

Annual Celebration Honors Best of 2018

Each spring, Easterseals Arc staff, participants and family members gather to celebrate accomplishments of the previous year. Awards are given to staff in several categories and to an outstanding participant in each program area.

Participant of the Year Awards

Group Homes: RiChard J.



RiChard is determined and hardworking. He excelled in the Employment Readiness Academy at Parkview

Hospital and easily landed a job in the dish room at Memorial Coliseum. RiChard's motivation is at an all-time high, and he also motivates his peers and staff.

Supported Living: Sheryl S.



Sheryl likes to stay active and learn to do things. She's so busy with dance, cooking class, bowling, volunteering and more that

she often has to choose among overlapping activities. She has moved into a new living situation, where she is thriving, making friends and advocating for herself.

Adult Day Center: Carrie F.

Carrie has shown



tremendous growth in all areas. She has become very self-motivated, is very social and likes to help out her staff. She also

has taken it on herself to get her peers involved in activities, such as weekly Creative Movement classes.

Transitions: Shelby M.



Shelby has been working diligently to showcase her independence, driven by a goal of working with children. She obtained a child

care job at the YMCA, and she has shown her support team that this position is important to her as she is achieving her goals daily.

Employment Services: Lisa D.



Lisa got a job at Miller's Merry Manor in spring 2018, and receiving her first paycheck increased her motivation and

enthusiasm for success. She later got a second job cleaning the office at Kerbside Container. She takes pride in her achievements, and her employers

appreciate her reliability and her sense of humor.

Projects Drive: Cameron A.



Cameron excelled in the Employment Readiness Academy at the YMCA, and has been hired at the YMCA. Cameron

has always been quiet, but working with the public helped him learn to be polite and professional while still speaking up about boundaries. In addition to working at PDG and the YMCA, he serves as secretary/treasurer of the Self-Advocates and volunteers with the Fort Wayne parks department.

Community Living: Alex H.



Alex has been a respite participant for many years and has built meaningful relationships with his peers and

staff. He learned to take the Citilink bus to and from the respite house. He enjoys this independence, and it has allowed more flexibility for his family.

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Summer Promises to Be Full of Activity



DONNA ELBRECHT
President & CEO

We are all ready for summer! As school wraps up we are always excited to see our Dream Teens and Mini-Dreamers join us for the summer! Our Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) has grown tremendously this year in Fort Wayne Community Schools, Northwest Allen County Schools, Southwest Allen County Schools, and Whitley County Consolidated Schools. We look forward to having many of these students join us this summer!

The warmer weather also brings festivals, concerts, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo and countless other fun

things to do. The people we support like being out and experiencing all our community has to offer. We are grateful to our donors who help ensure the people we support can enjoy these opportunities and activities.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our happenings and success stories. One of the highlights of the year is our Annual Recognition Celebration, when we give awards to some of our outstanding staff and consumers. It warms my heart to see not only how proud the winners are, but also how their peers get excited for them. Be sure to read about this year's honorees, starting on Page 1.

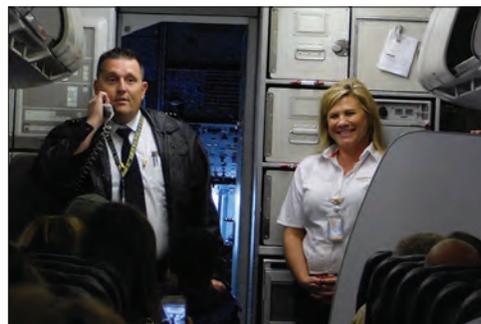
We appreciate your support as we continue our efforts to ensure the people we serve can live, learn, work and play in our community!

Families Get Taste of Air Travel with Wings for All

Thirty families got to see how their loved ones with autism or other disabilities might react to the experience of air travel at Wings for All in late April.

Easterseals Arc partnered with Fort Wayne International Airport and Allegiant to present the airport rehearsal event. Individuals with disabilities and their families practiced everything except actually taking off. They went to the ticket counter to get their boarding passes; they went through security; they waited in the gate area; and then they boarded the plane and had time to look around. After leaving the plane, they went to baggage claim for snacks and gift bags.

