



THE ARC OF GREATER BEAUMONT

Expanding possibilities for children and adults living with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.
Possibilities to grow, Possibilities to learn, Possibilities to be included in every part of community life.

NEWSLETTER ♦ FEBRUARY 2009

Arc: Mission & Meaning

With the dawn of 2009 came the Arc's 4 year birthday. In January your Board of Directors held a day-long strategic planning session to assess where we are today and where we need to be tomorrow. Throughout the day board members stayed focused on the most critical cornerstone of this organization: our mission. The Arc of Greater Beaumont's mission is to promote inclusion, expand opportunities and improve quality of life for all children and adults who live with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community. How do we create meaning to our mission? What are opportunities? What is quality of life? The answers lie with you-our membership, our community-and this is what we hear from you.

- *Provide services for individuals with disabilities and their support networks.*

The Arc has identified three groups that benefit from the various programs currently offered at the Arc of Greater Beaumont:

School aged children with disabilities: After School Care, Summer Day Camp and Family Fun Nights

Adults with disabilities (age 15 and older): Arc Adult Social Club, Family Fun Nights and Community Outreach initiatives

Parents, Providers and Guardians: Family Fun Night events, parent mentoring & support, website for information, networking and resources, annual training/education workshop each year

- *Improve opportunities for inclusion and promote quality of life in our community.*

The Arc has identified the following formats to improve opportunities and promote quality of life:

Community outreach initiatives: Our members with disabilities have so much to offer and the Arc is committed to providing ways to help them give back to the community. In 2008 we sponsored a canned food drive and donated over 300 cans of food to Some Other Place. In addition, our Social Club visited the Ridgewood Retirement Center and sang Christmas carols, gave out ornaments hand-made by our members and served hot cocoa. Our members understand that quality of life is measured not by what we get, but by what we give in life. The pride and joy they gain through these community outreach initiatives is immeasurable.



Public Awareness: Helping the public understand our special population's needs is vital to creating new opportunities. Being involved in legislative advocacy, collaborating with other agencies and providing public relations will lead to better opportunities in our community.

- *Strengthen Arc infrastructure*

Membership development: As a membership organization, the strength of the Arc is determined by you-our members. *Not a member yet?* Complete the enclosed form or join on our website. You matter to the Arc of Greater Beaumont - be part of our movement!

Fundraising: Maintaining a sound financial base is critical to the Arc today and tomorrow. Participate in Arc fundraising activities by making a donation, paying membership dues and purchasing our goods and services! It all counts!

The Arc is more than an organization ~ it's a movement. Come be part of it!



Above & to right, Arc members deliver canned goods to food pantry at Some Other Place.



"...quality of life is measured not by what we get, but by what we give in life."



Above & to left, Arc Christmas caroling with Seniors at the Ridgewood Retirement Center.

Meet the Arc's Newest Staff Member!

Amanda Baldwin is our new Event Coordinator and is responsible for coordinating logistics for all Arc events. Amanda is a 2007 graduate of Lamar University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management. While in school Amanda was active in the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and coordinated many of their events. Professionally, she has

worked in Human Resources for over 4 years. An upbeat personality and kind heart lead Amanda to The Arc of Greater Beaumont. We look forward to the expertise, experience and energy she brings! You can expect to hear more from Amanda as she builds our volunteer database and works to strengthen the Arc's membership.



Welcome Amanda Baldwin
Arc Event Coordinator

Looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity?
Sign up with the Arc by contacting Amanda at 784-5556 or e-mail her at arcofbmt@hotmail.com

Arc Spring Activities

Recreation, networking and social activities in a safe, supervised environment.

February

Adult Social Club

Game Night & Social Networking

When: Thursday
February 19th
Time: 6:00-8:00 pm
Where: Spindletop MHMR
Recreation Room
Cost: \$3.00 for Arc and
GTSA members
\$6.00 for non-members

Lots of fun and games at Game night. We will also work on our photo contact book so come ready for pictures & bring your contact sheet!

RSVP by February 17th

March

Family Fun Night

Spring Crafts & Easter Egg Hunt

When: Thursday
March 19th
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Where: Spindletop MHMR
Recreation Room
Cost: \$3.00 for Arc and
GTSA members
\$6.00 for non-members

Fun for people of all ages! Bring the family and let the kids have fun making crafts & hunting Easter eggs while parents visit and network.

RSVP by March 17th

April

Adult Social Club

Karaoke Night & Ice Cream Treats

When: Thursday
April 16th
Time: 6:00-8:00 pm
Where: Spindletop MHMR
Recreation Room
Cost: \$3.00 for Arc and
GTSA members
\$6.00 for non-members

Come out and be ready to sing, dance and have a great time! Enjoy ice cream sundaes and have lots of fun with your friends at the Arc!

RSVP by April 13th

Social Club Activities are for adults with disabilities age 15 and older.

Family Fun Nights are for the entire family, including parents, providers and siblings.

Reservations are required for all Arc Activities.

Please RSVP by deadline date noted for each activity.

Call (409)784-5556 or email to arcofbmt@hotmail.com Thank you!



Arc Summer Day Camp Expands to Three Weeks

The Arc of Greater Beaumont is expanding its Summer Day Camp to meet the growing demand for summer activities for school aged children. A third week of Arc camp will be provided to accommodate more children and reduce the waiting list for this popular program. Dates set for Summer 09 camp are:

July 20-24 * July 27-31 * August 3-7

To receive more detail and request an application for Arc Camp, contact the Arc office at 784-5556.

