

MON-ARC

News

Winter, 2017-18

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The holidays are fast approaching and here at **The Mon-Arc of Monroe** we are winding up our year-end office preparations as well as preparing for the New Year.

I have been busy attending meetings at the United Way, the State ARC, and other organizations within our community that support us.

I am pleased to announce that **Mon-Arc** once again received a grant from The Community Foundation of Monroe to help support our consumer dances. Thank you to Sue Pickens and our Recreation Committee for all their hard work each month. *(See Sue's need for more volunteers in this newsletter.)*

At the November dance, the participants made holiday decorations for our Christmas wreath which will be on display at the **Holiday Christmas Tree Festival** at the Monroe Historical Museum. Anyone who made an ornament for the wreath may pick it up at our January dance.

Plans for the annual **Christmas Party and Dance** are underway. It will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 202 W. Front Street in Monroe, on **December 8, 2017, from 7 to 9 p.m.** Come and enjoy the festivities and refreshments. There will be pizza, cookies, and drinks and a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The following evening Wanda and I will attend the Knights of Columbus awards dinner to receive a check for **Mon-Arc**. Each year the Knights have donated a portion of the money raised from their Tootsie Roll sale to support our programs.

I hope you can take some time out and visit the **Christmas Tree Festival** at the Monroe Historical Museum. The annual **Holiday Open House** is on **Saturday, December 9th from 1 to 4 p.m.** Be sure to find our wreath on display while visiting. Monroe County Community College's children's choir "*Prelude*" will perform at 1 p.m., followed by the return of "*The Amazing Clark*" puppetry, stories and magic that amazes all ages. Join in the music and mirth, view the holiday trees and wreaths, participate in the crafts and enjoy light refreshments with your friends and family.

When shopping for Christmas gifts this season, please keep **Mon-Arc of Monroe** in mind. There may be people on your list who might truly appreciate having a donation to **Mon-Arc** made in their name, as a special and unique gift. This is a perfect option for people who "have everything" or whose lives have been impacted in some way for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities for whom our organization fights every day.

Donating to **Mon-Arc** is a great way to show friends, family members, co-workers and clients that you are thinking of them during the holiday season, as well as sending a message that you are mindful of the needs in our community and respectful of their interest. This is a thoughtful opportunity to spread a message of cheer and charitable giving during the Christmas season.

Remember that **the office will be closed from December 22, 2017 and will re-open to the public on January 3, 2018.** Merry Christmas and best wishes to you and your loved ones at Christmastime and all year long.



Regards,

Sondra Thorn

Executive Director

Serving children and adults with developmental challenges since 1962

Affiliated with ARC U.S. ■ ARC Michigan ■ United Way of Monroe County

Here to serve you ...

Staff Members: Sondra Nocella-Thorn, *Executive Director*
Wanda McCann, *Rep Payee*
Jennette Williams, Jim Imhoff, *Office Assistants*

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Closed on Friday

OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:

**The office will be closed from
DECEMBER 22, 2017, through JANUARY 2, 2018
and will re-open to the public on JANUARY 3, 2018.**

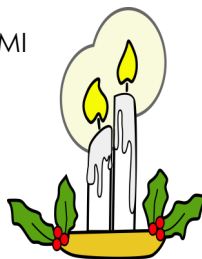
Located at: 6021 Parkside Drive, Monroe, MI

Phone: 734.241.5881

Fax: 734.241.3694

E-mail: arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.monarcofmonroe.org



We Are Back On-Line!

After a great deal of effort and hard work, our website is back on-line. Please note that our new web address is:

monarcofmonroe.org

We sincerely hope that you enjoy our site; please take a few moments to explore the different pages. Keep checking back often as we are still in the process of updating and modernizing the site. It is our goal to keep you informed about local, state and national news. Any input you have would be greatly appreciated.

MON-ARC Board Members

Maureen Dempsey
President

Michael Brown
Vice President

Connie Janus
Secretary

Jeffrey Stoll
Treasurer

Kyrsten Niemiec
Member-at-Large

Roxie Boll
Member-at-Large

Susan Pickens
Member-at-Large

Bonnie Swatek
Member-at-Large

Marge Burnett
Past President

**Board meetings are held
on the 2nd Tuesday
of every month
at 6 p.m. at the
MON-ARC office.**

We Need Your Help! Please Volunteer ...

