

# Opening Doors.



## Letter From the CEO

Dear ARCA Family,

The holiday season has a way of bringing us closer to one another, to the values we hold dear, and to the spirit of family that defines who we are. At ARCA, that spirit is at the heart of everything we do. Family isn't only about shared last names or traditions—it's about belonging, connection, and unconditional care. It's the way our staff greet each morning with kindness, the way our community partners show up to support our programs, and the way the individuals we serve remind us every day what true joy looks like.

This time of year, we see that spirit shine even brighter. In our homes and day programs, you'll find laughter, music, and the kind of togetherness that makes the holidays magical. You'll see staff and volunteers helping someone pick out the perfect gift, individuals decorating with pride, and friends gathering around the table—reminders that family can take many forms.

At ARCA, we believe that everyone deserves that sense of belonging. For nearly seven decades, we've been helping people with intellectual, developmental, and cognitive disabilities find not only opportunity but community—a place to grow, to be valued, and to call home. And thanks to your partnership, that work continues every single day.

As you celebrate this season with those you love, I hope your days are filled with warmth, laughter, and gratitude. May you take comfort in knowing that you are part of something bigger—a family that believes in inclusion, compassion, and possibility for all.

From all of us at ARCA, thank you for being part of our story and for sharing in the joy of creating community together. To learn more about how you make a difference, visit us anytime at [ARCAOpeningDoors.org](http://ARCAOpeningDoors.org).

Wishing you peace and happiness throughout the holidays and into the new year.

With gratitude,

**Michelle Harmon**

*ARCA President and CEO*

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Community Connections

## Note from ARCA Foundation's Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

During this season of gratitude, I want to take a moment to celebrate you. Your generosity, compassion, and belief in ARCA's mission are what make everything we do possible. Every home filled with laughter, every individual finding independence, every moment of joy within our programs exists because you care.

At ARCA, we talk often about family—and that's exactly what you are to us. You are part of a community that chooses to give not out of obligation, but out of love. You open doors to opportunity, dignity, and belonging for people with intellectual, developmental, and cognitive disabilities. You remind us that inclusion isn't just an idea; it's an action—something we create together through every gift, every volunteer hour, every kind word shared.

When you support ARCA, you are helping someone find a job they love, move into a home of their own, or celebrate their first paycheck.

You are helping parents know their child is safe, supported, and thriving. You are ensuring that our programs remain strong, that our families feel connected, and that our community continues to grow in compassion and understanding.

This holiday season, as lights twinkle and families gather, please know how deeply you are appreciated. You are part of every smile, every success, and every story of possibility. Your kindness doesn't just change lives—it builds a stronger, more inclusive New Mexico.

From my heart to yours, thank you for standing beside us. Wishing you peace, warmth, and the joy of knowing that your generosity is truly opening doors.

In Giving,

**Jennifer Maldonado Greenwood**

*ARCA Foundation Executive Director*

## At Home with ARCA

Earlier this fall, ARCA held its annual Boo Bash, a festive event full of creativity, laughter, and connection. The celebration brought together individuals we support, along with staff and families, for a fun and inclusive Halloween experience.

From creative costumes and karaoke to dancing, door decorating, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, and trick-or-treating, every activity offered a chance to connect, express creativity, and share in the joy of the season. The laughter and excitement created lasting memories long after the costumes were put away.

The Boo Bash was more than a seasonal celebration; it reflected ARCA's commitment to inclusion and belonging.



## Employment Corner



### Meet Marisa

Marisa discovered her passion for nonprofit work as a dietetic intern at the University of New Mexico. Gaining hands-on experience at local hospitals and organizations, such as Roadrunner Food Bank, inspired her commitment to serving others as ARCA's Registered Dietitian and Nutritionist.

At ARCA, Marisa ensures the individuals we support receive the specialized nutrition they need to stay healthy. She finds joy in sharing time with those she serves, appreciating their sincerity, positivity, and outlook on life. These moments reaffirm her commitment to ARCA's mission.

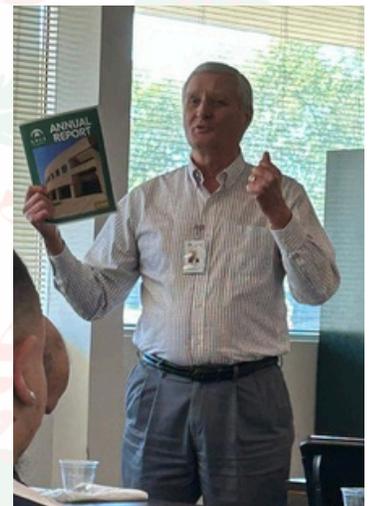
Outside of work, Marisa has completed five half marathons in the past decade and plans to run more in the future. When not training, she enjoys time with her two dogs, Aloe and Vera. Her dedication makes a meaningful difference daily, and we are grateful for her contributions to the ARCA community.

## Building Community, Honoring Impact

At ARCA's 2025 Annual Meeting, we reflected on the state of the organization, celebrated shared accomplishments, and looked to the year ahead. The Annual Meeting also provided an opportunity to honor outgoing board members for their service and to formally welcome new members to the ARCA and ARCA Foundation Boards, marking a smooth transition in leadership and reaffirming our shared commitment to opening doors and strengthening our community.

Among the highlights of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the 2025 ARCA Award of Distinction to Robert Scanlon and Angelica Carranza Scanlon. Over 17 years, they have nurtured a strong sense of belonging and fostered joy and community. Their legacy has opened doors, built lasting friendships, and positively impacted countless lives.

We are honored to recognize Robert and Angelica for their extraordinary contributions and grateful to all who continue to support ARCA's mission. Together, we look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful impact.





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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## Community Connections: Nusenda's Community Day

Recently, Nusenda Credit Union team members spent their Community Day volunteering at ARCA's La Paloma Greenhouse. Their time, energy, and enthusiasm made a meaningful impact, supporting hands-on work that helps our programs continue to grow and thrive.

Through their spirit of service, the Nusenda team helped create a welcoming and productive environment. Their dedication reflects the power of community partnerships and the difference that comes from working together toward a shared purpose.

We are grateful for Nusenda Credit Union's continued support and for choosing to spend their Community Day giving back at ARCA. Opportunities like this strengthen our mission and remind us how much can be accomplished when our community comes together.