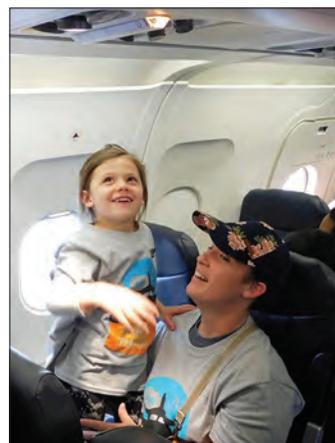
Wings for Autism and Wings for All are licensed by The Arc and presented by chapters of The Arc throughout the country. Visit thearc.org/wings to check for upcoming Wings events.



The Allegiant pilot took a few moments to speak to the Wings for All participants on board the plane.



Zakiya Cherry and her son, Zane, watch the airport activity from a window near Gate 5.



Autumn Weaver helps her daughter Parker get a closer look at lights above their seats.



Wesley checks out the cockpit of the Allegiant plane. (Photo courtesy of Nikki Hooker.)

Old Skill Becomes New Opportunity

Cynthia has resurrected an old skill and is turning her abilities in a new direction: She's building an inventory of products she has sewn and aims to sell them online.

Her business, Cynthia Sews, has its roots in her teenage years in Florida, where she learned to sew and embroider in a home economics class. Her return to sewing in the last few years helps keep her active and engaged.

Cynthia, 66, was encouraged by a doctor to take up sewing again to help occupy herself constructively. She's taken that advice and built on it.

Her sewing got its biggest boost almost two years ago, when sewing instructor Brenda Britt began the Creative Expressions class that meets in Easterseals Arc's Projects Drive Group facility. Cynthia is a dedicated regular in those classes, and she has a sewing area of her own in PDG.

Now she can carry on her sewing at her apartment, too. Elsie Davis, the Easterseals Arc staff member who works with Cynthia most, found a sewing machine that Cynthia could afford. Cynthia can create a workspace for herself in the apartment she shares with her roommate, Karen.

Sherry Walton, a behavioral consultant who works with Cynthia, said that pursuing her sewing hobby and working to turn it into a small business is teaching Cynthia lessons about budgeting, too.

"She has to budget. She only has \$20 a week to spend," Walton



Cynthia can spend more time sewing now that she has a sewing machine at her home.



Cynthia embroiders a T-shirt.

said. Walton and Davis watch for sewing supplies, such as yarn and the T-shirts Cynthia customizes, on sale. Cynthia has taken to asking for sewing supplies for her birthday, too.

Her business, Cynthia Sews, has made some sales through a vending table in the PDG building and from Easterseals Arc booths during craft shows. The next step is taking it online.

"We'll put in the computer," Cynthia said. Walton doesn't know what platform they might use to sell products from Cynthia Sews – perhaps Etsy or eBay – but there are some obstacles to overcome. One important consideration is "making sure personal information is kept



Cynthia shows off a shirt she is sewing.

private," Walton said.

In the meantime, Cynthia keeps sewing. She's done pillowcases, purses and Christmas ornaments. She recently started stitching parts of three T-shirts into one, and she's drawn a design for a cat toy.

"Cynthia embroiders for hours and hours, until her fingers hurt," Davis said.

You Can Support Easterseals Arc by Shopping

Giving away our money can be a strange thing. We often seem to do it unconsciously: dropping loose change into a charity jar at the convenience store; telling someone to keep the change because the jingling in your pocket may be disruptive; agreeing to round up a purchase to support a cause.



SHERI WARD
Director of
Development

Yet as soon as we start thinking about making a donation, we start thinking of reasons not to do it: Money's too tight at home. The person to whom we'll give it will spend it unwisely. The small donation in the envelope is just a drop in the bucket.

When choosing to give money, it helps to think of it as more than dollars and cents. That's not \$20,

\$50 or \$100 you're slipping into the envelope or giving with a tap of a button on your phone or computer. It's funding for art or music instructors. It's a stipend and supplies for a participant in our Employment Readiness Academy. It's a weekend of respite services giving caregivers and their family a much needed break. I see **confidence, encouragement, coaching, support, care and opportunities** that would not exist without donors like you!

There are ways you can give to Easterseals Arc

without it coming directly out of your pocket; you can give through purchases you're already making. Kroger Community Rewards and AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of your purchases to Easterseals Arc when you select us as your charity!