Volunteers are needed to help at our monthly dances to serve refreshments, interact with the participants, take pictures, assist with crafts, etc.

The time commitment is only 1-2 times per year and each dance is only 2 hours long. Beginning in January, our dances will be held at the Monroe County Community College, in the cafeteria building.

This is a rewarding volunteer opportunity for:

- Students who want to gain experience or need service hours.
- Parents/caregivers who want to support other parents/caregivers.
- Retirees who want to share their life experience and skill.
- Community members and others who want to make a difference.

Thank you in advance for considering this volunteer opportunity. If you would like more information on volunteering, contact Sue Pickens:

By phone: **734.269.2963 or 734.735.2083 (cell)** or by e-mail: **lpickens@chartermi.net**

Our Mission: The **MON-ARC of Monroe, Inc.**, promotes the general welfare of all persons with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, counseling, education and community/program services.

Upcoming Dance Schedule:

- January 19th
- February 18th
- March 9th

Dances will be held at the usual time:
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
(The Mon-Arc of Monroe)
FOR FURTHER UPDATES!

CHANGE OF LOCATION!

Our dances will now be held at
Monroe County Community College.

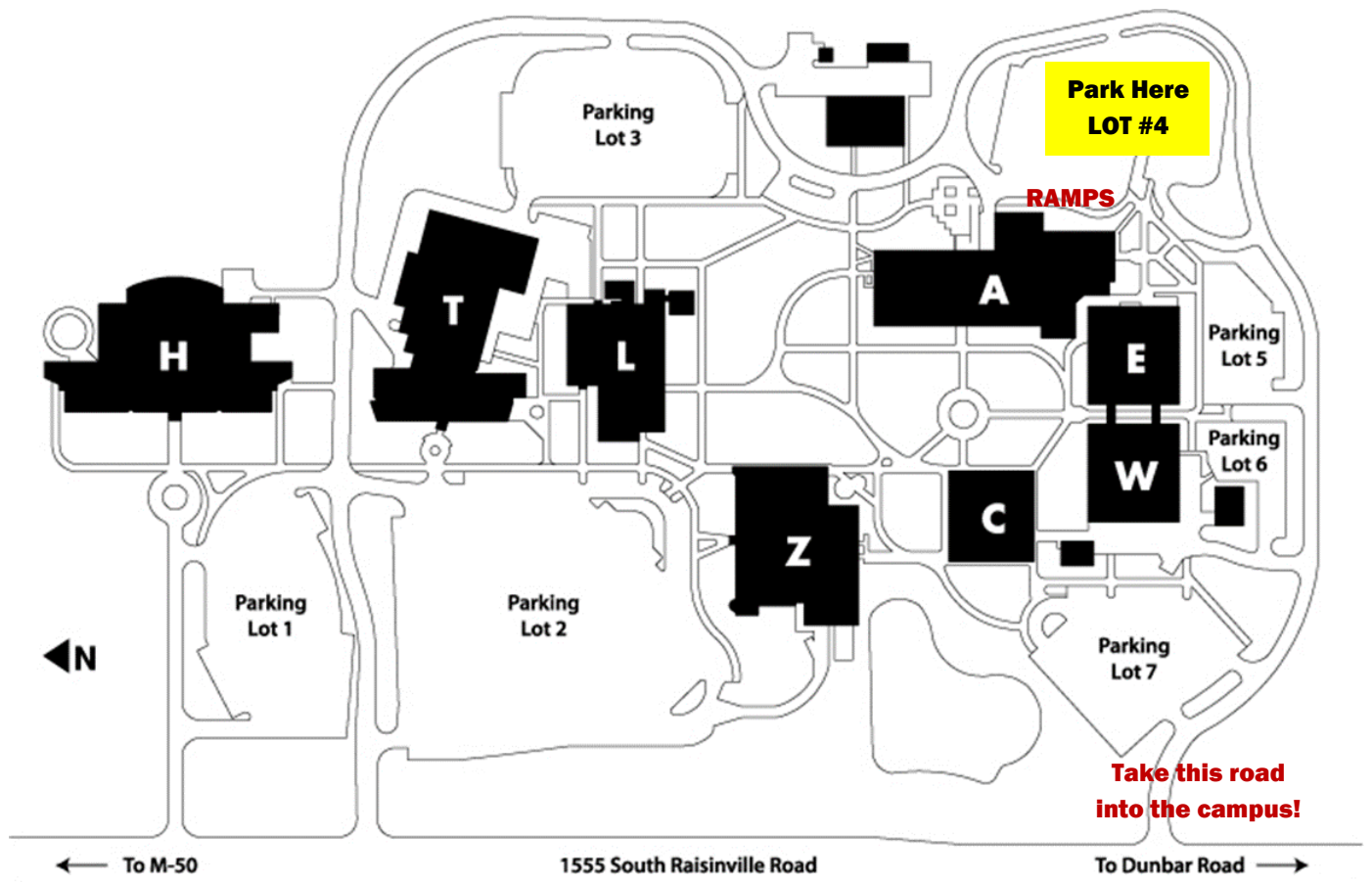
PEOPLE SHOULD ENTER THE COLLEGE
CAMPUS USING THE SOUTH ENTRANCE.

