

Save the Dates

Annual Business Meeting
May 23, 2016
Prosperity Bank

Athletic Banquet
June 5, 2016
Safari Texas

Annual Awards Banquet
June 27, 2016
Safari Texas

Golf Classic
June 20, 2016
Weston Lakes
Country Club

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(877) 272-2270



True inclusion comes from not just awareness, but acceptance.

PBS Show To Feature Boy With Autism

by Michelle Diamant | March 23, 2016
Article Courtesy of: Disability Scoop

An 11-year-old on the spectrum will appear on a brand new PBS children's show in an episode focusing on inclusion.

The show "Mack & Moxy" will debut on many PBS stations across the country starting April 1. Aimed at kids ages 3 to 7, each episode includes two segments exploring a different cause.

Charlie Owens, who lives in the St. Louis area, will appear on an episode called "A Spectrum of Possibilities" about the importance of inclusion. Owens, who has autism, was recommended by Easter Seals to be on the program.

"Mack & Moxy" includes a mix of 3D animation, live action puppets and celebrity role models like Hank Azaria, Josh Duhamel, Eva LaRue and Rachael Ray in addition to guests like Owens.

In each episode, a moose called Mack and a raccoon named Moxy help kids learn about various issues.

"Mack & Moxy is the first kids' show to focus exclusively on introducing children to important causes like hunger awareness, autism or emergency preparation," said Brahm Wenger, the show's executive producer and creator. "The characters Mack and Moxy are fun, enthusiastic heroes eager to help and learn, just like our kids today."

OUR MISSION

The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.

**The Arc of Fort Bend County
Board of Directors 2015-2016**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Cheryl Sewell

Director of Transition Programs
Margo Pasko

Director of Adult Programs
Nancy Dobert

Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Olivier

Account Manager
Jenny Schulte

Committee Assignments and Job Descriptions are available on our website

CORE VALUES

1. Awareness: greater awareness about individuals with disabilities increases understanding about the abilities of individuals with disabilities, and greater understanding increases opportunities for individuals with disabilities, so we work to achieve greater awareness to achieve greater understanding to expand opportunities.
2. Diversity: we must serve all individuals with intellectual and related developmental disabilities and their families in this county.
3. Respect: we must be understanding of and sensitive to the concerns of individuals with disabilities about their identity and how we describe them.
4. Ownership: it is important to have community members serve on our committees and board, and support our association, but our association should remain an "individuals with disabilities and their families" organization.
5. Advocacy: with limited resources, if we become primarily or solely a provider organization, our association will never do more than make only a limited impact on the quality of life of a few individuals with disabilities.
6. Cooperation: advocacy and programs that benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in many cases will also benefit individuals with other disabilities.
7. Good Stewardship: as an association, we must be fiduciaries of the talent and resources that our volunteers and community supporters entrust to us.

OUR GOALS

The Arc's goals were chosen to be directed toward Mission and Vision and build on our strength and success.

- I. The Arc shall advocate for appropriate individualized educational programs/opportunities for people with I/DD in all stages of life.
- II. The Arc shall advocate for a variety of vocational/employment options for people with I/DD.
- III. The Arc shall advocate for public and private community institutions to become more responsive to the individual needs of people with I/DD, thereby promoting quality of life for all.
- IV. The Arc shall advocate for and promote a variety of appropriate and inclusive social, cultural and fitness/wellness opportunities in the community.
- V. The Arc shall continue to invest in properties that are self-sustaining and provide facilities for our constituents.
- VI. The Arc shall provide effective leadership and fundraising efforts to accomplish our mission.

To Send a Special Tribute

In Memory of or In Honor of

Pay tribute to a friend or family member while also supporting services and programs that benefit The Arc of Fort Bend County with your donation.

Person's Name

Occasion

Send acknowledgement to:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Please make checks payable to:
The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street, Sugar Land, Texas 77478



123 Brooks Street, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Apply Now!

2016 Kathy Moody Memorial Scholarship

The Kathy Moody Memorial Scholarship was established by The Arc of Fort Bend County to assist students with an intellectual and/or developmental disability who need financial assistance to attend a post-secondary educational or vocational program.

- Must be a resident of Fort Bend County
- Must be a member of The Arc of Fort Bend
- Must be already enrolled/accepted at a post-secondary program
- Applicants will limit their request to no more than one application per 12 month period

Pick up an application at The Arc's office or
download at our website: www.arcoffortbend.org

For additional information: Contact Laura LaVigne at:
llavigne@arcoffortbend.org



Opportunity!



