



Update

Advancing the value of and respect for individuals with disabilities.

NAP Credits Available For 2004

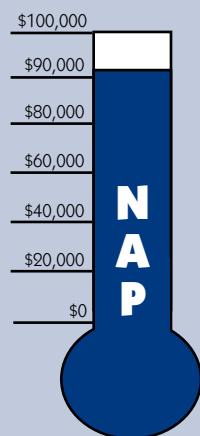
\$8,400 Still Needed To Reach Our Goal By May 15

Thanks to the support of the Evansville community, to date \$91,600 has been raised. While we are excited that we have almost reached our goal, we still have \$8,400 to raise by May 15, 2004.

These funds are designated for the Connections For Life Program that will provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to become more involved in their community. Rather than participating in facility-based programs, the Connections For Life participants will benefit from receiving services in

community-based settings where they can work, volunteer and make new friends.

Indiana residents who donate \$100 or more will receive a state tax credit equal to 50% of their donation, plus the federal tax deduction on the total amount. For



example, a \$1,000 donation could generate \$890 in tax savings, depending on the donor's tax bracket. Call Sarah Stafford today at 428-4500 to find out how you can help individuals with disabilities become more integrated into their community and enjoy a significant tax savings! Also, turn to page 3 in this newsletter for more detailed information on the Connections For Life program.

Evansville ARC Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Founded by a group of 15 families in 1954, the original group of parents would hardly recognize Evansville ARC today as the same organization they struggled to begin fifty years ago. Evansville ARC has become an evolving not-for-profit organization providing services to children and adults with disabilities in a variety of programs and locations in Vanderburgh County for 50 years. Evansville ARC has become a leader in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. Through a variety of services and programs, a staff of more than 200 works with over 1,000 children and adults from age six weeks through ninety years.

With all of the growth and accomplishments that have been made throughout the years, Evansville ARC is excited to announce our 50th Anniversary and we encourage everyone to participate in our celebration. The official anniversary celebration announcement was made at the Really Big Show in February and kickoff celebration events began in March during Disabilities Awareness Month. Events that have already taken place include a press conference announcing the winners of the "Attitude" essay contest for school aged

children in grades 3-8 that was sponsored by The Evansville Courier & Press and Wal-Mart, and employee appreciation days for employees at our various locations. There are several more exciting events scheduled throughout the anniversary celebration. Please take a moment to look at the events we have coming up and if you have any questions about Evansville ARC's 50th Anniversary Celebration please call our offices at 812-428-4500 or log on to www.evansvillearc.org. We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Summer 2004

ARC Industries Expansion
Ribbon Cutting

July 24, 2004

Evansville ARC Day at the Otters
7:05 p.m.

September 9, 2004

Mayor Weinzapfel proclaims
today
"Evansville ARC Day"

Evansville ARC's 50th Anniversary
Reception
Executive Inn
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

September 17, 2004

Evansville ARC 50th Anniversary
Dance
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
National Guard Armory



A Message From The President



Deidra Conner

In March, Evansville ARC kicked-off its 50th Anniversary celebration with a variety of activities and events. We are excited about this milestone – a significant achievement for any business – but when you consider Evansville ARC’s humble beginnings, it’s an even more remarkable achievement.

Fifty years ago, a small group of parents 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.

These founding parents were pioneers, really. They weren’t certain where their journey would lead them, where the money would come from to fund the programs and services in the years ahead, or how the community would respond to their children. One thing was certain, however. The founding families had an unwavering vision of quality services for children with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

I recently had the opportunity to meet two people who were involved with Evansville ARC in the early days. During our 50th Anniversary kick-off event, I met Flo Deems, the first director at Evansville ARC. Flo served as the director of the children’s programs and also worked as a teacher and social worker for the agency. During her tenure at Evansville ARC from 1960 through 1970, Flo worked with more than 270 children and

families. I also met Ray Justice – a former President of the Evansville ARC Board of Directors and a long-standing volunteer with Evansville ARC. Ray has been involved with Evansville ARC as a volunteer for almost 40 years and his contributions to the agency are too numerous to count.

We learn a lot from our history. In meeting Flo Deems and Ray Justice, I had a chance to learn about Evansville ARC’s challenges and accomplishments through the years. More importantly, I heard about their dream for the agency and for individuals with disabilities - that we develop a community where individuals with disabilities are accepted as valuable citizens.