Follow the road around to the back and park
in LOT 4. Address: 1555 S. Rainsville Road.

The dance is in the cafeteria in Building A,
the Audrey M. Warrick Student Services/
Administration Building.

There are 2 ramps to enter the building
at the rear of the building.

The easiest one is the short corner ramp
off Parking Lot 4.



Please Consider A Special Year-End Contribution

Would you be willing to make a special year-end donation of \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford to help us provide services to even more consumers and families from Monroe County?

We simply can't do it without you. Your support will make a real, lasting impact in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are in need.

Please mail your donation to: **The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.**
6021 Parkside Drive
Monroe, MI 48161

You can also donate on our website: monarcofmonroe.org

Thank you for your continued support and friendship!



HELP NEEDED:



Disc Jockey
TO RUN OUR MONTHLY DANCES



Photographer
TO TAKE PHOTOS OF MON-ARC
EVENTS SUCH AS DANCES,
FUNDRAISERS, OPEN HOUSE, ETC.

If you are interested,
please call the office
at 734-241-5881.

You Can Help Mon-Arc In Many Ways

Please consider supporting the **Mon-Arc of Monroe** by shopping on Amazon. **Amazon Smile** will donate .5% of the price of your purchases to **Mon-Arc**. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8521595> to register.

Kroger Community Rewards makes fundraising easy. All you need to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your *Plus Card*! To register, go to:

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
From Everyone At
Monroe-Arc of Monroe**



**DIAL
2-1-1**

If you are unsure about
which agency to call
for a problem or question,
dial 2-1-1
and you will be directed
to the proper agency



Getting to Know ... *Kendra*

Kendra Leibenguth is a lifelong resident of Monroe. She lives with her parents, Sue and Chuck.

Kendra enjoys spending time with her sister and two nephews who live in Monroe. She also has a brother who lives in South Carolina.

A graduate of Mason Consolidated Schools, Kendra also attended the MCISD Transition Center.

She is a very busy young lady, participating in Bunco and activities at St. Mary's Church. Kendra likes crafts and bowling ... she achieved an all-time high score of 154! Kendra has been a Special Olympics athlete in golf, track and field, and basketball. A member of the Kiwanis Aktion Club, she assists in preparing and delivering care bags to local agencies.

Kendra is a seafood lover, counting lobster, shrimp and crab among her favorites.

Over the years she has received gift cards and honors from her places of employment for a job well done.

Kendra has worked at St. Isadore Farms three days a week for the past year and a half. While at the farm she cleans the barns, does crafts, grooms the animals and handles other farm and animal-related tasks. While there, Kendra is also learning sign language, working in the recycling program, and practicing Christmas carols.

She takes the LET bus one day each week to Wellsprings Lutheran Home where she has worked for 14 years in the laundry department. In the past, she also worked at CSDD.

