NEW MEMBERS

AS OF 2/20/19 WE HAVE 299 MEMBERS!

JANUARY MEMBERS

FEBRUARY MEMBERS

2019 Membership Goal
2,000

The Arc of Oakland County Staff

Thomas F. Kendziorski, Esq.
Executive Director

Megan L. Arnold
Fiscal Intermediary

Niki R. Becker
Fiscal Intermediary

Megan E. Brosky
Fiscal Intermediary

Tracy M. Browning
Fiscal Intermediary

Patricia A. Busick
Fiscal Intermediary

Kathleen J. Chutorash
Fiscal Intermediary

Bernadette L. Duhoski
The Forever Plan Monitor

Lynn M. Gideon
Office Manager, Comptroller

Monica P. Goerg
Fiscal Intermediary

Monica M. Knoblock
Fiscal Intermediary

Kiesha D. Lawton
Administrative Assistant

Patricia D. Luker
Staff Advocate

Diane M. McDaniel
Fiscal Intermediary

Erin E. McDaniel
Fiscal Intermediary

Allison M. Murowany
Public Relations, Development

2018-2019
Board of Directors

David Loeffler, DVM, Ph.D., President
Tom Quakenbush, 1st VP
Ronald Cheli, Esq., 2nd VP
Suzanne Marquardt, Secretary
Jerry Rubin, Treasurer
Tom Lias, Past President

Delegates-at-large

Tim Hatfield
Linda Knox
Lisa Kowalski
Karen Mellott
Randall Meono
Nadine Milostan
Barbara Scott
John Torrone
Ann Wiedelman

Calendar

March
8 – Silent Auction items due to The Arc office
15 – Reservations Deadline for the 49th Annual Dove Awards Presentation & Silent Auction
22 – 49th Annual Dove Awards Presentation & Silent Auction, 6 P.M., San Marino Club, Troy, MI
26 – The Arc of Oakland County Board of Director’s Meeting, 7 p.m. at The Arc office

April
12 / 13 / 14 – Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive, Royal Oak & Clarkston
21 – Easter

Designer & Editor, PROFILES
Allison M. Murowany
49th Annual Dove Awards Program
Honorary Chairperson and Mistress of Ceremonies
Deena Centofanti

The Arc of Oakland County is pleased to announce that Deena Centofanti, Fox 2 News Anchor and Health Reporter, has accepted our invitation to return as our Honorary Chairperson and Mistress of Ceremonies for the 49th Annual Dove Awards Presentation and Silent Auction! Deena has earned several awards and recognitions for her work in bringing attention to some of the most difficult issues facing metro Detroiter today; obesity, breast cancer, heart disease, and raising children with special needs.

Having a brother who is hearing impaired and who has cerebral palsy has given Deena tremendous personal insight and compassion. This will be her seventh time hosting.

If you would like to receive an invitation or would like additional information, please visit our website at www.thearcoakland.org or call The Arc at 248-816-1900.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of
The Arc of Oakland County
you are cordially invited to attend the 49th Annual
Dove Awards Presentation & Silent Auction

Friday, the 22nd of March, Two Thousand Nineteen
San Marino Club, Troy, MI
Cocktails [cash bar] – 6:00 p.m.
Silent Auction Begins
Dinner – 7:00 p.m.
Awards Presentation Immediately Follows Dinner
$60 per person / $30 per person with a disability

"From The Director's Chair"
By: Tom Kendziorski

Last year I wrote in this column about a movement in residential settings known as “intentional communities.” If you remember, I mentioned my visit to the St. Louis Center located in Chelsea, Michigan. Recently, I have been informed that a group of parents is looking at doing something similar, only in northern Oakland County. Allow me to provide a brief history lesson on the public institutions for those experiencing a developmental disability. If we don’t learn from the negative lessons of the past, we are bound to repeat them. I ask that you decide for yourself.

We had a community-based mental health “system” in the agrarian society of the early 1800's. Each town essentially took care of its own as best it could. Then around 1854 in Massachusetts, a man by the name of Samuel Gridley Howe had a nurturing and positive idea for persons with disabilities. Congregate them where medical and educational services could be delivered more efficiently in a more centralized manner. Teach the residents with intellectual impairment and other disabilities vocational skills and send them back to their home towns and villages as contributing members of society.

