



The annual Membership Meeting will be held in May 2022.

Welcome to our New Executive Director

AMY STILES

The Arc Knox County welcomed Amy Stiles as the new Executive Director on January 1st, 2021, but she was no stranger to The Arc.

Amy has worked with us for 29 years, first as an Early Intervention Specialist and then the program's director. Born and raised in Maryville, she and her family have deep roots in our community. Attending Maryville College, she gained her bachelor's degree in Child Development and her master's in Special Education at the University of Tennessee. We are incredibly excited to have her on board. Her dedication, hard work, and creative thinking have already propelled The Arc Knox County into a new and progressive direction. We are looking forward to what the future holds.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Arc Knox County is a nonprofit organization committed to providing programs and services for people with intellectual disabilities; safeguarding their rights, protecting their welfare, and helping each individual achieve their highest level of personal growth and Independence.

A Word from the Executive Director

Let me begin by saying just how honored and excited I am to be leading The Arc Knox County, a storied agency with a proud history, into a challenging but bright future full of undiscovered successes and advancements for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One of the most important things I've learned over the years is it takes more than one person to reach new heights. My commitment to you is to not only work hard each day to find new and creative ways to unleash the unique and positive potential of each person served but to do this as a team with other staff, families, agencies, and our partners in the community. With that being said, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and say "thank you" to all our service recipients, staff, families, fellow agencies, employers, and community partners for the hard work and dedication they've shown over the past two years to keep those we love healthy and safe. This has been nothing short of amazing and represents the "team" I want to be a part of in the future.

It's Not Goodbye, It's See You Later

This October, Marguerite Johnson, Sunshine Services Director, retired after more than 36 years at The Arc Knox County. Marguerite began her career with The Arc in 1985 and held several positions, including production coordinator, time study specialist, case manager, and since 2007, Sunshine Services Director. A Knoxville native and graduate of Fulton High School, she is the longest-serving and arguably, one of the most admired employees The Arc has ever known. Marguerite was one of a kind, and her dedication, commitment, and compassion made her a valued friend, ally, coworker, and strong advocate in the Knoxville community. While her kindness, perspective, and fairness will be dearly missed, she won't be far away as she turns her focus to her Maynardville hardware business and real estate ventures. From everyone who has had their lives impacted by knowing her, "Thank You and Best Wishes."

Thank you to our 2021 Donors

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2021 Pawsitively Spooky 5k Fundraiser

Our annual Pawsitively Spooky fundraiser was nothing short of a success. We had 191 participants, including 97 5k runners, 34 fun runners, 34 volunteers, and eight dedicated virtual participants. We sailed past previous proceeds, generating a little over \$18,500. We want to thank the following people and companies for their support of this event.

- Charles Thomas, 5th District Councilman-Honorary Chair
- Pilot Flying J, presenting sponsor
- The Assurance Center, Inc.
- Cumberland Companies
- Denso Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.
- Pet Supplies Plus
- 33 Hardware
- Zane, Scarlett, and Camille
- Continental Pet Cremation
- Fierlis Enterprises, LLC

Kroger Rewards Program

Link your Kroger Rewards card to The Knox Arc County program to donate based on the shopping you do every day, at no extra cost. Visit <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> to get started today!

The Arc Knox County Receives Two New Vans

Donna Saunders, Sunshine Services Director, acquired two new vans from the Knox Regional Transportation Planning Organization back in the spring. The vans include a 14-passenger, which allows easier access for riders, and a 6-passenger, with an access ramp. Thanks to Donna for her efforts and Doug Burton and Dori Conan at TPO for facilitating and awarding the vans.

Feeling Fortunate

In January, all Arc service recipients and staff received the Covid-19 vaccination, compliments of Knox County Health Department and Mac's Pharmacy. We are fortunate to have been one of the first in the area to receive the shots which helped jump-start the process of getting "back to normal." We look forward to their return for booster shots in December.

