

Advancing the value of and respect for individuals with disabilities.

Evansville ARC – Building A Strong Foundation For The Future

Imagine a community where a limited number of services for people with disabilities are available. In 1954, this scenario was not an imagination but a reality that was facing parents in Evansville with children with disabilities. Frustrated with the limited educational options and lack of services, a group of parents met to explore opportunities for their children. That meeting on September 24, 1954, was the beginning of the Evansville

Association for Retarded Children (EARC), known today as Evansville ARC.

Encouraged by the positive results of an experimental playgroup, the

founding parents put their money together and within two months the first development center for children was opened. The center served 17 children, ages three to eight, and operated out of donated space at the East Side Christian Church. By 1960, EARC expanded the services offered and provided programming for individuals, ages 9-16, at the center. To continue offering a variety of programs, organizers contacted and worked with school board officials to open a vocational training class at Howard Roosa, which is believed to be the first of its kind in Indiana. EARC also took on a new role of finding employment for individuals with disabilities at Goodwill Industries.

Although EARC's accomplishments were outstanding over the years, a survey that was conducted by the Junior League of Evansville resulted in a report that stated only 10 percent of those with mental retardation were receiving services. The founding parents still had a long way to go to achieve their dream.

Due to the need to serve more individuals and the need for more rooms to operate the programs, EARC

partnered with Mayor Frank McDonald, Sr. who suggested the use of the former Girl Scouts facility. Civic groups, individuals and businesses were also solicited for support of the new facility, which

was named McDonald Hopeland, and began operating on September 9, 1963, with 34 students, two staff and six volunteers. EARC continued to grow throughout the years, and by 1965, services were provided to nearly 150 children and adults, with many more on waiting lists.

Today, Evansville ARC is an evolving organization serving the needs of individuals aged six weeks to ninety years of age. The agency has grown from serving 14 children in 1954, a budget of under \$2,000, and one staff member, to now serving over 1,000 children and adults, a staff of 190, and a budget exceeding \$10 million. Over the last 50 years, the way in which services have been offered has

improved with legislation, research, experience and education.

To carry on the vision of the founders into the next 50 years, Evansville ARC is firmly committed to increasing awareness and funds for our organization to continue providing quality programs and services that promote full inclusion and improved quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

More NAP Credits Awarded

In July, Evansville ARC again received the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce. Evansville ARC is one of only two organizations in Evansville to receive the award. This grant will allow Evansville ARC to offer \$50,000 worth of state tax credits to donors to raise another \$100,000 for the *Connections For Life Program*.

When you make a donation of \$100 or more to the *Connections for Life Program*, you are eligible to receive a state tax credit worth 50% of the donation, plus the federal deduction on the full donation amount. For example, depending on your tax bracket for the federal deduction, a contribution of \$1,000 could equal tax savings as much as \$890!

Call Sarah Stafford at (812) 428-4500 to see how you can help continue this exciting program AND take advantage of this significant tax savings!

NAP Credits Raise \$100,000 for Connections For Life

Thanks to the generosity of over one hundred donors, \$100,000 was raised for the *Connections For Life Program*. These funds will be used to continue the program, which assists adults with developmental disabilities to become more involved in the community through volunteer and social opportunities. The program is making new community connections every day for the 29 individuals currently enrolled in the program.



Another Success Story Albert Colwell



"He gives 110 percent everyday. His attitude rubs off on everyone. He's always upbeat and chipper," Steve Bartholome, Jr., Plant Manager at Industrial Filter Manufacturers (IFM) says with a smile. "It's hard to put into words how much we enjoy working with Albert. He is friends with all the employees and has had a positive effect on everyone!"

If you ask Albert how much he likes his job at IFM, he'll have just as many positive things to say about his job, as the employees have to say about him. Albert has been working at IFM since last July when his job coach at Community Job Link, a division of Evansville ARC, was contacted by Steve about a job opening they had. Steve, while shopping at the mall, noticed an individual with disabilities working and how well he was doing. He immediately connected to Community Job Link's website and decided to call about an opening they needed to fill.