Would you like to learn how to express your commitment to the goals of The Arc of Fort Bend County? You could do this through a **planned gift**. Once you have provided for loved ones in your will, you may want to include a gift of money, stock or property to The Arc. Your gift will be a lasting tribute to your concern for the advocacy, services and programs The Arc provides, while guaranteeing our long-term future. For information about how to include The Arc of Fort Bend County in your charitable giving plans, see below, or contact Laura LaVigne, llavigne@arcoffortbend.org 281-494-5923.

Planned Giving ~ What and How

What can be used to make a planned gift?

Gifts of Stocks and Bonds:

A gift of your securities, including your stocks or bonds, is an easy way for you to make a gift. By making a gift of your appreciated securities, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if you sold these assets.

Gifts of Real Estate:

A gift of your real property (such as your home, vacation property, vacant land, farmland or ranch or commercial property) can make a great gift. If you own appreciated real property, you can avoid paying capital gains tax by making a gift to us.

Gifts of Retirement Assets:

A gift of your retirement assets, such as a gift from your IRA, 401k, 403b, pension or other tax deferred plan, is an excellent way to make a gift. By making a gift of your retirement assets, you will help further our work.

Gifts of Cash:

A gift of cash is a simple and easy way for you to make a gift. You will receive a charitable tax deduction that will provide you with savings on this year's tax return.

Gifts of Insurance:

A gift of your life insurance policy is an excellent way to make a gift to The Arc. If you have a life insurance policy that has outlasted its original purpose, consider making a gift of your insurance policy to The Arc. For example, you may have purchased a policy to provide for minor children and they are now financially independent adults.

Gifts of Business Interests:

As a business owner, you have the opportunity not only to build your business and accumulate wealth for yourself and your family, but also to accomplish your philanthropic goals through charitable planning. A gift of your corporate stock or assets can provide you with tax and income benefits and help further our mission.

How do I set up a Planned Gift?

Bequests:

One way for you to support The Arc's mission is to leave us a bequest. A bequest is a gift made to charity in your will or trust. One significant benefit of making a gift by bequest is that it allows you to continue to use the assets/property you may leave to charity during your life. Another benefit is that by making a bequest you are able to leave a lasting legacy for the work of The Arc.

Before meeting with your attorney to make a gift to The Arc, you should consider where you want your support

Planned Giving Cont'd

to be used. Do you have questions about The Arc and its role nationally, at the state level, as well as, in your local community?

Your gift may be created as an overall percentage of your estate. Once you know how you wish to include The Arc in your estate plans, contact us for the correct names and addresses (which your attorney will need).

Keep in mind that your gift can be for a specific amount, a percentage or some portion of the remainder (after family, relatives and friends have gotten their designated share). Below are examples of language you can use with the correct name and address of The Arc (where you wish your gift directed).

Types of Bequests:

There are a number of ways you can make a bequest to The Arc. You can leave what is called a **specific bequest**. A specific bequest involves making a gift of a defined dollar amount, a particular tangible asset such as real estate, a car, other property or even shares of stock. For example, you may wish to leave your home, a portion of its value or \$10,000 to The Arc. Another kind of specific bequest involves leaving a percentage of your overall estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 10% of your estate to The Arc.

Another kind of bequest is called a **residual bequest**. A residual bequest is a bequest that is made from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has given away each of the specific bequests. A common residual bequest involves leaving a percentage of the residue of the estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 30% of the remaining value of your estate to The Arc (local, state and/or national).

Bequest Benefits:

There are no limitations on bequest gifts. Bequests may be made for a general or specific purpose. All bequests to tax-exempt entities approved by the IRS are not subject to estate taxes. Please be sure to consult your tax advisor for advice regarding your own personal situation. If you have a taxable estate, the estate tax charitable deduction may offset or eliminate estate taxes resulting in a larger inheritance for your heirs.

Bequest Language:

In order to make a bequest, you should speak with your attorney. Your attorney can help you include a bequest to The Arc in your estate plan. We have provided some basic bequest language below, to assist you and your attorney. If you wish to include The Arc of Fort Bend County, simply add the following address and Federal Tax ID number to the information below:

The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Federal Tax ID #74-6076222

I. Outright Bequest

If you consider making an outright bequest to The Arc, we recommend the following language:

a. Bequest of a Specific Dollar Amount

I hereby give, devise and bequeath (XXDOLLARS) to The Arc of Fort Bend County, a non-profit organization located at 123 Brooks St., Sugar Land, TX, Tax ID 74-6076222, for The Arc's general use and purpose.

b. Bequest of Specific Personal Property

I hereby give, devise and bequeath (DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY) to The Arc of Fort Bend County, a