Program Updates

Supported Employment

In 2021, ten individuals were placed in suitable employment and continue to hold those positions today. Additionally, Supported Employment supports job sites at Weigel's, Scott Recycling, and Holly's Gourmet Café and serves seven individuals with approximately 3,488 hours of job coach supports with these companies. We are also excited to be developing additional partnerships with The University of Tennessee, Young Williams, and Knox Zoo for future employment opportunities.

Sunshine Industries

Approximately 25 individuals are currently working between 3-5 days on the contract side of the production floor. While jobs were sporadic during the first six months of 2021, the past few months have been anything but slow. While our customers have struggled with supply chain logistics due to COVID-19, we've still been able to turn out a tremendous amount of work. Cumberland Companies, one of our most significant job providers, continues to grow exponentially and provide us with a large volume of work. DeRoyal Industries has added two new regular contract jobs with a third in the works. Additional contracts have come from Dakota, Elavon, Twinings Tea, Ever Tite, Graphic Creations, Nobelus, and Denso. On the metal shop side, three mast section orders have been shipped, and orders for bookcases and fuel cradles are good due to the government fiscal year ending in September. In addition, work continues assembling life anode blister packs for Artazn, and we've developed two new jobs, packaging hydraulic cylinders, with Bailey International.



Facility-Based Program

The Facility-Based Program continues to focus on helping individuals lead safe and independent lifestyles. By working on the basics of tablet technology such as Google Hub, participants have learned how to use today's technology with door locks, cameras, and smart lights. They have also formed a safety committee of volunteers who monitor the classroom for Covid-19 protocol compliance and other safety hazards and have worked on CPR basics with excellent results.

Residential

Beta 2 and Beta 3 recently welcomed two new residents and are at full capacity with ten people each. The Independent Living Program currently assists 13 individuals who, for the most part, live on their own but still require some support services like grocery shopping, transportation, and daily living skills training. The residents are back to seeing family and friends more often and are extremely happy to be attending leisure activities again. Both things have lifted everyone's spirits as they work hard to get back to the "old normal."

Leisure Services

We continue to provide programming that promotes independence evolving around cultural arts and diversity, spectator sports, active participation, and programs in the great outdoors. Since the last board meeting, highlights include a tour of the Pinta replica at Volunteer Landing, a Halloween visit to Dead Man's Farm, Main Event bowling for the Special Olympics, Lady Vols basketball, Ice Bears hockey, and a night at the 2021 Southeastern StompFest. Leisure Services is also taking advantage of available funding through the "Community Participation" revenue stream. This effort is supported by the actions of both the CP staff and residential staff, representing good teamwork between programs. Many thanks to both programs.

Early Intervention

It has been a crazy but wonderful year in the world of Early Intervention. After many months of virtual developmental therapy services, our small but mighty staff were able to get back to supporting families at their homes and child care centers in October. Currently, developmental therapy services are provided to 92 families. We are immersed in our third year of training on the FGRBI (Family Guided Routine Based Intervention) coaching service delivery model. This highly effective model focuses on coaching and empowering families to turn everyday moments with their small children into powerful learning opportunities. We are blessed to be able to walk alongside them and support them in this journey. To end the year, we are looking forward to our second annual Drive-thru Christmas party. Our therapists agree that this party makes us feel like little kids on Christmas morning, eagerly waiting to find out which family is in each car as they drive up.