Kroger

- Sign up for a Kroger account and make sure your Kroger Plus card number is saved to your account
- Go to www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow
- Select "I'm a Customer," then "View Details"
- Find and select: Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana

AmazonSmile

- Go to smile.amazon.com
- Sign in using your usual Amazon user name and password
- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select Arc of Northeast Indiana Inc. as your charity
- The AmazonSmile Foundation will make a donation to Easterseals Arc for every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com. (Purchases at Amazon.com or through the mobile app are not eligible.)

Thank you for choosing us a preferred charity! **We appreciate your support!**

Gratitude for Grants

Easterseals Arc is thankful to the following organizations for their generous grant awards:

- Wilson Foundation, \$5,000 for assistive technology
- Plymouth Congregational Church, \$1,000 for assistive technology
- Family and Social Services Administration, Department of Mental Health and Addiction, \$252,000 over two years for transition services for youths with a dual diagnosis of intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health or substance abuse issues
- PNC Foundation, \$7,000 for employment services



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Old National Bank's Culinary Queens on Nov. 9, 2019! Watch for more information about this delicious fundraiser coming soon.

Dancing Duos Bring in \$132,000

Dancing with the Arc Stars provided another fantastic evening of fun and fundraising, generating more than \$132,000 to support Easterseals Arc's recreation program. Awards were handed out in several categories to recognize the outstanding performances:

- **Fanciest Footwork:** 1st place, Nate Edwards and Sheryl; 2nd place, Zach Beiswanger and Angela
- **Most Elegant:** 1st place, Lisa Cooper and Mark; 2nd place, Elaine Bauer and David
- **Most Creative:** 1st place, Kelly Johns and Aaron; 2nd place, Randy Chin and Destany
- **Best Dressed:** 1st place, Tara Cahill and Peter; 2nd place, Mike Kamphues and Caitlin
- **Crowd Pleaser:** 1st place, Jeanné Wickens and Damian; 2nd place, Clint Morgan and Susie
- **Top Fund-raiser:** Clint Morgan and Susie

Thank you to all of the dancers, volunteers, donors and sponsors who made it a great night! We hope to see you for the next Dancing with the Arc Stars on Thursday, March 20, 2020!



Clint Morgan and Susie were the top fund-raisers dancing to "Timber."



Mike Kamphues and Caitlin, above, earned second place for Best Dressed dancing to "The Greatest Show."



Tara Cahill and Peter, left, took first place in Best Dressed rocking to "Don't Go Breaking My Heart."

(Photos courtesy of Amy Sprunger Photography)



Lisa Cooper and Mark, above, danced to "Sweet Dreams" and earned first place in Most Elegant.

Kelly Johns and Aaron, left, were Most Creative dancing to "Danza Kuduro."



Awards (continued from Page 1)

Behavior Solutions: Madelein S.



Madelein is determined to be independent. She organized her schedule to go to school half of the day, then volunteer

the other half. She also studied to get her driver's license. She has graduated from high school and works at Joyful Pets Styling Salon.

Health and Wellness: Vera R.



Vera has lost more than 60 pounds by learning to eat healthier, attending cooking classes and exercising at the

YMCA. This has led to improved overall health, making it easier for her to complete the Employment Readiness Academy at Parkview Hospital and do all of the things she enjoys.

Staff Awards

DSP of the Year: Rose Yann

Rose has been a dedicated, compassionate, hard-working and dependable DSP for more than 10 years. She ensures that individuals she supports have what they need, are given the best care possible,

are given opportunities in the community, and have a home that is clean, inviting and organized.



Seeing the Whole You Award:

LaTonya McIntosh

(given to a staff member who excels at supporting individuals' full range of needs, interests, and goals)



LaTonya is

always respectful, encouraging and nurturing with every consumer she works with. In 2018, she played a significant role in helping her client recover from multiple hospital and nursing home stays.

Driven to Achieve Award:

Bonnie Reeves

(given to a staff member who empowers those we serve)



Bonnie works well with the team to ensure that the

needs of her co-workers and clients are taken care of, and she can always be counted on when needed.

Paving the Way Award: Cassie Bisig

(given to a staff member who strives to remove or overcome barriers)



Cassie helps her consumers thrive in the community

by helping them get involved with programs such as those at Wellspring Community Center and Aldersgate Church.

Stronger Together Award: Karin Brock

(given to a staff member who embraces collaboration and cooperation)

Karin has helped improve multiple



departments so that we can better support our participants. Karin is patient and helpful with every person who walks through the door.