GTSA Upcoming Events

Meeting Times: 7-8 p.m. Meeting Site: Spindletop MHMR Recreation Room

- **Friday, March 27, 2009** – Spring Dance, 7-9 p.m., Cost \$3.00
- **Thursday, April 2, 2009** – Meeting: Guest Speaker ; Officers take Oath
- **Thursday, May 7, 2009** - Meeting: Guest Speaker; discuss Conference plans

Golden Triangle Self Advocates is a membership advocacy group for individuals age 18 and older who have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. For more information contact Patricia Bowlen at (409)784-5550.



Arc Holiday Cards for a Cause



Arc Artists Brandi Herron, Brandon Pieternelle, Jared Kelley and Brett Simpson show off their cards.

Arc Card Sponsors

- * Hubbell Pediatrics
- * Dupont Goodrich FCU
- * Woodard Distributing
- * Southeast Texas OB/GYN
- * Spindletop MHMR
- * Jerry Nelson

Arc Card Artists

- * Clark Gernale
- * Jared Kelley
- * Brett Simpson
- * Brandon Pieternelle
- * Brandi Herron
- * Wesley Hendrick

Our first annual Holiday Cards for a Cause project was a great success due to the dedicated leadership of project chairman, **Patrice Rabalais**, our administrative assistant, **Caitlin Kruger**, and our marketing specialist, **Connie Berry**. Over \$5,000 was raised to help fund Arc projects. This collaborative effort included support from Arc members, who created the artwork; local businesses, who sponsored an artist's card with a \$1000 donation; area vendors, who sold our cards; and Arc family and friends throughout the Golden Triangle and beyond who purchased the cards. Thanks to everyone who made this important sustainable fund raising project a success! It was a remarkable team effort!

Special Thanks to these area vendors who sold Arc Christmas Cards for a Cause:

Dupont Goodrich FCU * Kings Pharmacy * MacKenzie's Pub * The Longhorn * Region V ESC * The Kitchen Shop
Reed Service Company * Pieternelle Family * Fred Miller's * Mary Gernale * Felicia's Studio West * Jennifer Lee

Thanks also to these individuals who made premium bulk purchases:

Steve Cordova * Rich Courville * Carl Griffith & Assoc. * Frank & Marcia Giglio * Dr. & Mrs. Carey Jordan * Carrie Woods

And endless thanks to our card artists and their families for providing the inspiration and effort it took make it all happen!

Arc Promotes Progressive Legislative Agenda

The 81st legislative session is currently in full swing and the Arc continues to promote and protect the rights of individuals with disabilities. The Arc of Texas' legislative platform advocates for improved funding, support and access to service in the areas of education, transition services and supports, crisis intervention, long-term services and supports and juveniles and adults in the Texas Criminal Justice system. The entire legislative platform can be reviewed at the Arc of Texas website, where you can also sign up to receive legislative action alerts about impending legislation that affects our special population. Participate in the legislative process by letting your elected officials know your needs. Let's use our voices to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Learn more at: The Arc of Texas Website: thearcoftexas.org Phone: 1-800-252-9729

Check us out Online!

www.arcofbmt.org



- Look at Pictures!
- Make Donations!
- See Events!
- Join the Arc!
- Search Resources!

February 2009

Welcome New & Valued Members

Laine Kennedy
Laura McMurray
Jamie Coleman

Sandra Duvall
Silver Memberships:
Bill & Wilma Winn
Pam Breaux

Gold Membership:
Joy & George Barten

Join or Renew
your Membership
Today!

The Arc of Greater Beaumont Board of Directors

Officers

Brenda Sullivan
President
Cindy Bloodsworth
Vice President
Paula Pratt
Secretary
Jada Kelley
Treasurer
Brandi Herron
GTSA Representative

Robert Breaux
Sandra Duvall
Keeya Gillard
Roxanne Haygood
Mary Hendrick
Gary Hidalgo
Laura McMurray
Kay Moffitt
Guy Morris

Board Members

Toye Babb
Patricia Bowlen

Patrice Rabalais
Jenny Rubin
Bill Wilson

*Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month
5:30 p.m. at Arc Administrative Office*

Arc Administrative Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Caitlin Kruger– Administrative Assistant

Amanda Baldwin– Event Coordinator

Memorial Contributions

*A unique and wonderful way to pay homage to a loved ones memory is with a memorial contribution to the Arc of Greater Beaumont.
We deeply appreciate these recent acts of love:*



In Loving Memory of Kyle Sewell

Alan Hefty \$50

In Loving Memory of Clyde Wakefield

Kay Moffitt \$40

In Loving Memory of Clint Walker

Glen & Patrice Rabalais \$20

In Loving Memory of Bobbie Jean Pratt

Mobil Oil Federal Credit Union \$70 * Cindy Bloodsworth \$25.00 *
Susan & Jan South \$100 * Kay Moffitt \$25 * Patrice Rabalais \$20 *
Brenda Sullivan \$40 * Dottie & Norman Barker \$50

Honorariums

What better way to honor a friend, colleague or loved one than with an honorary donation to the Arc of Greater Beaumont:

In Honor of Rena Reed

Ellinor Nixon \$50

In Honor of Cindy Bloodsworth

Gary Cranor \$50

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile ~ Albert Einstein



The Arc of Greater Beaumont

655 S. 8th St.
Beaumont, TX 77701
(409)784-5556

www.arcofbmt.org

Creating endless possibilities...