Albert's job placement at IFM has been a success since the very beginning. In just three weeks, he learned his job duties and was ready to work on his own without a job coach assisting him daily. "The job coach was very helpful. I didn't have to spend as much time as I normally would spend training a new employee. It is a great program for everyone involved. I have told other people about Community Job Link, and I highly recommend other businesses to look into it," said Steve.

Albert's duties at IFM include checking and collecting the daily trash, cleaning the floors with a large scrubbing machine, vacuuming, cleaning various areas, shredding and other jobs that are needed. "He is a hard worker and always stays busy. If he sees something that needs cleaned he just does it without anyone having to ask him to do it," said Steve.

Albert also gets pulled off of his regular duties to help with special projects, which consist of helping the maintenance crew or rearranging the metal shop. Albert also likes working out by the docks, and he takes pride in everything he does. "It's a good place. I like it here. I take care of the stuff out there on the floor," said Albert.

"I can see a difference in Albert from when he started working at IFM. He has a lot more self-esteem and he's outgoing. The change in him has been tremendous since he started working at IFM," said Lyneve Scott, Employment Specialist for Community Job Link.

Many of Albert's successes are due to the relationships that he has formed with the employees at IFM. Carol, who works in the office, often takes Albert shopping, out to eat, out to see movies and is even planning an upcoming camping trip that will include Albert. "Albert's job duties have allowed him to interact with everyone and that has been a big help in everyone getting to know him," said Steve.

Outside of work Albert likes to watch television, cook dinner, watch Nascar races (his favorite drivers are Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and Jeff Gordon), go shopping, and take care of his seven lizards! One of his goals is to move to his own apartment and work at IFM forever!

When asking Albert if there is anything else he wanted others to know, he quickly responded with "The people are nice here. We have the best filters and good customers. The customers go out with a smile and that is what we want!"

**For more information,
call Community Job Link
at 475-2210.**

A Message From The President

Throughout 2004, Evansville ARC will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We are very proud of this milestone – especially when you consider our humble beginnings.

In 1954, fifteen families came together to form an experimental playgroup for their children with mental retardation/developmental disabilities. This playgroup led to a variety of activities and trainings for children and ultimately led to what is today known as Evansville ARC. When this group formed in 1954, there were no services for these children – not even in the public school system. Isn't it amazing what can happen when you combine hard work, determination, and faith (and a group of volunteers!)?

During 2004, we are looking back over the past 50 years to celebrate our successes and to honor our rich history. We are also looking forward and laying the groundwork for the next 50 years.

Just 10 years ago, the majority of Evansville ARC's funding came from the State of Indiana. Today, less than one-half of our revenue comes from the State while the demand for our services continues to grow and a waiting list for services continues to expand. To plan for our future, we must have a more consistent, predictable source of income. To meet this need, ARC Industries is expanding with a new 50,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility. This facility will be utilized to increase ARC Industries' operations, to generate revenues that will support other programs that are experiencing cuts in state funding, and to be a model facility for other employers in the community. The new facility is not a sheltered workshop – individuals with and without disabilities will be working together in a state-of-the-art, ISO-certified facility earning competitive wages.

We are also expanding our Foundation Board and Development Department to focus on grant writing and to increase our donor base. These efforts, too, will play an essential role in our funding in future years.

Another critical component of our strategic plan is the implementation of the Connections for Life program.

Individuals participating in this program develop a plan for how they want to live their life – where they want to live, where they want to work or volunteer, how they want to spend their free time. Connections for Life employees, known as Community Liaisons, then work with each individual one-on-one to assist him or her in making these goals and dreams come true. In just six months, I have seen individuals enjoying life for the first time – individuals who are truly fulfilling lifelong dreams of volunteering, ministering to the sick or homeless, and making friends at local churches. The participants in the Connections for Life program inspire me every day as do the businesses and organizations in Evansville who have opened their doors to our participants.

