



2017 Annual Report

6538 South Racine Circle
Centennial CO 80111
(303) 220-9228

www.arc-ad.org  facebook.com/TheArcArapahoeDouglas  [@ArcArapDoug](https://twitter.com/ArcArapDoug)

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization. We are guided by our mission, which states:

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas uses advocacy and education to include all children and adults with disabilities and their families in their community.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas consists of nine individuals.

A board member also represents our chapter on the Board of Directors for The Arc of Colorado. This year the board focused their work on financial management, insurance issues regarding roof repair and replacement, and a lawsuit filed by a prospective owner in the business park.

Board Members

Terri Barnhart - President
Tom Francen - Secretary
Karen Huber - CO Rep
Erin Jones - Treasurer
Kian Phair
Lisa Noar - VP
Catherine O'Brien Crum
Candice Rachel
Pam Valvano

Affiliations

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is affiliated with The Arc of Colorado and The Arc of the United States.

Staff

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas has nine staff members who focus on Children's Advocacy, Adult Advocacy, and Systems Advocacy, Education and Community Outreach, and Communications and Operations. Due to the small number of staff, many volunteers support our mission through: participation on various taskforces and committees, office work,

building and grounds maintenance, and facilitating social activities.

Geographic Area

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas serves people with disabilities and their family members in Arapahoe and Douglas counties, excluding the City of Aurora (which is served by The Arc of Aurora). Best estimates based on incidence ratios (2.3% with an IQ of 70 or under) indicate there are 14,711 children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in Arapahoe County (excluding the City of Aurora) and Douglas counties.

Funding

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas receives funding through a variety of sources including arc Thrift Stores, membership dues, contributions from individuals and businesses, fundraising activities, and grants for specific projects. This year we recognized donations in the following categories:

- **Diamond Partner**
arc Thrift Stores
- **Gold Partner**
McCulloh McTavish Foundation
- **Silver Partner**
Knights of Columbus 10937
John Kearns
Ty Kearns
Liberty Gives Foundation
- **Bronze Partner**
Carolyn & Tara Armstrong (vehicle donation)
Derek Schneider
Catherine O'Brien Crum

Contributing Partners

Aarestad, Dean & Emily
Abe, Aaron & Sandra
Ability Specialists
Accame, Guillermo & Jill
Amazon Smile
Ansell, Brad & Holly
Anderman, Elizabeth
Anonymous in honor of Ryan Fish
Armstrong, Carolyn & Tara
Ashcraft, Logan
Ashcraft, Renee
Austin, William & Stephany
Ayres, Brad & Laura
Baesman, Bill & Nancy
Bailey, Harold & Pamela
Barenberg, Phil
Barnhart, Ben
Barnhart, Ross
Barnhart, Teresa
Bartling, Margaret
Batz, Timothy & Suzanne
Becker, Wayne
Bertram, Joyce
Boodell, Barbara
Bowman, Christine
Buddeke, Conor
Buesch, Alyssa
Carr, Susan
Chalfant, Lola
Clouse, Jack & Carol
Cohen, Eli
Colamatteo, Pauline
Coleman, Bradley in honor of Maddy
Coleman
Colip, Terry & Patricia
Cooney, Shawneen
Cordova, Jeannette
Cottonwood Community
Covington, Douglass & Frances
Dangremond, Hope or Richard
Debaca, Janis
Despres, Patricia
Dobler, Daniel