We continue to see that dream unfold in the Evansville community through the clients we serve and through our programs - Connections for Life, Community Job Link, Child Life Center, ARC Industries - and also through our partnerships with the Welborn Foundation, 4C of Southern Indiana, Alcoa, West Side Nut Club, GE, Rudd Equipment, and our many generous donors.

Today, when someone asks me where Evansville ARC would like to see itself in 50 years, my answer is always the same. We would love to see a world where the ARC is no longer needed – a world where individuals with disabilities are valued for their contributions as citizens within their community. A world where individuals with disabilities have friends and coworkers who embrace them as parishioners, valued employees, good neighbors, committed community volunteers, and friends. This is our dream.

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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



Evansville ARC is deeply saddened by the loss of a longtime friend of our organization, **Arlin Hunt**. Arlin served on the Evansville ARC Governing and Foundation Board from 1990 to 2003 and will forever be remembered by his dedication to our mission and the individuals we serve.

Contributors

(Continued)

July 19, 2003 – March 17, 2004

Open Circle Fellowship
Fred & Donna Parsons

In memory of Lucille Aman
Don & Rosie Pritchett and family

In memory of Curtis Garrett
Dr. and Mrs. John Pulcini

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In memory of Mary Crouch
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In memory of Curtis Garrett
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In memory of Virginia Burch

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Dr. Mary Eleanor Nicholson
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Dolores Sanchez

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Specialty Tooling, Inc.

Gene & Sue Van Stone
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Kathy Yearwood

Grants Received

Arts Council of Southwestern
Indiana

City of Evansville Endowment
Fund

Community Development Block
Grant

Family and Social Services
Administration

Indiana Department of
Transportation

James & Adelaide Duncan
Foundation

Welborn Foundation, Inc.

3rd Annual Bayleigh Pauckner Memorial Golf Scramble

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Meet The Cast & Crew Reception:

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HEALTHSOUTH Tri-State
Rehabilitation Hospital

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In memory of Meg Dettwiler
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Lloyd Winnecke

50th Anniversary Essay Contest

Evansville Courier & Press
Wal-Mart



Thank you to everyone who has donated to Evansville ARC in memory of Curtis Garrett. Curtis began services with Evansville ARC at the East Side Christian Church location when he was a small child. Curtis was involved with Evansville ARC for approximately 43 years and 16 of those years he worked in our sheltered workshop on Virginia and Baker Streets and the Kotter Avenue location.

Contributors

July 19, 2003 – March 17, 2004

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

4C of Southern Indiana, Inc.
Alcoa Foundation
Genevieve Bootz
Bix & Claudette Branson
Jack & Betty Charlier
Deidra Conner
David & Rose DeWitt
Butch & Linda Feulner
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M.E. Albon Foundation, Inc.
Rudd Equipment Company
West Side Nut Club
Whirlpool Foundation
John & Marian Witting
T. Scott & Holly Wittman

We are excited to announce that the Evansville ARC Child Life Center received \$2,805 to continue the dance program from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, which has funded the dance program since 2001. All children ages 3-5 attending the Child Life Center participate in the dance program free of charge.

Funded By:



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

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James & Kim Casey
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Lennie McDaniel
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Miller
In memory of Catherine M. Weigand
Bill & Dorothy Niemeier
In memory of Lucille Aman
Kevin & Julie O'Keefe

ARC Industries Expansion Project is Underway!

On October 22, 2003, ARC Industries held a groundbreaking ceremony and announced plans for the new 55,000 square foot facility. The 1.8 million dollar project is being constructed as a part of Evansville ARC's strategic plan to provide revenue for its programs and services that continually receive cuts from State and Federal funding. The exciting new facility, which is not a sheltered workshop, will also be an industry model, illustrating that individuals both with and without disabilities can work together in a productive work environment.