In 2054, when Evansville ARC is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Agency, I believe the Connections for Life Program will be providing services to 80% of our adult clients. I believe ARC Industries will continue to be a state-of-the-art facility with a blend of individuals with and without disabilities. I believe Community Job Link, our employment services program, will grow and expand to meet the job placement needs for adults with disabilities. I believe our children's programs will continue to be the best in the community. Most of all, I believe all of these things will happen because of the combination of hard work, determination, and faith (and a wonderful group of volunteers, donors, and community supporters!).



Deidra Conner

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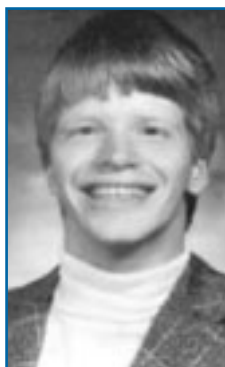
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James Basket

Thank you to everyone who donated to Evansville ARC in memory of James Basket. Jim was a valued employee of ARC Industries, where he worked as a computer data entry clerk for 11 years. Evansville ARC is deeply saddened by the loss of a longtime member of our organization.



Contributors

(Continued)

March 18, 2004 – August 9, 2004

Karin Bagby
 Jane Baskett
In memory of James Baskett
 David & Jody Baum
In memory of Robert Edney
 Alan & Pat Bennett
In memory of Robert Edney
 Michael Blake
 Boonville Telephone Operators
In memory of Robert Edney
 Vicki Bowling
 Cinda Butrum
 Stephanie Clark
 Greg & Margaret Cohill
In memory of Robert Edney
 Pamela Cokley
 Mary Colvin
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In memory of James Baskett
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 Davonna Cowans
 Nick Daniel
 Elaine Daniels
 James Depillo & Karla Wandel
In memory of James Baskett
 Charles & Pauline Derr
In memory of Robert Edney
 Robert & Mary Dills
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 Cristi Dormeier
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 Seby Durgy
 Julie Eades
 Juanita Ellison
 Regina Evans
 The Evansville State Hospital
In memory of James Baskett
 Robert Farney
 Judith Filbert
In memory of Faye Minarik
 Larry Feldhaus
 Nathan Filbert
 Monica Fleeger
 Marcia Forston
 Deborah Fox
 Diane Froehle
 Jeff Garrett
In memory of Curtis Garrett

Mr. and Mrs. Les Garrett and family
In memory of Curtis Garrett
 Melinda George
 Gwen Girten
In memory of James Baskett
 Malcolm & Sherry Gwinn
In memory of James Baskett
 Sandra Hatfield
 Arnold & Eva Heilman
In memory of Patricia Dremstedt
 Davonna Hemingway
 Amanda Sue Herrmann
 Bill & Pat Hester
In memory of Robert Edney
 Harold & Marilyn Hester
In memory of Robert Edney
 Richard Hettenbach
 Verna Huey
In memory of Carlene Huey Utley
 Holly Joseforsky
 Dan Josey
 Carol Karmire
 Sue Keene
 R. Scott Kerley
 Debra Knight
 Steve Knust
 Diana Kulenkamp
 Elizabeth Lacer
 Ladies Aid St. Paul's UCC
 Angela Lind
 Beth Lowry
 David & Jane Lucke
In memory of Robert Edney
 Karen Lukeman
 Magnetic Image, Inc.
In memory of Patricia Dremstedt
 David Market
 Jamie Martin
 Kathy Masterson
 Maria Mazzocco
 Jim & Betty McAlpin
In memory of Robert Edney
 Tena McElroy
 Robert McMahan
 Kathryn McMurray
 Candace Merle
 Melissa Millsap




Thank you, WABX, for donating the proceeds from the super prize machine at this year's Freedom Festival. WABX raised \$1,011.70 for Evansville ARC's programs and services!