Duran, Judy
Easter Seals Colorado
Fiedler, Kirsi
Flynn-Tanner, Ryleigh
Forrester, Luke
Francen, Tom
Francis, Dan & Marcia
Franklin, Lisa
French, Allen & Lorraine
Frohne, Gerri
Frumkin, Martin & Jane
Gilbert, Bonnie in memory of Barbara
Gross
Gray, Karen
Greichen, Jack & Theresa
Gumm, Steven & Mary
Guthals, Bruce & Laura
Hageman, Betty
Hanes, Gary
Hansen, Maggie
Harding, Tom & Patricia
Harris, Maya
Hass, Cynthia
Hayes, Ryan
Head, Jamie
Holscher, Dianne
Huber, Franz & Karen
Huber, Nick
Huckaby, Martha
Hunter, Charles & Dawn
Hyun, Mike
Inhulsen, Lisa in memory of Barbara
Gross
Jensen, Wesley
Johnson, Gary
Jones, Erin
Jordan, Stephanie
Kailey, Elizabeth
Kimble, Janet
Kirkemo, Betsey
Klaus, Walter & June
Klotzbach, Renee
Kovacs, Alan
Kruger, Robert & Joyce
Ladd, Janet
Lanton, Steve and Bonnie
Larson, Rodney & Horn, Brenda
Larson, Theodore & Susan

LaScala, Cg
Lasher, Heide
Lawson, Carl
Lazaroff, Deborah
Leaf, Kari
Leichty, Margaret
Lewis, Andrew
Lewis, Johanna
Lowther, Hannah
Lytle, Nancy
Malone, William & Thadene
Martinez, Ralph & Nancy
Maw, Logan
Maw, Penny
McConnell, Jane in memory of Barbara Gross
McGlade, Deanne
McWilliams, Carrie
Meis, Louise & Mary
Melwood Horticultural Training Center
(vehicle donation)
Merck Partnership for Giving
Meredith, Alex
Miller, Enid
Montano, Rose
Mooney, Susan
O'Brien, Patrick in memory of Barbara Gross
Pasterkamp, Dirk & Janet
Pelletier, David and Vicki in memory of Barbara Gross
Peterson, Brianna
Phair, Kian
Phipps, Emily
Phipps, Thomas & Laurie
Posey, Thomas
Preston, Mary
Rachal, Candice
Rangell, Alison
Rivero, Francisco & Christine
Roberts, Sarah
Robinson, Christine
Robinson, William
Roelske, John
Roper, T J
Rosanova, Forrest & Wendy
Roschewski, Donald & Margaret
Sabin, Eddie

Sanderson, Elinor
Scheffel, Lisa
Scheffel, Mary
Scherer, Mark & Carr, Cynthia
Schoonover, John
Shankle, Carla
Sheldon, William
Sietsema, JR
Silvestain, Carol
Smith, Maria
Sontani-Telford, Susanna
(vehicle donation)
Special Olympics
Stahlman, Bruce & Kelly in memory of Mark & Eric Stahlman
Stevens, Cindy
Stevenson, Molly
Suhaka, Andrea
Surfas, Gerri
Sutliff, Christopher & Mary
Telford, Kaia
Thomas, Blake & Anne
Thrive Community Options
Valvano, Pam
Van Bruwaene, Ron & Carrie
Vandenberg, Scott
Vaughan, Barbara
Velazquez, Rafaelina
Wachter, Ray & Diane
Waggett, Samantha
Walkabout Village
Wedgewood, Ralph & Frances
Wilson, Martha
Wuest, Joseph & Liz
Wyckoff, Molly
Yoakum, Mark
Yoakum, Tim & Bev

Two people donated through “Vehicles for Charity” and we received \$946.63 in car donations. We are also happy to report that this year we received a 5% increase in allocations from arc Thrift stores. We are very grateful that our funding has increased, allowing us to better serve our constituents. In 2017, 93% of our revenue came from the arc Thrift stores.

An independent auditor reviews our finances every year. Our audit report for 2017 and 990 will be available for inspection in our offices and on our website.



In 2017 we raised a total of \$1,146,756.02; our expenses were \$872,954.12, which gave us a net income of \$27,3801.90. Our board continued to invest conservatively to build an annuity for the future. Like most everyone, our investments did very well this year.

The board was very busy with two contentious issues throughout the year. One involved a legal dispute within our business park regarding covenants and uses for land that had been purchased for a specific purpose within the park. The other involved a dispute that we had with our insurance coverage regarding hail damage to our roof. The board and executive leadership also continued to

work on succession planning for the organization.



