

The Arc Voice

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO EXPERIENCE MORE MEANINGFUL AND SATISFYING LIVES

From the
Executive
Director,

Lauren

Mullis

Recognizing Contributions & Achievements

The time has arrived again for the school year to end, for locating your beach gear and taking those jackets off. Summer is here. Summer is always an exciting time. More and more outdoor grills are firing up and celebrations are to be had. The Arc of Mecklenburg has a celebration of its own to host. Friday, June 18th we will hold our Annual Awards Dinner & Membership Meeting.

This years festivities promise to be fun and exciting! Miss North Carolina, Nadia Moffett will be our guest emcee in addition to Mr. Larry Sprinkle of WCNC—36. We will be serving a great dinner, honoring great individuals who really go above and beyond for individuals with developmental disabilities in our community, inducting new board members and showcasing a parents' story.

Some of the awards that we will be presenting include: Teacher of the Year, Parent of the Year, Advocate of the Year, Self-Advocate of the Year, Distinguished Services, Business Partner of the Year as well as several others.

This years events are being sponsored by many different companies, organizations, families and our Board of Directors. Without their generous support The Arc would not be able to provide the programs and assistance to families that we are currently able to do.

Please take a minute to review who our sponsors are for this event (page 2) and consider using their services if you are need of something that they provide.

The Arc has endured some huge cuts in funding this year from The United Way and we are still struggling to meet the needs of our large community. If you are able to contribute financially to our organization we would like to ask that you please consider doing so. Every year, we serve over 2,000 clients and there are many that we are unable to help due to constraints in our budget. We are actively recruiting corporate sponsors and we continue to seek grant funding, the contributions from our members also help and we are very appreciative of everything that our members have provided to us throughout the years.

We also hope to see you all at our event on June 18th at Park Road Baptist Church. (Event details are listed on page 2 of this newsletter) Please remember that tickets to this years event are \$10 for guests, \$5 for members and \$3 for self-advocates. Happy Summer!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Executive Director	1
Development News	2
Membership & Advocacy Update	3
Disability Awareness News	4
Disability Awareness News	5
Membership Application	6
Aktion Club Update	7
Announcements	8



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2010 Arc Angel Awards Dinner

Save The Date

Friday, June 18, 2010 from 6pm to 8pm

Park Road Baptist Church (3900 Park Road)

We hope you will join us this year for a great program. Emcees Larry Sprinkle of WCNC and Miss North Carolina, Nadia Moffett will be hosting the evening with guest speaker and parent, Jocie Cremisi. This great event helps us as an advocacy agency to recognize the special people who work hard to improve the quality of life and serve children and adults with developmental disabilities here in Mecklenburg County. The minimal cost of tickets will help us to subsidize the costs of the event and help us to raise much needed funds to support the continuation of our programs and services in our community.

We hope to see you there in June!

Tickets

Self-Advocates \$3

Members \$5

General Public \$10



Nadia Moffett - Miss NC



Larry Sprinkle - WCNC

Guest Emcees

Arc Angel Sponsors

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Community Supporter Sponsors

Thomas Judy & Tucker CPA * The Arc Board of Directors * Bayada Nurses

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We are still looking for additional sponsors. If you or your organization is interested in being a sponsor please contact Meika at 704.332.4535 or meika@arcmeck.org for additional sponsorship information.

Membership & Advocacy Update

Membership Drive Event

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Member Event for our Membership Drive at Lebowski's Grill in April. We had a great time socializing with our members and meeting our new members. Tommy Brady won the \$100 gift card for recruiting 10 new members.

Thank You Tommy Brady for 10 New Recruits!!!

Alan Moore	Justin Lane
Ashely Morrow	Laura & John Weeks
Bridget & David Taylor	Lauren & Thomas Brady
Carla Eustache	Lully & David Dupuy
Carolina Office Solutions	Mark McClaskey
Chad Kobos	Mary Armata
Dax Vandevere	Michael Schwartz
Dwayne Montgomery	Michele & Jim Garner
Erskin Phillips	Terri & Stephen Lane
Jamie Bluto	Ross Umberger
Jennifer Schornstadt	Vivienne McGee
Joy Giles	

Thank you to our Event Sponsors

Lebowski's Grill and Verus Delta Marketing



Summer Member Event: Pops In The Park



Sunday, June 6

6pm to 9pm

Symphony Park at South Park



This is the first of our new quarterly member events for us all to enjoy. Please join us for an evening among the stars with some beautiful music from the Charlotte



Symphony. This event is free to attend.