The growth of ARC Industries is evident when you pass by the new building which is being constructed next to the existing facility on Kotter Ave. The design was completed by Dave Stallings with Landmark Design and Empire Contractors, Inc., was awarded the building expansion contract. Throughout the months, Jake Martin, the Project Manager and Ralph Kissinger, the Project Superintendent have done an outstanding job keeping the project on budget and on time despite losing 15 days due to weather. The general contractor and their sub contractors are very professional, as well, and the quality of their work has also been outstanding. When the expansion project is complete, the new building will include:

- 8,000 Sq. Ft. Two-story office complex
- 47,000 Sq. Ft. Manufacturing/assembly/warehouse facility
- 32,000 Sq. Ft. Parking lot
- 6 Shipping/receiving docks

The new building is expected to be completed by the summer of 2004 and will create at least 50 new jobs. During the first two weeks, the ARC Industries team will move all equipment and materials from the Garvin Park facility into

the new facility. Sherry Pullman, who will be the site supervisor, will manage a team of employees to manufacture and assemble the current mix of business. The ARC Industries sales team has also been working on developing and identifying key business opportunities that ARC Industries can now accommodate because of the expansion. The target is to be at 85 percent plant utilization by the end of the year.



"Make a Difference In The Lives That Follow"

The month of May is LEAVE A LEGACY® month. The LEAVE A LEGACY® program is a public awareness campaign that educates people about the need to have a will. By making "planned gifts", individuals can continue to help organizations that are making a difference in the community long after the individual passes away. The LEAVE A LEGACY® program encourages individuals to discuss their intentions with financial and estate planners who specialize in this field.



We hope you will consider Evansville ARC in your will or other planned giving vehicles. If you need more information about LEAVE A LEGACY® or how to make a planned gift to Evansville ARC, please call Theo Boots at 428-4500.

Connections For Life

Connecting Individuals With Their Community

Playing basketball at the YMCA, painting ceramics, volunteering at a food bank, and playing games with new friends at The Little Sisters of the Poor are just a few of the connections that have been made in the community for the individuals involved in the new Connections For Life Program. Currently, a staff of six Connections For Life program coordinators assists with 25 individuals in making community connections at local businesses, recreational facilities, charitable organizations and other locations.

The Connections For Life Program is based on the belief that individuals with disabilities have the right to be full-fledged members of their community. All people, with or without developmental disabilities, have the right to be fully included in their diverse communities. Adults with developmental disabilities should have the opportunity to have maximum control over their own lives, engage in meaningful work, enjoy recreation and other leisure activities and practice spiritual life.

The Connections For Life Program will fulfill the need to integrate individuals with developmental disabilities into the mainstream of community life. Through person-centered planning, self-determination, and one-to-one support ratios, this program will provide the supports necessary for individuals with developmental disabilities to become included in all aspects of community life (i.e., work, home, recreation, and social). Services will be provided within the community, rather than a segregated facility.

Each program participant will design the life he/she wants to live; they will no longer be limited to a few choices such as adult day habilitation or a sheltered workshop. For example, if a participant wants to work with animals, his/her program coordinator will assist in finding a job or volunteer placement at an animal shelter or pet store. The coordinators also support the person as he/she learns the job duties and through other community and social activities.



You can get involved by helping our individuals make community connections in your workplace or a place where you currently volunteer. Our Connections For Life Program Coordinators are actively seeking new community connection sites every day and people who can help them fulfill an individual's dream.

If you know of a way that you can help an individual accomplish a connection in our community, please contact one of our program coordinators today at 812-402-9185.

Grants & Fundraising

Alcoa Foundation



Thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation, Evansville ARC will be able to provide new marketing materials for the job coaches in the Community Job Link program. The materials will be used as tools to obtain new business partners and find individuals with disabilities employment in our community. Thank you, Alcoa, for your support of Evansville ARC's programs!

GE Advanced Materials

Thank you, GE Advanced Materials, for presenting the Evansville ARC Child Life Center with a check for \$6,250. The funding will be used for educational materials and supplies for the Child Life Center.

Rudd Equipment Company

Thank you, Rudd Equipment Company, for your generous grant of \$16,000 to Evansville ARC's Adult Habilitation and Children's Programs. The funding will be used to provide recreational and leisure activities for the children and adults served at Evansville ARC. Many of the planned activities will take place in the community so the individuals can enjoy their favorite recreational activity while increasing their community integration.



Whirlpool Corporation

The Whirlpool Corporation gave a \$4,000 grant to help fund the renovation of the Child Life Center outdoor playground. Everyone at Evansville ARC truly appreciates Whirlpool Corporation's support of our precious kids!

Inland Paperboard and Packaging

Thank you, Inland Paperboard and Packaging, for your grant of \$2,000, which will help fund the Child Life Center outdoor playground renovation. Your ongoing support of Evansville ARC programs is to be commended!

