



Opening Doors.



Letter From the CEO

Dear ARCA Family,

You may have noticed a new look! Welcome to Opening Doors—a new chapter in how we share the heart of ARCA with you.

This name isn't just a title. It's a reflection of our deepest value: family. Behind every service we offer, every goal we set, and every milestone we celebrate—lies a family. Sometimes, it's the one you're born into. Sometimes, it's the one you find in a caring staff member, a roommate, or a community that embraces you just as you are. At ARCA, family is at the center of everything we do.

As we reflect on the journey of ARCA, one theme stands out prominently: the enduring legacy of family. From our inception to the present day, the bonds we share have been the cornerstone of our community's strength and resilience. Our founders envisioned a place where individuals could come together, support one another, and grow collectively. This vision has been realized through the commitment of our leadership, who have embraced these values and passed them down through generations. Throughout the years, we have witnessed countless stories of legacy within ARCA. Families have celebrated milestones, overcome challenges, and created lasting memories. These stories are a testament to the power of unity and the importance of preserving our legacy. In our work, we have the privilege of supporting not only individuals but also their families. By understanding and addressing the unique needs of each family, we can make a more significant impact. This holistic approach ensures that our efforts resonate deeply and create lasting positive change.

Recently, one of our individuals made a courageous transition into supported living. Like many others, they began with hesitation—worrying about change, independence, and the unknown. But over time, with support and trust, their story transformed. They didn't just find housing. They found a new rhythm. A new sense of peace. A new kind of home. They told us that what they feared most at the beginning became their greatest source of joy; not only were they provided with support and care, but they were surrounded by people who felt like family.

That's what Opening Doors is about. It's about the everyday moments that turn fear into confidence and change into a sense of belonging. In every story we share, you'll see what's possible when we lead with love, dignity, and respect for the people and families we serve.

To our staff, who often become like family to the people in their care—thank you.

To our families, for your trust and partnership—thank you. And to our supporters and friends who stand by our mission—thank you. Your dedication and involvement are what make ARCA special. We are grateful for each and every member who contributes to our legacy. Together, we will continue to grow, support, and inspire one another.

ARCA is not just opening doors; we are opening hearts, homes, and futures. Thank you for being part of this family.

Michelle Harmon
ARCA President and CEO

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Note from ARCA Foundation's Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At ARCA, every open door represents more than an opportunity—it represents trust, hope, and the beginning of something new. Thanks to your continued support, we see these doors opening every day for families in transition, young people aging out of foster care, and individuals rebuilding their lives with dignity and respect.

In recent months, donor generosity has helped expand programs like SMART Living and our Transitional Foster Care initiative, providing critical resources—from housing to employment support—to those who need them most. These life-changing services are only possible because of your investment in our mission.

We are also deeply grateful for the growing number of supporters who choose to make a lasting impact through legacy giving.

By including ARCA in their estate plans, as Circle of Promise Members, these donors are helping to ensure that future generations will continue to find safety, community, and hope. Legacy gifts are powerful statements of values—and they create ripples of transformation that extend far beyond today.

Every gift, partnership, and act of advocacy brings us closer to a world where all families have the support they deserve. As we look ahead, I invite you to stay engaged—share our stories, champion our work, and consider the lasting difference you can make in your lifetime and beyond.

Thank you for being part of the ARCA family. Thank you for opening doors.

In Giving,

Jennifer Maldonado Greenwood

ARCA Foundation Executive Director



At Home with ARCA

In 1957, Judy and Alan Greenfeld welcomed their son, Ricky, who was speaking in simple sentences by the age of two. However, a year later, Judy noticed changes in Ricky's speech, behavior, and social interactions.

At that time, resources for children with disabilities were minimal in New Mexico. Following a doctor's suggestion, Ricky attended a boarding school in Santa Barbara, where he acquired important skills like reading and self-care. He later moved to a supportive residential facility in Texas. Judy and Alan were determined to bring their son home and continually advocated for him, with Judy joining ARCA to support others like him.

A turning point came when community-based services emerged in Albuquerque, allowing the Greenfelds to welcome Ricky back.



Within a year, he became one of the first residents of an ARCA group home and found meaningful work at ARCA's farm, where he developed life and vocational skills.

After Alan passed away in 2011, Judy continued to be a steadfast advocate. She supported Ricky and worked to enhance the lives of others at ARCA, forming committees to assess home environments and improve staff training. Her efforts significantly influenced the care standards in ARCA homes today.

To Judy, ARCA is family. She wishes for future generations with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have greater opportunities for full, meaningful lives in their communities. Thanks to Judy's dedication and Ricky's resilience, that vision continues to flourish—one family at a time.

Employment Corner: *Building Meaningful Careers*

Justin Romero: A Heart for Connection, A Home in the ARCA Family

When you work at ARCA, you're not just taking a job—you're joining a family. A family rooted in compassion, shared growth, and the belief that every person deserves to live a great life. For more than nine years, Justin Romero has lived that truth and continues to grow within it.

Justin first came to ARCA drawn by the promise of opportunity—meaningful work, generous benefits, paid training, and the chance to give back to his community. But what truly made ARCA feel different was the warmth, connection, and sense of purpose that surrounded him the moment he walked through the door.