We will have a small area for our members to sit together. Please bring a blanket to sit on and any drinks or snacks. Come out and take advantage of our new Member Events and meet other Arc members. For questions please contact Meika at 704.332.4535 or meika@arcmeck.org.

From The Arc of NC : Action Needed on Managed Care Waivers!

Phone Calls and E-mails Needed

Though we are making progress with legislators, the Senate has passed their budget which includes a provision that expands managed care for people who use mental health/ developmental disabilities/substance abuse services. (MH/DD/SA).

We believe that if the House will remove this provision, we have an excellent chance to avoid the expansion of managed care for people with DD.

It is critical that we continue to target House members to remove developmental disabilities from this managed care experiment.

Please call or e-mail the members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services (HHS) and ask them to remove developmental disabilities from managed care!

To call: 919-733-4111 ask to speak to the Representatives below

To e-mail: click on the underlined names below

Chairman [Rep. Earle](#) , Chairman [Rep. England](#) , Chairman [Rep. Insko](#) , Vice Chairman [Rep. Barnhart](#) , Vice Chairman [Rep. Farmer-Butterfield](#) , Members: [Rep. Brisson](#), [Rep. Burr](#), [Rep. Burris-Floyd](#), [Rep. Dollar](#), [Rep. Neumann](#), [Rep. Stewart](#)

Please use any of the following points in your request:

- Developmental Disability Services are already "managed" through the CAP/DD, ICF, and State Service System
- Managed Care for Long Term Supports has not proven successful in other states
- There was no stakeholder input into process
- Developmental Disability Services have not experienced cost overruns that require a new management system
- Developmental Disability is a support model not a medical model
- Loss of protections for people currently served in ICF programs

There is additional information about managed care on the Arc of NC [website—www.arcnc.org](http://www.arcnc.org)

Home services disappearing as states slash Medicaid

May 20th, 2010

From the [Wall Street Journal](#):

Around the country, shrinking state budgets and rising health-care costs are forcing drastic cuts in home services to people with disabilities. Because federal mandates restrict what states may cut inside Medicaid, states are often cutting basic services that help people with disabilities remain in their own homes.

This is happening even though home services are cheaper and more cost effective than institutional care. Experts say it's politically easier to cut back individual services to people at home than to close a 24-hour facility. But many worry that the cuts could push more people into costly institutions or large group homes because that is where services are guaranteed.

"My biggest fear is having to go to an institution," says Jimmy "Chip" Eubanks of Clinton, S.C., who has cerebral palsy and lives at home.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are particularly at risk for service reduction, experts say, because the per-person cost of their services is about 10 times higher than that of the average Medicaid recipient.

The cuts for the developmentally disabled are almost certain to bite deeper in the future. Part of the federal stimulus money this year was designed to prop up Medicaid. The federal infusion disappears for the fiscal year starting in July 2011.

Some of the biggest cuts are coming in South Carolina, where Medicaid already consumes about 20 percent of the state's budget and is one of its fastest growing costs. In Aiken County alone, more than 5,000 people languish on waiting lists for various services. "We want to give families hope to keep their family unit together, but in reality there is very little we can put in place to assist them," says the head of the county's disabilities board.

Actors share disabilities with their characters

May 20th, 2010

From [National Public Radio](#):

Guest-starring in a recent episode of the Fox sitcom *Glee*, actor Zach Weinstein played a high school student who was paralyzed in an accident. Unlike many actors who play people with disabilities, Weinstein actually has the disability his character displays on TV.

Michael Patrick Thornton, who appears in a wheelchair on the *Grey's Anatomy* spinoff *Private Practice*, also shares a disability with the character he portrays. Thornton had a spinal stroke in 2003.

"Do they consider us equally for parts?" Thornton says, "Obviously no, because disabled actors are so underrepresented on stage and screen."

Film history is full of nondisabled actors who have gotten kudos for playing characters with disabilities. Among them: Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man*, Daniel Day-Lewis in *My Left Foot*, Tom Hanks in *Forrest Gump*, Tom Cruise in *Born on the Fourth of July*, and Jon Voight in *Coming Home*.

Puppy watches over children with autism

(CNN) ~ It was the dog trainer's honesty that won Lisa McMillan over.

When McMillan asked the trainer whether she was able to train a dog to assist with her autistic twin boys, the dog trainer said, "I don't know anything about autism."

The mother did. And Kelli Collins knew how to train dogs. Together, they would train and raise a puppy to be a companion to the then-3-year-olds, Eric and James. Collins would work with the puppy, Caleb, on learning the boys' scent so he could find them when they bolted. He soon would learn to comfort them, almost instinctively, when they needed a friend.