Grants & Fundraising

Welborn Foundation

Debbie Gilham, Director of the Evansville ARC Child Life Center, accepts a grant of \$106,820 at the Welborn Foundation's award dinner. This is the third consecutive year that Evansville ARC has received a grant from the Welborn Foundation for the Best Practices in Early Education for Children Project.



West Side Nut Club

Thanks to a \$2,500 grant from the West Side Nut Club, the Evansville ARC Child Life Center will now be able to purchase new instructional materials for the classrooms. Thank you for your support of our programs and services at Evansville ARC!

The Really Big Show's Another Really Big Success for Evansville ARC

We're excited to announce that the 2004 Really Big Show raised \$75,000 for the programs and services for Evansville ARC! This is an \$18,000 increase from last year's show profits. Thanks to many community sponsors, a talented cast and crew, and several volunteers, the Really Big Show was a really big success for Evansville ARC.

After the event, we gave the audience members a chance to vote for their favorite acts. The results for the 2004 Really Big Show were:

- 1st Place – Lori Arman and Teresa Calhoun
- 2nd Place – Nikki, Molly and Joette Hodgen
- 3rd Place - The Sweet Adelines

Exceptional thanks goes out to everyone at Evansville ARC who gave us countless hours of their time, the wonderful co-chairs of the event:

Lucy Himstedt, Ted Ziemer and Todd Lucy, the courageous men and women in our community

who shined on stage with their talent, the outstanding and hardworking crew, and to all the dedicated

sponsors who helped us make this event a success!

This year's show was even more special with the performance from Lori Arman, Administrative Assistant for the Adult Habilitation program at Evansville ARC, and Teresa Calhoun, an employee at ARC Industries.

Thank you both for sharing your beautiful voices and for helping us focus on our mission and really express how much our programs and services make a difference in so many lives. Your performance inspires us all to pursue our hopes and dreams.



We need your help! We are looking for talented individuals in our community who would be a great addition to next year's show! If you know of someone who is interested in participating in the 2005 Really Big Show, call Theo at 812-428-4500 ext. 309.





Another Success Story

Jennifer Ford

"I really like my job. I feel very happy here and I like taking care of patients." If you knew Jennifer Ford like the rest of her co-workers, you would say that you too could feel how happy she is at work. "People are happier because she's here and she takes a lot of the duties off of the nurses hands. She is well liked by the patients, she's a hard worker and very friendly," said Jennifer Roach, the Staff Development Coordinator at Columbia Healthcare.

Jennifer has been employed as a Hospitality Aide at Columbia Healthcare since February 2004 after losing her job at Regina Healthcare when they closed in November 2003. In the interim of leaving Regina and finding a new job, Jennifer was very bored and unhappy because she was not doing what she loves to do; work. "Jennifer worked for Regina Healthcare for 10 years and had gotten into the routine of getting up for work everyday. When she was out of work for those two

months it was a hard period for her," said Bonnie Brothers, Jennifer's mother.

Throughout Jennifer's working history she has received services from Evansville ARC's Community Job Link program to assist her in finding employment opportunities in the community. Jennifer has worked at various companies in Evansville such as Venture Department Store, Captain D's, Regina Healthcare and now Columbia Healthcare. "Community Job Link was very instrumental in Jennifer finding this job at Columbia Healthcare. Lindsay, Jennifer's job coach, helped us put together a resume and cover letter. She sent out the information for us and followed up with companies that had job openings until Jennifer got this job at Columbia," said Bonnie.

Jennifer's work duties at Columbia Healthcare include passing out the juices, ice and water trays to the patient rooms, helping pass out the lunches in the dining

room and responding to the call buttons that patients set off in their room. "When a call button goes off in a room, I tell the nurses what is needed and sometimes I get to help the patient if they just need a drink or something," said Jennifer.

Some parents might have fears about their child working in the community and Bonnie Brothers knows what it is like to worry about her daughter. "Community Job Link has put a lot of my fears at ease. Knowing that someone from Community Job Link is here to assist her until they feel she is ready to work on her own really makes a difference," said Bonnie.

Besides working, Jennifer loves to watch movies, listen to music, go shopping, hang out with her friends, dance and do lots of other fun things.

"The community needs to know that if you give an individual with disabilities a chance, you will get just as much dedication if not more out of them as any other employee working at that company. Jennifer enjoys her job, she looks forward to going to work and she hates it when she can't go to work," said Bonnie.



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