That feeling came to life during his New Hire Orientation when he met Ralph—an individual supported by ARCA who volunteered to speak with new employees. Ralph had a calm voice, a brilliant mind full of historical facts, and a quiet but unforgettable sense of humor. He talked about ARCA's "TIPS" for successful relationships and how to treat people with respect, patience, and understanding. But more than the words, it was Ralph's presence that left an impression—so much so that Justin later visited Ralph at home to spend more time with him. That visit was the start of a meaningful friendship and a deeper connection to ARCA's mission. Justin realized this wasn't just a job—it was a place where lives were changed through kindness and respect.

As Justin settled into his role, he was impressed by how ARCA took the time to ensure every new hire found the right fit. He was encouraged to visit several homes until he found one that aligned with his strengths and personality. His first assignment introduced him to individuals who were nonverbal. At first, it was a challenge—but it quickly became a passion. Justin learned how to communicate through body language, facial expressions, gestures, and shared routines. He discovered that some of the most powerful connections don't require words. In time, he recognized his favorite foods, music, and activities and was met with big smiles and joyful recognition each day. These experiences taught him to slow down, pay close attention, and lead with empathy.

He was also moved by how ARCA's homes reflected the individuality of each person living there. No two homes were alike. Each one was filled with meaningful items, family photos, favorite colors, and spaces tailored to the personalities of those who lived there. The warmth and dignity he saw reminded him that ARCA isn't just about providing care—it's about creating a life of belonging.

Over the years, Justin continued to grow at ARCA. He was promoted into a Lead Direct Support Professional role in several homes and later became ARCA's Health Services Coordinator. In this position, he ensures that homes have the medical documentation, pharmacy support, and supplies needed to provide the best possible care. It's a behind-the-scenes role that requires precision, accountability, and a deep understanding of what individuals and teams need to thrive.

Earlier this year, Justin's contributions were formally recognized at ARCA's Oscar-themed bi-annual meeting, where he received an ARCA "Oscar" for service excellence. The award honored not just the quality of his work but the heart and humility with which he leads. It was a moment that brought his journey full circle—from that first day in orientation to becoming a leader and mentor himself.

For Justin, ARCA is more than a workplace—it's where he found his purpose, his people, and a place where he belongs. His story is a reminder that at ARCA, we aren't just coworkers. We're part of something bigger. We're part of a family.



Community Connections:



Get ready to celebrate creativity, connection, and community at ARCA's Individuals and Staff Arts & Crafts Sale! Join us on Wednesday, August 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 11200 Lomas Blvd. NE for a day that highlights the incredible talents of the individuals and staff who make ARCA so special.

This one-of-a-kind event offers a unique opportunity to purchase handmade artwork and crafts created by the individuals we proudly serve, alongside pieces made by ARCA's talented staff. Each item is a true expression of creativity, skill, and personal achievement. Best of all, every dollar from your purchase goes directly back to the artists, supporting meaningful income and empowering self-expression.

But there's more than just shopping! Guests can enjoy fun outdoor games, cool down with a snow cone, and visit the Careers with ARCA booth to learn more about how to contribute to our mission. Whether you're looking for the perfect gift, a way to support local artists, or a joyful community experience, this event has something for everyone.

Please plan ahead, because this is a cash-only event. For more details on this and future events, visit www.ARCASOpeningDoors.org/Events.



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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Program Spotlight: Individual Customized Community Supports (CCSI) *Building Meaningful Lives Through Choice and Connection*

At ARCA, the Individual Customized Community Supports (CCSI) program empowers adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to explore new avenues for personal growth, independence, and meaningful participation in their communities. Each individual collaborates closely with a Community Support Worker to create a personalized schedule that aligns with their distinct interests, preferences, and aspirations. Whether it's enrolling in classes, volunteering, making art, or simply exploring new settings, CCSI encourages individuals to live life on their terms.

David's experience with CCSI beautifully illustrates the program's potential. With tailored support, he engages in a variety of activities that bring him joy and satisfaction. His passion for learning leads him to the library, where he delves into topics such as U.S. military history. Additionally, he takes pride in nurturing his flag collection, which reflects his keen interest in history.

David's artistic side is equally remarkable. He enjoys working with clay and other art forms, and he aspires to further his talents in acting and music. Through CCSI, David has written and recorded several podcast episodes, consistently sharing new content. Now, he is excited about the prospect of creating video podcasts, writing speeches, and participating in mock debates—blending his love for performance, writing, and authentic expression.



Building relationships is just as important to David as pursuing his personal interests. He takes great pleasure in exploring the community, meeting new people, and forging lasting friendships. Each outing—whether it's a trip to the planetarium, a visit to the zoo, a workout session, or a night of bowling—provides him with opportunities to connect and contribute.

CCSI is dedicated to fostering this type of personal growth. It supports individuals like David in thriving through the pursuit of their passions while enhancing their community involvement and fostering significant connections. Every outing, conversation, and creative endeavor propels them toward a life filled with choice, inclusion, and purpose.