around with everyone. Thank you, Byron, for showing us how to enjoy life to the fullest!



John Miranda, 33, passed away on April 25th. John was a happy, fun loving person and enjoyed listening to music and dancing. John loved the outdoors. Staff who worked with him remember him fondly and said he had a twinkle in his eye and his smile would melt your heart.

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