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore and family
In memory of Curtis Garrett
 Kenneth Morrison
 Larry Murphy
 Roger Ohning
 Wilma Jean Orton
 Eric & Beth Otto
 Larry & Lisa Paxton
 Sherry Pullman
 Lisa Rebstock
 Michelle Reising
 Scott Riley
 Ronnie Roberts
 Mary Rowe
 June Rudisill
In memory of Robert Edney
 Delores Sanchez
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 Karen Scheessele
 Stan & Debbie Schmuck
 April Sharp
 Carol Sherl
 Kristia Simpson
 Carolyn Stephan
In memory of Robert Edney
 William Stephens
 Charlotte Tanner
 Bonnie Thomas
 Sally Townsend
 Alma Ulrey
In memory of Robert Edney
 U.M.W.A Local Union 1189
In memory of Robert Edney
 United Methodist Temple UMW
 Esther Fellowship

Terry Vote
In memory of Robert Edney
 Carolyn Wargel
 Patti Wazny
 James West
 Ginni Whelan
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom White and family
In memory of Curtis Garrett
 Dick & Deloris Whitney
In memory of Robert Edney
 Erika Williams
 Tina Williams
 Steve Worthington
 Jeremy C. Wynn
 Jacqueline Yokel
In memory of Patricia Dremstedt

Grants Received
 Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana
 GE
 Indiana Department of Commerce
 Indiana Department of Transportation
 Welborn Foundation, Inc.

50th Anniversary
 Koch Foundation, Inc.
 South Central Communications Corporation
 Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc.




Update

A Quarterly Publication For Friends Of Evansville ARC

The mission of Evansville ARC is to advance the value of and respect for individuals with disabilities by providing opportunities for development and independence in the community.

For information on our programs and services:
 Evansville ARC • 615 W. Virginia Street • P. O. Box 4089 • Evansville, IN 47724
 (812) 428-4500 • www.evansvillearc.org

Deidra R. Conner, President



Evansville ARC Development Team
 Theo Boots, Director • Monica Fleeger, Development Assistant
 Becky Glines, Promotions Coordinator • Sarah Stafford, Development Coordinator

Grants & Fundraising

Indiana Department of Transportation

Thank you, Indiana Department of Transportation, for awarding Evansville ARC with two mini-vans that are wheelchair accessible. One van will be used for community connections at ARC Industries and the other one for the Connections For Life program. The vans will transport individuals to community activities, such as volunteering, to establish connections with individuals in the community.



Civitan

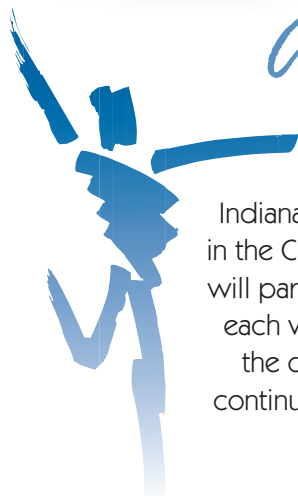


Seby Durgy, an Evansville ARC employee, receives a check for \$2,000 from Shirley Elfreich and Anna Filbert of the Crescent City Civitan Club. The Crescent City Civitan Club donated all of the proceeds from their 2004 Card Party to Evansville ARC. Thank you, Crescent City Civitan Club, for being a longtime supporter of Evansville ARC's mission!

Community Development Action Grant (CDAG)

ARC Industries recently received a \$30,000 Community Development Action Grant (CDAG) from the Indiana Department of Commerce. The purpose of the CDAG is to expand program development for organizations whose missions include economic development. The grant funds will be used to research and secure contracts for ARC Industries' new 50,000 sq. ft. expansion facility, located on Kotter Avenue.