The U. S. Civil War intervened and brought all such social progress for persons with disabilities to a halt as our country fought among itself and most of the financial resources were directed towards that effort. Social programming was clearly not a priority, even with so many maimed and injured coming home from that conflict. The post-war public policy favored such things as western expansionism, Manifest Destiny and the like. We fought World Wars and entered the atomic age. During all this time institutions for those with intellectual impairment remained, but not as Howe had envisioned. They flourished as human
Congratulations to the 2019 Dove Award Recipients!

THE ARC OF OAKLAND COUNTY
ADVOCACY HALL OF FAME AWARD
Liz Bauer

JANET and PAUL MacCORMACK
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Marc Craig, President, Community Housing Network

PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Sandy Dorey, Recreation Supervisor,
Oakland County Parks and Recreation

PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD
Jim Marleau, Retired State Senator

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Joyce Gracey, Retired Receptionist, MORC, Inc.

SHELDON DUNN INSPIRATION AWARD
Mohamed Barrie
Brett Wagner

AL CARTER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
John Torrone

LEONARD CERCONE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Laura Williams-Frye,
Special Education Adult Transition Teacher,
Brandon School District

GOLDEN DOVE AWARD
Thomai Gersh, Retired Supervisor of Special Education,
Wing Lake Developmental Center, Bloomfield Hills Schools

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Terminal Supply Company, Troy

PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD
New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

INCLUSION LEADERSHIP AWARD
Jeff Burnside, Teacher and Football Coach, Novi High School,
Novi Community School District

COMMUNITY LIVING AWARD
Patsy Lipscomb, Home Manager,
Rissman Group Home, Ortonville

ROBERT THOMAS SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AWARD
Alex Kimmel, Owner / Trainer, The Self Determinator

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD
Lindsay Watson, Location Hiring Representative, Kroger 759,
White Lake

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD
Dawn Warwick, Home Manager, Tallahassee Group Home,
Rochester Hills

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD
Pamela Pinkley, Para-Professional, Holly High School,
Holly Area Schools

2019 TAX GUIDE
PREPARED FOR PERSONS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND/OR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

This authoritative income tax guide will prove to be invaluable for tax preparers, parents, and others concerned with tax deductions stemming from the care and support of a minor child, an adult, or other persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Issued annually for more than three decades, the 2019 INCOME TAX GUIDE was prepared by Thomas F. Kendzierski, Attorney at Law, and Executive Director of The Arc of Oakland County. The 2019 INCOME TAX GUIDE was written for The Arc Michigan and is copyrighted. The guide will be available online in mid-January.

Visit our website at www.thearcoakland.org and simply click on “Resources” and “Income Tax Guide” along the top of the screen. You may also view this tax guide on The Arc Michigan’s website at www.arcmi.org. Please call The Arc of Oakland County with any questions at 248-816-1900.
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019
Noon – 4pm
Oakland University, Recreation Center

Come enjoy a day full of fun for all families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders. All ages welcome. There is no cost to attend and no registration is needed.

Activities include;
- an information fair with over 20 organizations
- art projects
- face painting
- bouncy inflatables
- swimming from noon – 2 p.m. (bring your own towel)
- sensory room, hosted by Kaufman Children’s Center
- and so much more!

Additional information
Visit oakland.edu/oucares or email oucares@oakland.edu
Programs for Special Needs

JCC Day Camps is dedicated to making certain that children, teens and young adults of all abilities have the opportunity to attend summer camp. Our programs for those with special needs include:

**Kids All Together (KAT)**

Ages 5-14

KAT gives campers the opportunity to feel included and valued, build self-confidence, increase independence and make new friends as they participate in the social, physical and fun activities of JCC Day Camps. Each camper is supported by an inclusion counselor who has been trained to provide support and/or assistance as well as help children develop social connections with peers. Limited spaces available.

**Special Needs Adventure Program (SNAP)**

Ages 10-26

SNAP is divided by age groups and combines camp fun with off-campus field trips in a safe environment where children are encouraged to explore new places and enjoy new experiences.

**Young Adults All Together (YAAT)**

Ages 15-17 and 18-26

Young Adults All Together, with programs divided by age groups, provides campers with the chance to participate in terrific summer activities and explore their community. Participants volunteer at local charitable organizations where, with trained staff serving as job coaches, they can develop "soft skills" like communication, teamwork and leadership.