Autism, a developmental disorder, affects one of every 110 children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People with autism often have social, communication and behavioral challenges, but to varying degrees.

Collins is a trainer for the [Georgia K9 National Training Center](#) in Canton, Georgia. Collins, with her partner, Jeff Schettler, started as a trainer for law enforcement and search and rescue dogs. She also teaches obedience to family dogs. She's been training dogs for 15 years.

The pair trained Caleb at the center's indoor and outdoor facilities, the family's home and out in social settings. They fused their search and training techniques for finding missing people with handling a child who can bolt in an instant. They taught Jennifer Fair, who lives with the McMillans, how to give directions and encourage positive behavior with the puppy in the home and on outings.

"You can create physical disability in a training environment, you can't create autism. There's so many varying degrees of autism. Each child is a little different. Even between your own children, they are very different. We can't create that in a sterile training environment," Collins said.

The pair had to learn how autistic children thought and acted. This was their first service dog. They even made a tether for Eric, inscribed with his name and stars, because that personalized the belt and made it his. Soon the training became natural for the trainers, Schettler said.

"The first time we took Caleb out and he was tethered to [Eric], the sense of freedom that child had was amazing. He was happy," Collins said. "And he never tried to really even bolt. One time we were sitting outside at a café and he went to get up and run and Lisa's first instinct was to jump up and I'm like, 'Let the dog do his job,' and the dog stayed. Eric couldn't go. She's like, 'He would've been around the corner and down the street now.'"

The training of puppies ~ environmental, obedience and service ~ starts at 8 weeks old and continues on for the first 1½ years of the puppy's life, Schettler said. The puppies go with the trainers everywhere ~ the grocery store, post office and restaurants. Georgia K9 places the puppies in homes when the puppies are between 10 and 16 weeks old. "We find the bonding and everything that the dog does at this age becomes second nature to them. It's almost hard-wired in."

For families or individuals looking for a service dog for autism, Collins recommends finding a program that gives not only the training, but follow-ups and continuing guidance to help with the life transition of having a service dog. The training of service dogs for autism can cost anywhere between \$15,000 and \$25,000.

As an occupational therapist, Amy Johnson has been working with the brothers on their life skills and challenges. She said Eric and James at first wanted little to do with the puppy but soon grew to embrace him.

"One of the best things is seeing how Caleb helps the boys in terms of safety," Johnson said. "Whether they are tethered to Caleb or tied to him, they can take them out in the community and I think for the boys, Caleb is a sense of security and comfort and it helps keep them grounded, but at the same time it gives Mom and Dad the relief knowing that they are tied to Caleb and can't get away."

Johnson said traditional therapies are still necessary, but one of the most important things is carrying therapy over into the home. That's where the service dog helps, she said.

"I think families want to always try anything they can and try anything that might work when you don't have a cure and you don't have any answers. This way it's getting a pet for your family that's a safe pet and a pet that's there to really help with your child and grow with your child."

Thought You Might Like to Know...

Did you know that The Arc of Mecklenburg County is working in partnership with Presbyterian Hospital to provide monthly support group dinners for parents who have babies in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)? We provide care notebooks, information, premie sized onesies and other baby items to the parents that attend. Funding in part comes from the Mead Johnson Foundation and community donations. Call Francine to get involved: 704-332-4535 x 101

We Are...

- We are a well-established network that connects families and people with developmental disabilities to community resources.
 - We create awareness of developmental disabilities.
- We lobby legislators to ensure all the needs of people with developmental disabilities are met. (i.e. education, housing, services and funding)
- We help people with developmental disabilities access services and the supports they need.
 - We encourage personal empowerment and self-advocacy.
- We educate the community about receiving, embracing, and engaging people with developmental disabilities in all facets of the community.

Membership Application

Renew Your Membership Today!

NOTIFICATION

Your Membership Goes a LONG way to help The Arc of Mecklenburg help those with disabilities and their families! Please become a member today!

It's TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

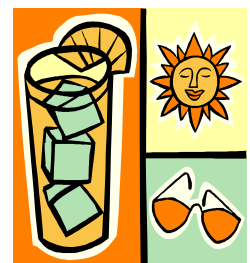


<u>Sign up for:</u>	<u>Price</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Advocate	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Sponsor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Arc Friend	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> President's Club	\$1000

Total: _____

Method of Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	Name _____ Address _____ _____ _____ Phone _____
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Credit Card #	Exp. date
Signature	



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Aktion Club's of Mecklenburg County

A huge thanks goes out to Lauren Mullis, Executive Director of the Arc of Mecklenburg County for demonstrating to the South Mecklenburg Aktion Club members what procedures to use to start a personal banking account. Members were excited about the thought of saving their own money.