Arts Council



Thanks to a \$3,100 grant from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, every child, ages 3 to 6, enrolled in the Child Life Center preschool program will participate in a 30-minute dance class each week. The dance classes are free to the children thanks to the Arts Council's continued support. Your ongoing support is to be commended!



United Way



"Ricky Racer" shines on the riverfront in downtown Evansville!

Thanks to the support of Rudd Equipment Company, Evansville ARC was able to sponsor and design a United Way Art-O-Mobile this year. Evansville ARC clients with the help of two USI Art students participated in this exciting project. They painted a fiberglass car that is on display downtown on the riverfront through the first week in October. The name of our car is "Ricky Racer," with a big gold number 50 on each door panel to reflect Evansville ARC's 50th Anniversary. The theme is "Driving Towards Our Future Together," which symbolizes Evansville ARC's mission of full inclusion for individuals with disabilities in our community.

If you are interested in purchasing Evansville ARC's Art-O-Mobile, the United Way will be selling the cars during a public auction in October to raise more money for local programs and services.



ARC's Child Life Center

QUESTIONS?

...Qualified Coordinators Are Available
At No Cost To Assist You!

Child Life Center

- Parenting Questions/Consultations
 - Challenging behaviors
 - Early childhood development
- Specialized Training and Workshops
- Trainings on the Best Practices in Early Childhood Education

Visit the Special Education and Early Childhood Resource Center
Located at Central Library in the READ Center
Materials available that cover over 27 different Early Childhood and 31 Special Education topics
Call Today at 812.428.5433

All of these services are provided to you free through a grant from the Welborn Foundation, Inc.




Welborn Foundation, Inc.

Quality Childcare For All Children

Contributors

March 18, 2004 – August 9, 2004

Partners for Independence (Gifts \$1,000 & up)

Ron & Margaret Angermeier
Tom & Dixie Ashby
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
John & Julie Cadick
Jack & Betty Charlier
Deidra Conner
Andy & Jackie Cosgrove
Crescent City Civitan Club
Andy & Judy Davidson
James R. & Adelaide H.
Duncan Foundation
Derek Faughn
Sharon Kensell
Dan & Diane Krupp
Michael Lampert
Michael Mann
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Jim & Peggy Muth
Joy Pedigo
David Perigo
Estate of Herbert P. Sabel
Michael & Colleen Schulz
Randy & Ann Schulz
Donald & Olivia Tenbarge
WABX

Contributors of Self-Sufficiency (Gifts of \$500-\$999)

Mark Aiton
Angela Baker
Theo Boots
Bix Branson
Brake Supply
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West Evansville Civitan Club

Supporters of Self-Determination (Gifts of \$100-\$499)

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Ed & Barbara Ancona
Leroy & Harriet Anderson
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Lori Arman
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Lewana Doyle
Judy Early
Elizabeth Eisenhut
Craig & Kathy Etensohn
Sheryl Ezell
Vicki Fellwock
Robert Fleeger

Thomas Forsberg
Kelli Freeman
Richard & Darlene French
In memory of James Baskett
Robert & Sharrie Frey
Peggy Gerth
Michael Gilkey
Rebecca Glines
Cliff Gossman
Jonathan Green
Cynthia Griffith
Dan & Ellen Grimm, Jr.
Vicki Grimmer
Colleen Hammond
Krista Housman
Joseph Hriso
Cynthia Hupfer
Jintown, Inc.