Community Participation Program

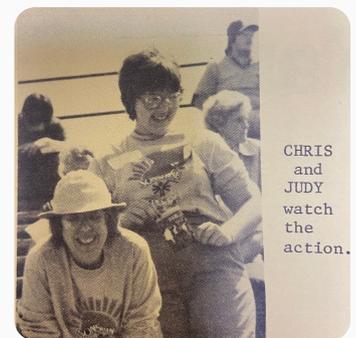
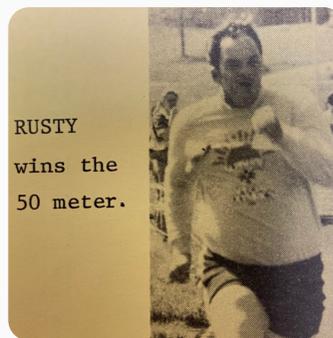
After spending much of the previous year stuck at home, program participants have been eager to re-engage in the Community Participation Program. Activities are varied and generally focus on improving overall health and well-being. Activities have included a SAIL fitness class twice a week with Daniel Alexander at the City of Knoxville's Parks & Recreation, human foosball, board games, art classes, and live music at the Knoxville Visitor's Center or South Knoxville Recreation Center.

Additionally, weekly volunteer opportunities with Second Harvest Food Bank, Mobile Meals, KARM Thrift Stores, Remote Area Medical, and Salvation Army resumed along with a new one, Helping Mamas, a local non-profit that assists mothers and children in need. Another activity involved the complete process of preparing garden beds, planting seeds, and harvesting the produce at Century Harvest Farm and Knox City Garden, an urban garden on the outskirts of downtown. We picked many vegetables, including sweet potatoes, carrots, and peppers. Finally, Mobile Meals is marking 50 years of service and as part of the celebrations, invited Doyal Berkley and Community Program Coordinator Leah Runyan, to participate in a Rustic Roots Creative short film. Needless to say, everyone's looking forward to the holiday season and a new year.



Highlighted Individual

In October, The Arc began highlighting a monthly individual. Steve Hurst has been with The Arc since 1997 and employed by Weigel's for the past three years. Beyond being a dedicated UT fan, he is also an active Volunteer in our community and loves getting "out and about town" with Leisure Services. We are so happy to have him as part of our family.



Flashback to 1984

In 1984, Sunshine Workshop Individuals had an impressive 34 ribbon winners at the Oak Ridge Regional Special Olympics and ten 1st place medalists at the Nashville State Olympics.



Because of you...

A child born with an unexpected disability receives services from a developmental specialist from The Arc Knox County. The specialist begins working with the child and family almost immediately to keep developmental milestones on track...

A young man with an intellectual disability and a mental illness moves into one of our group homes after his mother dies. There he has all of the support he needs to live a secure and productive life, and his housemates and staff become his family...

After graduating from high school with a Special Ed diploma, a young man with an intellectual disability and severe seizure disorder finds sheltered employment at Sunshine Industries, working at the pace he can and earning a paycheck for the work he does while having staff monitor his seizures...

Three individuals with a disability, along with a staff person, volunteer at different non-profits in the community, giving back to others while gaining experiences and skills they may later use at a competitive job...

Groups of friends and co-workers enjoy leisure activities, developing relationships, and forging friendships while enjoying their community...

These are all The Arc Knox County programs, serving individuals with intellectual disabilities in Knox County since 1953.

...we thrive.



Please help us continue to provide all of the services for this often vulnerable group of people by making a donation to our Annual Appeal!

Ways to donate:

www.sunshinekcarc.com

amazon wishlist - www.amzn.to/3I4UTZD

Or by scanning the QR code below:




The Arc
Knox County
3000 North Central Street
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Please, follow the link to sign up for our email list.
<http://eepurl.com/hOQrVH>
Thank you!

THE ARC KNOX COUNTY MEMBERSHIP

If your membership in the Arc has expired or will be expiring soon, you may use this form to renew your membership. Just fill out the form and drop it in the mail with your membership dues.

Thank you!

Enclosed: ___\$10 (regular) ___\$25 (contributing) _____other amount

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Mail to: The Arc Knox County, 3000 N. Central Street, Knoxville, TN 37917

If you have enjoyed reading this issue of The Helping Hand, the official newsletter of The Arc Knox County, please consider becoming a member. Your membership shows your support of The Arc Knox County, our programs, and greatly helps to defray the cost of publishing and mailing The Helping Hand.

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