**Thursday Night Social Group**

Ages 16 and up

This group has been active at the JCC since the 1960’s. The group meets two evenings each month and enjoys activities such as BINGO, Karaoke, movies, holiday themed dinners or dances, etc. This program is supported by Northwest Child Rescue Women, and a small fee is charged (usually around $5) to participants.

Shop on AmazonSmile AND Support The Arc of Oakland County

The Arc of Oakland County is now registered with AmazonSmile!

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer’s selected charitable organization.
warehouses.

A rather unintended experiment occurred during the decade of the 1930's. As the Nazi menace was overtaking and terrorizing all of Europe, the Scandinavian countries decided to "hide" their citizens with disabilities from the approaching enemy. As history teaches, the leadership of that adversary was already known for eliminating those deemed "unfit" for human life. The Swedes emptied all their mental institutions and moved the residents out into the countryside. Into the community! This was ostensibly for protection purposes. But, lo and behold, after the war, the late, renowned human service pioneer and former professor at Syracuse University in New York, Wolf Wolfensberger, and his countrymen discovered that behaviors and development improved significantly in persons with an intellectual impairment once the institutional model was removed. The concept of normalization was born out of that Scandinavian experience.

In this country, it took a fledgling parent's movement in the 1950's (The Arc), a President (Kennedy) of the United States with a sister who had intellectual impairment and who gave national attention to the cause, the civil rights struggles for racial equality, and public revelations of the human tragedies of Willowbrook in New York State, Pennsylvania's Pennhurst Institution, or even our own Plymouth State Home before genuine inclusion and the active public participation of persons with an intellectual impairment became a reality.

The institutional years for each of my three brothers with an intellectual impairment were followed by community-based group homes. Bob and Ray were the first to leave the Oakdale Center in Lapeer in 1975. After a year or so of living “on grounds” in the cottages of the new Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (“MORC”), they moved into a community placement home. The twins made tremendous gains over the intervening years. They each developed good behavior patterns, became toilet-trained, attended special education programs until age 26, worked at sheltered/supported employment jobs, went on trips to Florida, Toronto, Mackinac ... they were busy "experiencing the ordinary.”

Bill had a similar experience, but he moved into a group home directly from Oakdale (after a 15-year stint at the former Ft. Custer State Home near Battle Creek) in 1977. He now lives in Oak Park and works at a New Horizons supported employment site. Bill was a shy, reclusive type during his institutional days. He never learned to use the phone, attend a movie at a theatre, or make a road trip to the Great Smoky Mountains ... he has done all that, and more since living in the community.

In my mind, most of the credit for the community-based services taking hold, for all three of my brothers, must be given to the foresight and vision of the leadership of the MORC. As a sibling and a guardian, I really had to trust that this agency knew what it was doing, because I was too busy growing up, attending school and starting a family of my own. The decision in the early 1970's NOT to build the biggest, newest institution in southeastern Michigan, but rather to utilize the legislated funds for the development of community placement homes is a tribute to the determination of those human service pioneers of that era.

The devaluation of citizens with an intellectual impairment was proven to be totally unnecessary! …………..TFK

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE 2019
by Thomas F. Kendziorski, Esq.

Greetings! Most of you know of me in my role at The Arc. However, I also participate in the annual Tootsie Roll Drive for children and adults with intellectual impairments sponsored by local councils of the Knights of Columbus. I serve as the Grand Knight (president/chairman) of council #5436 located in Waterford, but I still have a close relationship with my former council (#2569) in Royal Oak. Each is in need of volunteers from the membership of The Arc.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! This traditional community service project has financially supported our local chapter of The Arc for several years. Unfortunately, the membership of both councils has significantly dwindled over time, along with the number of workers who are able to work the streets and the designated storefronts during this annual 3-day event. I REQUEST THE HELP OF The Arc of Oakland County MEMBERSHIP TO ASSIST WITH SOLICITING DONATIONS FEATURING THE ALL AMERICAN TOOTSIE ROLL!

We need as many of our members of The Arc as possible to volunteer for at least two-to-four hours of time on the weekend of Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2019.

Please contact me and let me know if you would like to sign up and work a storefront station in the downtown Royal Oak area, or in the Clarkston-northern Waterford area.

