



70 YEARS
1954 - 2024

IMPACT

I was told something powerful recently by someone applying for a job at The Arc of Wabash County. He said, "I already have a full-time job, but I'd like to also have a part-time job that has real impact." He was saying he wanted a job where he could have a strong effect and influence on others. The Arc of Wabash County is in the impact business. While we provide advocacy, employment, housing, transportation, and other programs to almost 200 Wabash County individuals who have disabilities, what we are doing is making an impact. The University of Michigan defined social impact as "a significant, positive change that addresses a pressing social challenge. Having a social impact is the result of a deliberate set of activities." The mission of The Arc of Wabash County is "to put people before disability and provide support and opportunities to people with disabilities to live, love, play, and work in their own local community." How do we know if we are having a positive impact for people with disabilities? We listen and we measure. We speak to people with disabilities. We speak to parents and guardians. We speak to employers and educators. They tell us all the ways The Arc of Wabash County is making a difference in their lives. When someone tells us, "I never thought I would be able to work and make money because of my disability, but now because of The Arc I have a job I love, friends at work, and I can buy things!" That is the impact. We also measure. We know that employment is a means of tremendous impact for people with disabilities. Since launching our Community Employment program in 2017 to help people with disabilities find jobs, active enrollment has gone from 7 to 79, an astounding 1,028% increase! That is the impact. When you give to The Arc of Wabash County, we want you to know that you are having an IMPACT, a sudden impact. Your donation not only opens doors, provides rides, creates jobs, makes homes, it has an impact. Your giving to The Arc of Wabash County changes lives; it results in happiness, safety, fulfillment, and increased economic freedom for people who are often marginalized, exploited, forgotten, ignored, and overlooked. The Arc of Wabash County thanks all those who give to enrich the lives of people with disabilities: parents, guardians, staff, employers, educators, and donors. Together in 2025 we can expand our impact.

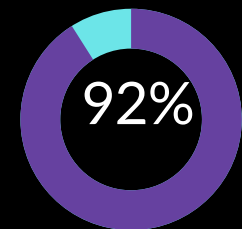
Thank You! - Jeff Patton, CEO



THIS ISSUE

Impact
\$70,000 Campaign
Vision for a Good Life
Legislation Watch
Community Partnership
Ladies of The Arc
One Year Celebration
CARF Accreditation
Project Search

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We are at 92% of our goal of raising \$70,000 before December 31, 2024, in celebration of our 70th Anniversary. This fundraising campaign will be used directly for programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Help us meet and exceed our goal by giving today!

Donate \$70 today by mail, online, or by dropping by our office.

QR Code to
Donate Online!



**YOUR GENEROSITY
CHANGES LIVES!**

VISION FOR A GOOD LIFE

The Arc of Wabash County is now in partnership with Charting the LifeCourse. The Charting the LifeCourse framework was created to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. The framework is the keystone for supporting a community of learning that champions transformational change through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative engagement.

Seven employees have completed the Ambassador program with Charting the LifeCourse and are now prepared to use the framework with clients and families, train other staff, and use throughout the organization.

WHY CHARTING THE LIFECOURSE FOR OUR CLIENTS?

- Supports the client in communicating their needs
- Clients are advocating for the supports they need to accomplish their goals
- Guardians/Families are setting higher expectations
- Pre-ETS students learn how life experiences impact their career goals
- Families/guardians and clients are exploring the services and supports they need
- Parents, siblings, and family members are able to share their ideas, hopes, and fears for the future
- Case-managers are using in planning meetings
- Exploring the future with aging parents and guardians
- Employment specialists are enhancing discovery and exploration that support career planning

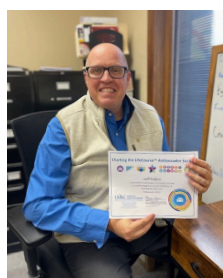
Core Belief: All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their own life aspirations.



ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE WATCH

The Arc Wabash County works with elected officials and community leaders on behalf of people with disabilities to advocate for accessibility and inclusion at the local, state, and national level. National disability efforts resulted in a recent win at the Census Bureau.

The US Census Bureau proposed to change the questions that ask about disability. The rewording of those questions could have led to an undercounting of individuals with disabilities. After meeting with disability advocates, the Census Bureau announced it would not make any changes to the disability questions it uses in its American Community Survey for either 2025 or 2026. That led to a commitment from the Director of the Census Bureau, Robert Santos, not to make any additional changes to the disability questions 'without continued engagement with and input from the disability community'."



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Arc of Wabash County has partnered with The Wabash County Museum to sponsor their newest program, Sensory Story Hour. On the third Wednesday of every month, the Museum will be closed to the public from 9a-10a so registered guests can enjoy a private storytelling session with songs, stories and other curated activities. We are excited to be a community partner with the museum.



(Picture by the Wabash County Museum)

LADIES OF THE ARC

October was National Women's Small Business Month, and Downtown Wabash highlighted businesses in Wabash with females leading the way. 79% of our staff are women and 27% have been employed at The Arc for more than 10 years. Martha Guthrie has been with The Arc for 37 years. Nanette Dubois for 25 years, Tara Hauptert for 25 years, Connie Pulley for 20 years, Kellie Minkler for 18 years, and Mary Ogle for 17 years!



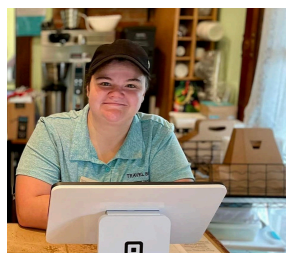
ONE YEAR CELEBRATION

Travel Bee Coffee House, an enterprise of The Arc of Wabash County, celebrated one full year in business in October. Travel Bee Coffee House employs four full-time individuals with disabilities in positions of customer services, barista, and cook. Employees have the opportunity to train in all positions. Employee, Autumn Allen, has been with Travel Bee since day one and says "I have gained confidence with greeting and helping customers that I did not have when I started."

In the retail section of Travel Bee, we have added more items from businesses that share our mission of inclusive employment. Most recently we welcomed We Be Jammin' jams and barbeque sauces to Travel Bee Coffee House. We Be Jammin' was founded in 2014 by Jason Wood, a young man with autism.



The Travel Bee Coffee House team is excited to take on year two and continue to offer a great cup of coffee with a mission!



PROJECT SEARCH RETURNS

The second round of Project Search interns have started at Parkview Hospital. New this round, they will be interning at both Parkview Wabash and Huntington Hospitals. Project Search is a business led collaboration that enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration.



Gabby is interning in Guest Relations at Parkview Huntington



Zack is interning in Dietary at Parkview Huntington

CARF ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) comes only once every three years, and the Arc Wabash County has to pass in order to stay open. CARF certification is also a requirement of certification with BDS (the Indiana Bureau of Disability Services).



CARF came to The Arc of Wabash County in September and spent a week auditing, meeting with staff, families, and clients, and visiting our residential homes. We are excited to share that The Arc of Wabash County was given CARF accreditation for another three years! "This achievement is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern to conformance to standards" CARF stated to The Arc of Wabash County. The Arc of Wabash County takes pride in achieving this high level of standard.

Indiana Family Employment Awareness Training

Indiana Institute of Disability is providing free virtual training sessions all about state, local, and federal resources for young adults who want to work in the community. Families, transition-age students, and young adults with disabilities are welcome.

Dates are: January 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; and March 4th. All classes are from 6-8pm.

Register at: https://iu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/sv_42vTOWAhiyV0Pum



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**Donating & Membership
Made Easy!**

Make sure you are following our social media pages and
check out our new website at www.arcwabash.org!

**CAREER COACHES &
COMMUNITY SUPPORT INSTRUCTORS**

Celebrated in November for their dedication
to the clients we serve.



*Thank you for all you do to
support the clients!*