Systems Advocacy

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas works to ensure the rights of individuals with I/DD are protected and recognized through participation in and facilitation of many different activities. There are many opportunities to influence appropriate supports for people with I/DD. Here is a partial list of activities we participated in during 2017:

- **CANDO - Colorado Collaborative for Autism and Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Opportunities**
This group is working to implement the strategic plan from the Colorado Autism Commission.
- **Children's Disability Advisory Committee (Medicaid & Kids)**
This collaborative works to solve systemic problems for children that access Medicaid and other services.

- **Crisis Intervention and Prevention Project**
In collaboration with JFK Partners, The Arc of Colorado, and many other organizations, we monitored the implementation of the pilot project to ensure that Colorado receives accurate information regarding the significant gaps in treatment for people with I/DD and co-occurring mental health conditions.
- **Community Living Advisory Group**
This group finalized their report in 2014 and it can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/1T6V0XC>. Our staff continues to work on the implementation of this important work.
- **Community First Choice Council**
Staff participates on this council to assist in the development of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado.
- **The Family Support Council at Developmental Pathways**
Staff and members attend these meetings to cultivate the development of family support in our community.
- **Disability Policy Collaborative, Washington D.C.**
This conference provides the opportunity to influence federal legislation as well as collaborate and learn from disability organizations nationwide.
- **Colorado Consumer Health Initiative**
We are involved with the public policy group that reviews health care issues for all Coloradoans.
- **Transportation Interagency Councils in Arapahoe & Douglas Counties**
Staff participates in both groups to represent the needs of people with I/DD as they relate to public transportation.
- **IN! Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education**
Our staff serves on this board to support the effort to develop higher education opportunities for people with I/DD in the State of Colorado. This program is now operational in three Colorado Universities.
- **Protect Our Care**
A coalition of organizations working to ensure that federal health care policy protects destitute individuals and people with disabilities.
- **Waiver Re-Design Implementation Council**
Staff serves on this workgroup to develop a single Medicaid waiver for adults with I/DD.
- **Colorado Respite Coalition**
Staff serves on this board to enhance opportunities for respite in Colorado.
- **State Innovation Model**
Staff serves as a consumer representative on the Statewide Advisory Council for this project. This is a grant funded program from the federal government to integrate behavioral and physical healthcare.

In 2017 we invested much time and effort in communicating with our constituents regarding the threats to funding for Medicaid at the federal level. We attended many rallies and contacted our federal representatives and senators about the integral role Medicaid fund community living for people with disabilities. We also participated in efforts to ensure that public education is adequately funded in Colorado.

Our staff is also carefully monitoring the implementation of Conflict Free Case Management and the Home and Community Based Settings rules.

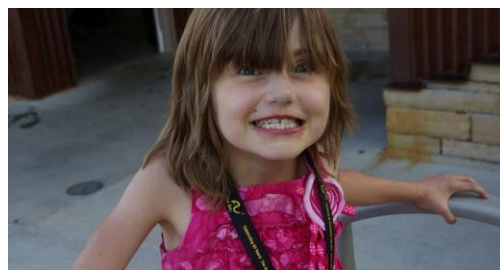


Individual Advocacy

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas continues to aid in accessing services for children and adults with disabilities who may be entitled to one or more of the following: educational services, residential services, vocational services, Social Security benefits, and other local, state and federal benefits.

Our advocates assist families and individuals with disabilities to access these services through education and individual support. Advocates counsel by telephone, email, or in person. They also attend meetings with families or

individuals, review documents for accuracy, and determine services appropriate to accommodate their client's needs.



Children's Advocacy

The need for advocacy for children continues to require a great deal of our time and attention. Advocacy includes reviewing documents, attending school meetings, working with parents and students so that they understand the laws, assisting parents with accessing SSI, Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers and other services that their child may need. Many of these advocacy cases are ongoing and require support from our chapter for several months, even years.

