

MON-ARC *News*

Autumn, 2017

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

It's been another busy and productive summer for the **Mon-Arc of Monroe** as we've worked together to provide a wide range of services. I participated in several meetings and trainings that were both well attended and successful. It takes a great deal of time, effort and attention to detail to organize a successful meeting ... my appreciation and many thanks to those responsible.

A few highlights since the last newsletter include:

■ Michigan Alliance for Families Grant

I am pleased to announce that we will be receiving a Michigan Alliance for Families grant in October. This organization is administered by the Arc of Michigan. I have been working with Kathy Homan, president and CEO of Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy, and Kristen Columbus, parent mentor from Michigan Alliance for Families. I will be the area parent mentor providing support to parents of children receiving (or who may be eligible to receive) special education services. I am super excited to provide this advocacy program to families in Monroe County.

■ School Support

With school starting in early September, we at **Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.**, are here to help families understand IEPs, make sure students are receiving all the services that they are entitled to, or if families just need someone to speak with. Please call if you need assistance.

■ Monroe County Opportunity Program

M.C.O.P. hosted its first ever pallet creation sale. It was held on Saturday, August 26, at Monroe Church of the Nazarene. Proceeds support the Monroe County Food Bank. Our own Sue Pickens participated.

With a recommendation from Kathleen Russeau from the Community Foundation of Monroe County, **Mon-Arc** was awarded a grant to help consumers with school-aged children. We provided food for these families for lunches throughout the summer. Thank you, Sue, for organizing this endeavor.

■ 17th Annual Charity Golf Outing for the United Way

On September 15th, we are participating in the 17th Annual Charity Golf Outing for the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties. This year we are the First Place Foursome sponsor. United Way is a valuable part of our organization and community. Please come out and support this worthy fundraiser at the Monroe Golf & Country Club. We are happy to reciprocate the support of United Way.

■ Social Recreation Grants

I am pleased to announce that our Social Recreation program received two grants this fall. For the second year, we received a grant from the Community Foundation of Monroe County. In addition, we received a grant from the Monroe County Library System's "A Fine Thing" program. Expect some new and exciting changes to the social recreation program this coming year. Thank you to all who volunteer and help at the monthly dances.



All the best,

Sondra Thorn

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*

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

Located at: 6021 Parkside Drive, Monroe, MI

Phone: 734.241.5881

Fax: 734.241.3694

E-mail: arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.monarcmonroe.org

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan Opens New Office in Monroe

Prompted by a near-doubling of client volume since 2013, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) has re-located to new offices in downtown Monroe. An open house and ribbon-cutting took place in July.

"In the last three years. We've seen our number of clients almost double from 634 unduplicated clients in 2013 to 1,150 unduplicated clients in 2016," said Wendy Klinski, operation manager for CCSEM in Monroe County. "We have increased our staff members from nine in 2013 to twenty today and we're excited to be up and running in our larger office space in downtown Monroe. It is more centrally located and offers a larger, more welcoming environment to serve our growing number of clients."

Services provided include: adoption and foster care, All Saints Soup Kitchen, mental and behavioral health, counseling, family support, Hispanic outreach, immigration and refugee support, Project HOPE, and resources for seniors.

MON-ARC Board Members

Maureen Dempsey
President

Michael Brown
Vice President

William Dashner
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.**

Caroline's Cart Is a New Resource for People with Disabilities

Caroline's Cart was created for individuals with special needs. It provides caregivers with a viable option to transport a person with special needs or a senior citizen through a store while shopping, without the impossible task of having to maneuver a wheelchair and a traditional shopping cart at the same time.

In our search, we have found these carts available in the following stores:

- **Busch's** in Tecumseh
- **Best Buy** in Ann Arbor
- **Kroger's** in Monroe, Dundee, Lambertville, Brownstown & Ann Arbor
- **Meijer's** in Monroe, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti & Belleville
- **Target** in Toledo at the Monroe Street store
- **Wal-Mart** in Saline

If you know a store that has a Caroline cart and is not listed, please let us know and we will add it to our list.



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 Events

- September 13, 2017 **3th Annual Suicide Remembrance Vigil** from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the First Street Pavilion (*Corner of E. First Street and Washington Street in downtown Monroe*)
- September 15, 2017 **United Way Kick-off Breakfast & Golf Outing** at the Monroe Golf & Country Club. Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. Golf begins at 9:00 a.m.
- September 20, 2017 **On the Table** - A new community engagement initiative at the Monroe Family Y.M.C.A. from 6:00-7:00 p.m. *People of all ages will gather to share a meal and discuss how to create vibrant communities for all youth to thrive.*
- September 27, 2017 **Monroe County Community Mental Health Town Meeting** from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Community Mental Health Authority, 1001 S. Raisingville Road, Monroe
- September 30, 2017 **Monroe County Housing Fair** from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Monroe County Community College, Health Education Building. *Come and talk to professionals about buying a home, loans, mortgages, etc.*

FREE AND LOW-COST HEALTH SCREENINGS:

- October 19, 2017 **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Redeemer Baptist Church**, 5305 Evergreen Drive, Monroe (*Main entrance is on S. Telegraph Road*)
- November 2, 2017 **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Carleton United Methodist Church**, 11435 Grafton Road, Carleton



Dances

in September & October

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22nd
&
FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 27th
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
at Monroe Middle School
503 Washington St., Monroe**
Bring your own drinks!
SNACKS PROVIDED

My Turn: A Sensory Friendly Sunday at Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

Please join us at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
on Sunday, September 10, 2017,
for a **FREE** sensory-friendly experience designed
or families affected by autism, and their friends.