In memory of Arlin Hunt

Connie John
John Bradley Johnston
Anita Jones
Edward Jones
Herman Jorgensen
Patrick Keepes
Amy Keith
Judy Kissel
John F.W. & Wanda L. Koch
Doug Lancaster
Lafitte Exploration, Inc.
Scott Leatherland
Debra Lutz
Shirley Mangold
Gerald McDowell
Mark Michaloski
Douglas & Audrey Mikolasek
Sara Miller
Rosemary Montgomery
Dan & Dorothy Pauli
Rodney & Ann Penfield

Randy Perkins
Paula Pugh
Owen & Joan Riddle
Anthony Robb
Vernon Roberson
Janet Robertson
St. John's United Church
of Christ
Lana Schenk
Donna Schmidt
Denise Schrader
Mary Schweizer
Elizabeth Scott
Lesa Scott
David L. & Patricia Smith
Kathy Smith
Mary Smith
James Spruell
Sarah Stafford
Marvin & Beverly Sunderman
Tim Swickard
Grace Swope
Mary Toerne
Tricia Vaupel
Kim Vore
Danny Weddle
Alma Jean White
Cherissa Williams
Jim Wilsbacher
Amanda Wilsey
Byron & Joanne Wright
Terry Yunker

Sponsors of Self-Reliance (Gifts of \$1-\$99)

Phillip Adams
Darrel Adler
Susan Ahmad
Janet Anderson
Donna Attebury



Thank you, St. John's United Church of Christ in downtown Evansville, for donating money raised at your "Christmas In July" event held on Sunday, July 18th. Over \$400 has been donated to Evansville ARC. Thank you, St. John's United Church of Christ, for your support of Evansville ARC!

The Really Big Show will be back in 2005!



Evansville ARC is excited to announce that The Really Big Show is scheduled for Saturday, February 19, 2005, at 7:00 PM at the Centre. With \$75,000 raised in the 2004 show, Evansville ARC is excited to host this event again and hopes to raise even more revenue for our programs and services.

We are currently looking for new acts! If you know of a talented individual or group, please call Theo Boots at 812-428-4500. Tickets for The Really Big Show will go on sale in a few months, so mark your calendars now to attend this exciting event in 2005.

4th Annual Bayleigh Pauckner Memorial Golf Scramble
September 27, 2004
Henderson Country Club

To become a sponsor or play in this year's scramble, please call Greg at 812-422-6953
We hope to see you there!

EVANSVILLE ARC
812-428-4500
www.evansvillearc.org

Proceeds go towards the Bayleigh Pauckner Endowment Fund to benefit the Evansville ARC Child Life Center.

It's Almost That Time Of Year Again.... Fall Festival Time!!

Thanks to the continued support of Buehler's Buy Low, candy has been donated to Evansville ARC for our annual candy sales at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 4-9, 2004. **We will not have our booth this year but we will have a table to sell one pound bags of candy for \$3.00 each.**



We need volunteers to help sell the candy at our table during the Fall Festival week and businesses/individuals to volunteer to sell the candy in their office or at the front desk.

If you would like to sell candy at your office or work a shift or two at our table at the Fall Festival, please contact Becky Glines at 812-428-4500.

Evansville ARC 50th Anniversary Events Scheduled

Evansville ARC is excited to celebrate 50 years of service to individuals with disabilities. During this celebration, we will host a variety of events for those who have supported Evansville ARC over the last 50 years.

In September 2004, we will celebrate "Evansville ARC Day" with a proclamation by Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel proclaiming September 9, 2004 "Evansville ARC Day" for the city of Evansville. Our events continue on September 9th with a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held at ARC Industries (2515 Kottler Avenue) at 10:00 am to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new 50,000 sq. ft. expansion project. Later that evening, we will host a 50th Anniversary and Grand Opening Celebration at the new ARC Industries facility.



The evening will include an opportunity for guests to tour the facility, purchase the *Connecting Lives For 50 Years* Evansville ARC history book signed by author Margaret Boardman, and listen to guest speaker Steve Eidelman, Executive Director of The Arc of the United States.

On September 17, 2004, Evansville ARC will be hosting an Anniversary Dance for all the individuals we serve. The dance will take place from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the National Guard Armory. Donations are still needed. **If you have or know of someone who has formal dresses (size 14 and above), men's white dress shirts (any size) and gently used men's ties, please contact Beth Lowry at 812-428-4500.**