This year we are seeing a repeated trend of families asking for out-of-home placement for their child due to problematic behaviors that make the child a danger to self or others. High quality inclusive education in middle and high school continues to be difficult to find in our area. Although we have seen a lot of improvement over the years, adequate supports for students with challenging behaviors is still an issue that we work on with the six school districts in our catchment area. This year we worked with more students who were in out-of-district placements.

As reported the last few years, the 2008 recession and ensuing budget cuts to education continue to challenge districts in our area. Psychiatrists for children are

very hard to find and if the child only has Medicaid to pay, it is extremely difficult to find providers. For children with complex medical conditions, it is difficult to find consistent nursing staff in the home - especially overnight.

The Colorado Legislature fully funded the Children's Extensive Support Medicaid Waiver again this year. We have been helping families gain a better understanding of this waiver and the supports that their child and family can access. Since the department of Health Care Policy and Financing changed to EQ Health as the prior authorization request agency for this waiver, several children lost eligibility. Accordingly, we assisted families with the appeal of these decisions.

This year we assisted 170 children or adults with developmental disabilities and their families who were new to our organization. Additionally, we assisted 2,914 with individual advocacy. On average, our organization works with 243 people with disabilities and/or their family members per month.

Behavioral services are now available under Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT). As a result, these services are no longer provided under the Children's Medicaid waivers. Staff at The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas have been working diligently to assist families with this transition.

Adult Advocacy

This year, even though resources resources available for all qualified adults

with I/DD to access services under the Supported Living Services waiver, we noted that finding a provider is becoming more difficult. We advocated for more community capacity and worked with the legislature to increase wages for Direct Service providers. Although "person-centered" approaches to planning and service delivery are now required for all long-term care, we still see people with disabilities trying to fit into programs rather than programs creating services to meet individualized needs.

Case Management turnover continues to be very high and a problem for children and adults with developmental disabilities in our communities.

We continued to see slow, but steady improvement in the number of people in our community working at least part-time. High unemployment has consistently been an area of concern for individuals with I/DD in Arapahoe and Douglas counties.



The number of people with disabilities living with aging caregivers continues to increase as the baby-boomers move toward retirement. We are seeing a higher number of adults with I/DD in our community who need more paid support as their parents age.

Activities

- **Annual Meeting** - Each year our board of directors holds a meeting to elect new board members, share this report, make audited financials available, and honor our volunteers.



- **Peaceful Valley** - Twenty-two adults with intellectual disabilities and friends embarked on a mountain trip to Peaceful Valley Ranch and Lodge. They enjoyed 48 hours of fun-filled activities during this weekend. We are grateful to have several volunteers who have been supporting this trip for several years and really know the ropes.
- **Resource Fairs**- To increase public awareness of our organization in the community, we gave presentations at several resource fairs during the year.
- **The Giving Tree**- This year the King Soopers at Yosemite and Bellevue made The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas the beneficiary of their giving tree over the holidays. This is an excellent way to garner the support from the community for our 12 wards and families during the holiday season.

The community was extremely generous and for that we are thankful.

- **Achieve With Us Colorado Film Festival** - This event is sponsored by The Arc of Colorado each March for Developmental Disability Awareness month. Achieve with Us is a film festival of movie shorts featuring and produced by people with I/DD.
- **The Annual Picnic** - Our picnic was held in June this year. We provided delicious food and fun activities for all ages. Participants engaged in conversation and community building. A few staff and board members showed their silly side by getting submerged in a carnival-style dunk tank.



Educational Programs

Building Blocks – We created this workshop to introduce families with young children to systems of care. During the program, families learn about their rights and responsibilities in the education system, Medicaid, and commercial insurance. We also explored recreation and community experiences. We produced this program in partnership with the Douglas County Special Education Committee.

Learning for Living - This educational series was created for teenagers and young adults with I/DD and focuses on learning about relationships. The curriculum explores friendships, boyfriends/girlfriends, and community safety. We believe that this program provides a very important service to our community and look forward to continued growth in this area.