Kendra's favorite animal at St. Isadore is the alpaca. She enjoys everything about both of her jobs. Her supervisors at both work sites state that "Kendra is a good worker."

Kendra is a hard-working young lady who likes to stay busy and enjoys time with her family, including their "Travel Tuesdays". Her parents are very proud of all she has accomplished.

Autism Wandering Bill Advances In Senate

by Michelle Diament | November 17, 2017

Federal legislation aimed at providing tracking devices and resources to those with autism and other developmental disabilities who are at risk of wandering is moving forward.

The U.S. Senate's Committee on the Judiciary voted this week to approve the bill known as **Kevin and Avonte's Law**. Now the measure will go before the full Senate for consideration.

The legislation calls for expanding an existing program designed to help people with Alzheimer's disease who tend to bolt to include children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

"The bill will make resources available to equip first responders with the training necessary to better prevent and respond to these cases. These activities will help save lives and conserve police resources," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, a lead sponsor of the proposal and chair of the judiciary committee.

Versions of the legislation were approved by the Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives last year, but the two bodies were unable to reconcile differences between their bills before the session concluded.

This time around, Grassley said that he and Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., have introduced identical bills.

Under the proposal, the U.S. Department of Justice would receive \$2 million annually to use for grants to local law enforcement and nonprofit agencies. Funding could be used to provide electronic tracking devices to families of those at risk of wandering or for education, training, notification systems and other efforts to prevent or better respond to such situations.

In response to privacy concerns voiced last year by conservatives, the legislation includes language specifying that any tracking devices provided through the program would be "non-invasive and non-permanent" and that "the procedure to install the technology or device does not create an external or internal marker or implant a device, such as a microchip, or other trackable items."

Research indicates that about half of children with autism have a tendency to wander away from safe places and the bill is named for two kids on the spectrum who drowned after eloping.

So far this year, the National Autism Association has documented at least 200 wandering cases and 29 deaths, according to Lori McIlwain, the group's co-founder.

"We're pleased (the bill) passed in committee and hope to see it enacted this year," McIlwain said. "Most members of law enforcement are still unaware of where to search, how to interact with individuals with autism and how to recognize the signs of autism. We feel the police training aspect of the bill alone will have a positive and meaningful impact on our community."

Thank You!



A Very Special Thank You to ...

■ Monroe Exchange Club

for donating \$200 to our social recreation program!

**■ Parran's Greenhouse in Ida
& Bennett's Orchards in Ottawa Lake**

for donating the pumpkins to decorate for the Halloween Dance!



Join our e-mail list and be first to hear about:

- Presentations/events
- Press releases
- Changes or cancellations of events
- Newsletter, if you sign up
- Fundraisers
- Local, state and national current events

Call the office at **734.241.5881** or e-mail us at
arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net to add your name to our e-mail list.



**We appreciate our new
and renewal members!**

NEW MEMBERS:

Nancy Fieck
Matt Imlach
Monroe County I.S.D.
Larry & Elizabeth Nickel

RENEWALS:

Michelle Brahaney
Bill & Cathy Brodie
James Carter
Jolynn Koren
Janice Kraus
Joseph & Sandra Kraus
Susan & Ken Miller
Krysten Niemiec
Pat Schooly
Bonnie Swatek

*Happy
Holidays*





*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.

**6021 Parkside Drive
Monroe, MI 48161**

Affiliated with:

The ARC U.S.

The ARC Michigan

Proud to be a United Way agency.



Community Partner

MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

E-mail: _____

Please check all the apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Developmentally Challenged Person
<input type="checkbox"/> Sibling/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Education/Professional Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> ARC Staff/Board Member	

Membership in the MON-ARC for one year:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Membership	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Person with Developmental Challenges	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution to MON-ARC	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership	\$ 100.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 200.00	My total gift to MON-ARC (Tax Deductible)	\$ _____

Send to **MON-ARC; 6021 Parkside Drive: Monroe, MI 48161.**

For Office Use Only:

Date Rec: _____ Amt. Rec: _____ Ck. # _____ Recorded by: _____ Mem. Comm. _____