So, to sign up to work this year’s Tootsie Roll Drive and help out The Arc, simply fill out the sign-up sheet below and return it to me at The Arc office by April 11, 2019. You may also e-mail me at The Arc office: tfk@thearcoakland.org, or by telephone: 248-816-1900 to sign up for a particular time and place. The “early birds” get the best spots and times!

Name: ______________________________ Phone #: _______________________
Location Preference (please check one): □ Royal Oak □ Clarkston
Time/Date Preference: _____________________________________________________

Please mail back to: The Arc of Oakland County, 1641 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48084-3501
Or, fax this page to: 248-816-1906
How You Can Support The 2019 Dove Awards

Become a Sponsor

Sponsorship opportunities are available and include recognition in all event and media releases, in the program, in our agency newsletter, PROFILES, from the podium that evening, and in our Annual Report.

A donation of $1,000, $750 or $500 to sponsor the Annual Dove Awards Program will help The Arc of Oakland County maintain programs and services at their present level.

Donate an Item to the Silent Auction

Donating a new item to the Silent Auction is another way to help and includes recognition in all event and media releases, in the program, in our agency newsletter, PROFILES, from the podium that evening, and in our Annual Report.

We are holding a Silent Auction of highly visible items that evening in conjunction with the program. Smaller items will be combined to make larger, packaged items that would be of interest to bidders.

Some suggestions are: gift certificates to restaurants, stores, salons and hotels; sports tickets and jerseys; theatre and opera tickets; days/weeks in your vacation condo/home; spa and fitness club packages; golf related items and rounds of golf; and electronics.
Adult Home Help Services Payments Not Taxable Income

By Thomas F. Kendziorski, Esq.

Adult Home Help Services (“AHHS”) payments are provided through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) to persons who deliver unskilled and non-specialized service or personal care activities essential to a person with a disabling condition who cannot perform such things without assistance. The goal of the AHHS program is to maintain the person with the disability in his/her natural home instead of in a costlier alternative residential care arrangement.

These “personal care services” are defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as: assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, maintaining continence, personal hygiene, light housework, laundry, meal preparation, transportation, grocery shopping, using the telephone, medication management, and money management. Most of these personal care services are also found in the listing of “chores” under Michigan’s AHHS rules contained within the DHHS “Adult Services Manual” at §101.

Five years ago, the IRS issued its “Notice 2014-7” addressing the income tax treatment of certain payments to an individual care provider under a state Home and Community-Based Waiver (Medicaid Waiver) program. That notice provided that the IRS will treat “qualified Medicaid Waiver payments” as “difficulty-of-care” payments excludable from gross income under §131 of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, the IRS stated that it will no longer assert the position of its own “Program Manager Technical Advice” memorandum (PMTA 2010-007) where it held that “a biological parent of a disabled child may not exclude payments under §131 because the ordinary meaning of foster care excludes care by a biological parent.”

For purposes of IRS Notice 2014-7, qualified Medicaid Waiver payments are those issued by a state, a political subdivision of a state, or a certified Medicaid provider under a Medicaid Waiver program to an individual care provider for non-medical support services provided under a plan of care to an individual (whether related or unrelated) living in the individual care provider’s home.

Change for 2019! Although AHHS payments are not considered taxable income, the parent (or other) live-in caregiver must account on their federal IRS Form 1040 for the funds from the Michigan W-2 that is received each year from the DHHS for AHHS payments:

- On IRS Form 1040 line 1 (“Wages, salaries, tips, etc.”), enter the W-2 amount;
- On IRS Schedule 1, line 21 (“Other Income”) write on the dotted line: “Notice 2014-7” — then enter the W-2 amount with a minus (“-“) sign in front of it.

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that AHHS payments remain income taxable to third-party caregivers, that is, those who live elsewhere but provide these chore services at the home of the individual with special needs.

For more detail, please refer to my “2019 Income Tax Guide” prepared annually for persons supporting children and/or adults with intellectual impairment and/or related developmental disabilities. This document is available on The Arc of Oakland’s website at: http://thearcoakland.org/informational-resources/income-tax-guide/.  

THANK YOU to Gorman's Home Furnishings & Interior Design for donating $4,200 to The Arc of Oakland County through their annual recliners event! We are grateful for their partnership & generosity.

Please consider shopping at Gorman's for your furniture needs — www.gormans.com.