Hosted by trained museum educators, **My Turn** offers a crowd-free, less-stimulating time to experience the **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum** alongside other families with similar life experiences.

We have turned down the lights and noise and are providing splash protection sunglasses, and ear protection to help visitors with sensory sensitivities enjoy the amazing exhibits and learning experiences the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum has to offer.

During this event, families will have a chance to explore the Museum in their own way and participate in hands-on activities. The event is recommended for ages 5-12; however, all are welcome to participate!

The event will run from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Families attending **My Turn** are welcome to stay at the Museum as long as they would like. However, our doors will be open to the general public from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit www.myturncommunity.org for more information and materials to help prepare your family for a fun and engaging event!

NOTE: Only one registration/ticket is necessary per family.

Hurricane Harvey Update

- From Peter Burns, The Arc of the US

We know that everyone is concerned about how people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and chapters of The Arc are being affected by Hurricane Harvey. For your information, we have been in touch with the 10 local chapters in the affected area in Texas, as well as the state chapter. We also are in contact with the Houston Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, have put them in touch with The Arc Texas, and provided them contact information for all of our Texas chapters. We will contact chapters in Louisiana as well as the impact of the storm expands.

We will share information about the needs in the area and how you can help as it becomes available. We have set up a centralized disaster relief donation page at: www.thearc.org/donatedisasterrelief for chapters or members of the public who would like to donate to provide financial assistance to chapters of The Arc, and through them to and people with I/DD and their families in the affected communities. As has been done with past disasters, an application process will be used to target distribution of donated funds according to the needs reported by chapters. The donation page will be available through The Arc's website, Facebook, and social media.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our colleagues and constituents in the storm's path.

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.



THE MON-ARCOF MONROE

WHERE 393 North Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI 48162

WHEN Thu, Oct. 5th

FROM 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier
when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the
proceeds from your purchase.*

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?
Enter "FUND" as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to
your organization.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

*Off card purchases and catering orders are excluded and will not count toward the event.
Rapid Pick-Up and Delivery only where available.

©2017 Panera Bread. All Rights Reserved.

Target Unveils Clothing for Kids with Special Needs

- Disability Scoop by Shaun Heasley [August, 2017]

Target is rolling out a collection of sensory-friendly apparel for children and says adaptive clothing for those with disabilities in on the way, too.

The new offerings are part of the retailer's house brand *Cat & Jack* and are available exclusively on the store's website.

Target is marketing a selection of T-shirts and leggings with flat seams that are free from bothersome tags and embellishments in order to "minimize discomfort when in contact with the skin," the company said. In addition, the retailer's sensory-friendly leggings include extra room in the hips and a higher rise to accommodate older kids who wear diapers.

"We heard from our guests — and members of our own team — that there's a need for sensory-friendly clothing for kids that is both fashionable and affordable," Meghan Roman, a spokeswoman for Target told *Disability Scoop*. "With this insight, we set out to introduce a limited selection of sensory-friendly kids' clothing within *Cat & Jack* that's affordable and offers kids stylish options to feel comfortable and confident to take on their day."

Adaptive styles will be added this fall, Roman said. Those offerings will likely include items with zip-off sleeves, side openings to make dressing easier, or opening in the back for those who are sitting or lying down.

Both sensory-friendly and adaptive styles will become a regular part of Target's clothing options for children.

When asked about adult sizes, Roman indicated that the company will "evaluate how we move forward based on guest feedback and the performance of (the *Cat & Jack*) pieces."



Getting to Know ...

Ruthie

Ruthie Drexler is a lifelong resident of Monroe. A graduate of Monroe High School, she enjoys bowling, golf and walking. She also has a black cat named Kitty.

Ruthie has worked at Kroger in Monroe for the past 4 years. She bags groceries and retrieves shopping carts from the parking lot.

"I love helping customers," says Ruthie. "I am a good bagger because I always double-bag when I put six cans in a bag."

Ruthie's supervisor agrees: "Ruthie is a fantastic worker!"

Ruthie considers the most difficult part of her job to be "getting the carts from the parking lot in the winter."

She has received awards from Kroger for her work and also received a gold medal for golf and sportsmanship.

In the past, Ruthie has worked at other local companies including Burger King, the Mall of Monroe, the Monroe Evening News, and Wal-Mart.

Her words of wisdom reflect her strong work ethic: "I think you should always be honest."

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 to best serve your needs.