Purpose Award Award: Genet Husen

(given to a staff member who goes above and beyond expectations to make positive differences in people's lives)



Genet takes a sincere interest in her consumers' activities, works to get them out into the community, and finds creative ways to help them achieve goals.

Employee of the Year: Traci Marchesi

(chosen from the employee of the month recipients throughout the year)



Traci is one of our most dedicated and supportive staff, always welcoming and helpful to anyone in need. She takes excellent care of her consumers and their home, ensuring that each individual has what they need and looking ahead to anticipate those needs.

Program of the Year: Adult Day Center

The Adult Day Center staff and managers did an excellent job of balancing client care, community engagement and reverse integration through a dynamic and innovative approach to programming.

Upcoming Events: June through September

JUNE

- 6/4 Boundaries Crossed: Asperger's Youth Group, 6:15-7:15 p.m., contact Tommy Guest at tommy@partnersinautism.com for location and additional information
- 6/5 & 19 Aktion Club Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Turnstone, 3320 N. Clinton St.
- 6/10 Social Group for Adults Who Have Asperger's, 6-7:30 p.m., Lutheran Hospital, Room #4 in cafeteria
- 6/21 Self Advocates Meeting, 1-2 p.m., Projects Drive

JULY

- 7/2 Boundaries Crossed: Asperger's Youth Group, 6:15-7:15 p.m., contact Tommy Guest at tommy@partnersinautism.com for location and additional information
- 7/3 & 17 Aktion Club Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Turnstone, 3320 N. Clinton St.

Holiday

7/4 4th of July, Easterseals Arc offices and day programs closed

- 7/8 Social Group for Adults Who Have Asperger's, 6-7:30 p.m., Lutheran Hospital, Room #4 in cafeteria
- 7/19 Self Advocates Meeting, 1-2 p.m., Projects Drive

Summer Carnival

7/26 ADC Summer Carnival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Easterseals Arc, 4919 Coldwater Road

AUGUST

- 8/6 Boundaries Crossed: Asperger's Youth Group, 6:15-7:15 p.m., contact Tommy Guest at tommy@partnersinautism.com for location and additional information
- 8/7 & 21 Aktion Club Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Turnstone, 3320 N. Clinton St.
- 8/12 Social Group for Adults Who Have Asperger's, 6-7:30 p.m., Lutheran Hospital, Room #4 in cafeteria
- 8/16 Self Advocates Meeting, 1-2 p.m., Projects Drive

SEPTEMBER

Holiday

9/2 Labor Day, Easterseals Arc offices and day programs closed

- 9/3 Boundaries Crossed: Asperger's Youth Group, 6:15-7:15 p.m., contact Tommy Guest at tommy@partnersinautism.com for location and additional information
- 9/4 & 18 Aktion Club Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Turnstone, 3320 N. Clinton St.
- 9/9 Social Group for Adults Who Have Asperger's, 6-7:30 p.m., Lutheran Hospital, Room #4 in cafeteria
- 9/19 Self Advocates Meeting, 1-2 p.m., Projects Drive
- 9/21 Sibshops, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., ages 7 through high school senior, at Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House on Lutheran Hospital Campus; back to school luau party with ice cream bar

Briefs

Easterseals Arc Earns 3-Year Accreditation

CARF International has awarded a three-year accreditation to Easterseals Arc for the following services: Adult



Day Center, Behavioral Services, Community Living, Employment Services, Pre-Employment Transition Services,

Projects Drive Group, Recreation, Respite, Structured Family Caregiving, Supported Living and Transitions.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows Easterseals Arc's conformance to the CARF standards. Easterseals Arc has been accredited by CARF since 1997.

Career Center Honors HR Partnership

The Indiana Tech Career Center honored Easterseals Arc as its Nonprofit Employer Partner of the Year as part of its annual RISE (Recognizing Interns, Students and Employers) Awards. The award is given to an organization that has shown generosity in supporting

Indiana Tech Career Center events, programs, services and interns.

Board Welcomes Two New Members

Two new members have joined Easterseals Arc's Board of Directors:

- Michael Douglass joined the board in January. He is a magistrate in Allen County Superior Court's Civil Division.
- Harold Berfiend joined the board in March. He is COO/CFO for IU Health in Fort Wayne.

The Board of Directors now has 19 members.

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taking on disability together

Northeast Indiana



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