Thanks Lauren

A BIG thanks goes out to all Kiwanis organizations that sponsor the Aktion Clubs in Mecklenburg County. The Arc of Mecklenburg cannot thank you enough for your dedication to the Aktion Club every month. Your services are absolutely outstanding and will be extremely beneficial for the Clubs as we move forward towards the future. Thank you for the smiles you bring to each and every meeting and for showing love to the Aktion Clubbers.

LifeSpan Farm Therapeutic Riding Center

Join us for a Webinar on June 2

Jennifer Frey, of LifeSpan Farm TRC will present on therapeutic horseback riding and the many benefits for children and adults with developmental disabilities. You will also learn about the other program services offered by LifeSpan Farm TRC like summer camp, horseback riding lessons, birthday parties and special events for families.

Title: LifeSpan Farm Therapeutic Riding Center

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Time: 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM EDT

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/348269753>



The Aktion Clubs of Charlotte Mecklenburg, Lake Norman, and South Mecklenburg are preparing for their yearly talent show in June. The top five winners from each club will represent their Aktion Club on July 9 at the 2nd Annual Mecklenburg County Talent Show Fundraiser in Mint Hill.

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church will be the site of this exciting event. This fundraiser will help raise money for future projects, events, The Arc of Mecklenburg County, and help send Aktion Clubbers to the 2010 Aktion Club Convention. Raffle drawings, silent auctions, T-Shirt sells, food, fun, and the talent show will all be featured on July 9.

All tickets sales are **\$8** and **\$4** for Aktion Club members which includes:

One Admission

One Barbeque Plate

One Drink and lots of fun

Deserts sold separately!!!!!!!

**Call Steve to purchase tickets
(704) 332-4535 ex.106**

Aktion Club Calendar



- *Char-Meck Aktion Club regular meeting is every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00am at the Nevins Center*
 - *Lake Norman Aktion Club Regular Meeting Every 4th Friday of the month at 7:00 pm at Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce*
 - *South Meck Aktion Club Regular Meeting Every 2nd Friday of the month at 7:00 pm at Central United Methodist Church*
- Call Steve at 704 332-4535 ext. 106 for any questions or upcoming events.*

THE Arc

OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, INC.

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ORGANIZATION

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The Arc of Mecklenburg County is dedicated to working with individuals with cognitive and intellectual impairments. We promote dignity, inclusion and choice for individuals and their families through advocacy, education, and support services.

We are on the Web! Check us out at
www.arcmeck.org



Help us save money!! Each returned newsletter costs us 60¢.
Please keep us updated with your address changes.

Announcements

****STAY UP TO DATE! SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST****

The Arc of Mecklenburg adjusted the frequency in which newsletters will be distributed due to budget and staff cuts. Newsletters will be distributed by season or four times a year. However, you can get up to date information about The Arc of Mecklenburg, our programs and events by visiting our website www.arcmeck.org or joining our cause on Facebook or following us on Twitter. Subscribe to our e-mail distribution list and receive the news as soon as it happens! E-Mail arcmeck@arcmeck.org and type subscribe in the subject line—it's that easy!

A big **THANK YOU** to those who have gave donations to the Noah's Arc program; we greatly appreciate the items for our families in the NICU. **Debbie Kemo** and **her son** who had a fundraiser at his school purchased items with the money raised. Thanks **Lake Norman Aktion Clubbers/families** for also donating great items for Noah's Arc, and a **VERY** big Thank You to **Zio's Italian Restaurant** for donating food to our monthly meetings. For donations or volunteer opportunities contact Francine at 704-332-4535x101

K-Kids last meeting of the season is in June...we will resume when school starts back.. If you are interested in having your child be a part of the K-kids which is an inclusion group of kids that get together and work on social skills, outing events, crafts, and more contact Francine Patton at 704-332-4535 ext.101

Disability Awareness Night at Knights Stadium will be held Friday, June 25th at the Charlotte Knights Game. Personal Strategy Group of Hinrichs Flanagan Financial is providing a FREE Empowerment Seminar on Special Needs Planning at 5 pm before the game. To register for the seminar call Amber Winters at 704-557-9656., to learn more about the seminar and Disability Awareness Night visit www.aspecialneedsplan.com Call The Arc for your tickets!

SAVE THE DATE! *The Arc of NC Annual Convention will be August 20 & 21st in Wilmington, NC!
Be on the lookout for more information.*