Step Up Into Life After High School- The Step Up series was conducted by our chapter to assist parents and young adults with understanding resources and planning for life after high school. This year, The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties partnered with collaborated with the Sheridan/Littleton/Englewood in the Spring and Douglas County Public Schools in the Fall.

How Do I Get There? - Thirty-three participants attended this hands-on learning experience for self-advocates and families to learn about using public transportation.



Kindling Workshop - This workshop provides participants with everything they need to know about starting their own business with person-centered thinking. Seven self-advocates and four parents attended this workshop.

Sibling Caregiver Workshop - We realize that siblings are often overlooked when the topic of caregiving is addressed. Accordingly, we focused our efforts this year on addressing the unique needs of siblings who also frequently fill the role of caregiver to a brother or sister with I/DD.

Fun Fridays - Self-advocates (ages 15-30) with I/DD were invited to join this social group formed in the name FUN. Participants were encouraged to hang out and enjoy yoga, cooking competitions, open mic nights, dancing, and more! This program provides an excellent opportunity for young adults with I/DD to explore their community in a safely monitored setting.



The Two-Way Street Project - This group of self-advocates gathered once a month to give back to their community and learn leadership skills.



Get Active with The Arc - We recognize that obesity is a problem for many individuals with disabilities and learning about how to stay healthy is important for all. Our goal with this workshop is to turn individuals with disabilities into self-advocates for their health!



Guardianship

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas is guardian for 14 people in our community who have no family or friends who are willing or able to serve in this important role. We have many resources available that provide information to families to learn about guardianship, Power of Attorney, and Conservatorship. Our organization also provides Power of Attorney services for adults with disabilities when their guardian lives out of state.

Information and Resources

Every day, we receive calls in our office from individuals and families looking for resources or information. All of our staff members are very knowledgeable about the existing systems that support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We connect families to supports and services that could be helpful. In 2017, our chapter supported 575 people with information and referral.

Education and Counseling

We also assist families with communication and advocacy strategies that can help them in accessing various systems. Our efforts include but are not limited to extensive telephone and/or email conversations. This year we supported 531 people with education and counseling.

Communication and Networking

Over the past few years, we have taken an earnest approach in revising our communication and networking strategies. We consistently strive to improve methods to earn the trust of our community showing we understand them and aim to meet their needs. Many of the organizations that serve individuals with disabilities and their families are advancing their online presence.

For example, opportunities like the Housing Choice Section 8 Lottery, updates on ABLE accounts in Colorado, and employment opportunities are only available online. Accordingly, we work to keep up with trends by educating families on how to utilize both traditional and online media to stay in the know. Online mediums such as Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact and The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties' Blog have allowed us to share resources and information with individuals we may not otherwise reach.

Grassroots Organizing

We believe that an educated parent is a great resource to our community, and along with our educational workshops, we keep people informed of legislative and public policy initiatives that affect the lives of people with disabilities through our E-Alerts, Facebook and Twitter.

Collaboration

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas works with many other organizations to reduce duplication of services and to increase supports to individuals affected by disabilities. Here is a partial list of the organizations that we collaborate with: Chapters of The Arc throughout CO, JFK Partners, Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association, Parent to Parent of Colorado, Developmental Pathways, Six School Districts, The Colorado Department of Education, Disability Law Colorado, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, and PEAK Parent Center.

Members

The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas currently has 155 active members. There are over 1000 people on our mailing list who receive information from us throughout the year.

Volunteers

Finally, our volunteers are the greatest! Whether working on our Board of Directors, office activities, or wrapping gifts for our wards and families. They are willing to give of their time and selves to make sure our organization runs smoothly. This year we have been able to document over 670 hours of volunteer time by 38 people. We really appreciate our volunteers for their commitment to The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas.

In Memoriam

This year we said farewell to Barbara Gross

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Meredith, Executive Director
December 31, 2017

Achieve with us.