Locating Devices and Other Wandering-Prevention Technology

- From *Autismspeaks.org*

AngelSense

AngelSense provides a GPS and voice monitoring solution to keep children with special needs safe and well cared-for. The solution includes a wearable GPS device designed to address sensory issues and a friendly app based on smart analytics. Parents use this product to get alerts for location changes and locate lost child with live updates. www.angelsense.com

Care Trak

The Original Law Enforcement Rescue Program that electronically tracks people with Alzheimer's who wander and special needs kids. Sheriffs, Police, Fire Departments, SAR Teams, etc. use *Care Trak* to quickly locate at risk individuals. www.caretrak.com

EZ100 Personal Emergency Notifier and GPS Tracker

The *EZ-100* from *EYEZ* gives families of wandering special needs children added peace of mind and the confidence to engage in activities and adventures with the whole family. www.eye-zon.com

Freedom Watch

The *Freedom Watch* from LOK8U is an innovative monitoring device that incorporates both radio frequency and GPS monitoring. The locating device is a wrist or ankle watch that includes a powerful rechargeable battery and a receiver base that communicates regularly with the watch. The monitoring system that works both at home and at the child's school, to create a unified prevention plan. lok8u.com

LoJack SafetyNet

Personal locator bracelets for individuals with autism with a tendency to wander. After contacting authorities when your loved one goes missing, law enforcement and public safety officials use LoJack Search and Rescue Receivers to track the radio signal being emitted from the *Personal Locator Bracelet* on your loved one's wrist or ankle. www.lojack.com/safetynet

Loved One Locator from Mobile Health Technologies LLC

Mobile Health Technologies provides the ultimate solution for Mobile Personal Safety - anytime, anywhere. ASD children at risk for bolting should not be without our products! Our service combines on-demand GPS location, automatic alerts when a user leaves a pre-defined "safe zone", and Automatic Fall Detection. Our devices also feature 2-way voice, and 24/7 monitoring by EMTs. www.lovedonelocator.com

Project Lifesaver International

Project Lifesaver International helps provide rapid response to save lives and reduce potential for serious injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, Down syndrome, dementia and other related cognitive conditions. Project Lifesaver provides equipment, training, certification and support to law enforcement, public safety organizations and community groups throughout the country and nation. www.projectlifesaver.org

SafetyLINK

A *SafetyLINK* anchor device is a simple device which self connects when turned ON at home. *SafetyLINK* wearable devices are available as wristband, key fob, clip-on also self connect to the anchor device. When a kid leaves home without permission the device sounds an alarm and send notifications to parents. When kids reach school their device automatically connects with the anchor device in school. Parents and staff are notified when the link is broken at an incorrect time. Any person with a mobile smart phone with our software becomes a receiver and automatically looks for a child. www.safetylink.org



Down Syndrome Reality Show Wins New Season

- by Shaun Heasley, *Disability Scoop*

After receiving a half-dozen Emmy nominations, new episodes of a reality show following a group of young people with Down Syndrome are on the way.

A&E Network said it has renewed "*Born This Way*" for a fourth season.

The show, which centers on seven young adults with Down syndrome and their families, will return with eight new episodes, the network said.

"Over the past three seasons, '*Born This Way*' has been a prime example of quality storytelling that motivates us to celebrate and embrace diversity," said Elaine Frontain Bryant, head of programming for A&E Network. "We are honored to reunite with these incredible young adults and their families as they fearlessly share their accomplishments, struggles and dreams, shifting society's perception about differences along the way."

The renewal comes a month after "*Born This Way*" was nominated for Emmy Awards for its casting, cinematography and picture editing. In addition, the show was nominated for outstanding unstructured reality program, a category it won last year.

Since premiering in 2015, "*Born This Way*" has offered an intimate look at the lives of young adults with Down syndrome as they pursue employment, explore friendships and romantic relationships, and seek independence. More recently, the hour-long show introduced a family with a young child with the chromosomal disorder.

Thank You!



A Very Special Thank You to ...

■ **Michigan Alliance for Families**

for the grant supporting our advocacy program!

■ **Knights of Columbus Fr. Bowers
Council #8698, Dundee & Ida**

for your generous donation from your Tootsie Roll Drive!



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:

Debra Olshelstke

Don & Martha Rushlow

RENEWALS:

Marge Achinger & Family

Diana Gilbertson

Clyde & Barb Jenkins

Tammy & Craig Lamb

Julie McDaniel

Floyd & Anna Martin

Anne Murphy

Dale & Lynde Woolace

Welcome

Welcome to our new staff!

Jeanette Williams and James Imhoff,
Office Assistants

Jeannette has worked for AARP since July of 2015
and James has worked for AARP since June of 2015.

Please join us in welcoming Jeannette and James to
our Mon-Arc offices!





*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: ☐ Parent/Guardian ☐ Developmentally Challenged Person
☐ Sibling/Family ☐ Community Member ☐ Education/Professional Staff
☐ Friend ☐ Business/Organization ☐ 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. _____