Planned Giving Cont'd

non-profit organization located at 123 Brooks St., Sugar Land, TX, Tax ID 74-6076222, for The Arc's general use and purpose.

c. Bequest of Specific Real Estate

I hereby give, devise and bequeath all of the right, title and interest in and to the real estate located at (ADDRESS OR DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY) to The Arc of Fort Bend County, a non-profit organization located at 123 Brooks St., Sugar Land, TX, Tax ID 74-6076222, for The Arc's general use and purpose.

d. Bequest of Percentage of an Estate

I hereby give, devise and bequeath (PERCENTAGE OF YOUR ESTATE) to The Arc of Fort Bend County, a non-profit organization located at 123 Brooks St., Sugar Land, TX, Tax ID 74-6076222, for The Arc's general use and purpose.

II. **Restricted Bequest**

If you are considering a bequest but would like to ensure that your bequest will be used only for a specific purpose, please let us know. We would be happy to work with you and your attorney to help you identify ways to give that will ensure your charitable objectives can be met. We will also work with you and your attorney to craft language to accomplish your objectives.

If you are making a restricted bequest, we recommend that your attorney include the following provision to give The Arc flexibility should it no longer be possible for The Arc to use your gift as you originally intended:

If, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of The Arc, it shall become impossible for The Arc to use this bequest to accomplish the specific purposes of this bequest, The Arc may use the income and principal of this gift for such purpose or purposes as the Board determines is most closely related to the restricted purpose of my bequest.



Date: May 23, 2016

Place: Prosperity Bank
14060 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Time: 6:00 pm

RSVP By: May 16, 2016

We will present The Arc's 2015 financial report, vote on any proposed changes to our bylaws and elect the Board of Directors' Class of 2019. Reservations for the Annual Meeting will begin in April. The reservation form is on our website. There is no charge for this event.

To reserve a seat, register online at www.arcoffortbend.org and select "Register for Special Events" .

For more information, call The Arc's office at 281/494-5959



WESTON LAKES COUNTRY CLUB

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016

10:30 AM – REGISTRATION

11:30 AM – BOX LUNCH & SHOTGUN START

5:00 PM – AUCTION, AWARDS & DINNER

SINGLE - \$300

FOURSOME - \$1200

SPONSORSHIP - \$1500 - \$2000

REGISTER ONLINE: www.arcoffortbend.org "GOLF CLASSIC"

TITLE CO-SPONSORS:



Laura LaVigne Celebrates 10 years

The Arc Board of Directors asks all our members and friends to join us in showing our appreciation to our CEO, Laura LaVigne, for ten years of service to The Arc and to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Under Laura's leadership The Arc has grown to serve unprecedented numbers of clients in Fort Bend County, strengthened programming and maintained fiscal strength. Recently Laura initiated the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) prevention program. This program is designed to teach pregnant mothers that no amount of alcohol is safe for an unborn child and both OakBend Medical Center and Access Health have become partners in this effort.

Please congratulate Laura when you see her.

Pictured are Laura and Board President, Stewart Jacobson.



Nancy Dobert Celebrates 15 years

Congratulations, Nancy Dobert, The Arc's Director of Adult Programs, who celebrated her 15 year work anniversary at The Arc! Nancy began March 26, 2001, and since then has worked very hard to plan and schedule all of the Adult Social/Recreation activities. She also supervises our Self Advocates group and completes and submits the required monthly reports to assure compliance with the Fort Bend Community Block Development Grant which The Arc receives. And, she willingly completes all of those "other related duties"- especially working on the *Golf Classic* and the *Best in the West!*

Good job, Nancy – we appreciate you!

Pictured are Nancy and her husband, Mike, enjoying her surprise party at The Arc.



The Arc Family Matters

Celebrations:

Board member, Larry Lobue & Special Olympics athlete, Larryn, announce the birth of Jakob Dean Lobue, son of Steven Lobue and Jenna Bournier, born on February 8, 2016.

Welcome to the Dark Side. . . .

Cheryl Sewell



Surrounded by darkness with lights flickering here and there, dark shapes moved behind the wall and through the maze of tunnels and ramps – looking through windows and over the railing. Amidst screams, a black mass runs around a corner and bumps into the “enemy.” Quick! Shoot!

Oops. You shot your own teammate. Running back up the ramp, you hide behind a pole. There’s another flashing vest! Friend or foe? It doesn’t matter!

After the games, the players compared scores, found the friend they shot the most, found the friend that shot them the most, and had a great time discussing strategies. After a short rest, they all went right back- into the darkness!

Laserzone, in Sugar Land, opened up two hours early so that The Arc of Fort Bend’s Kids & Youth Group families, partnering with Harvest United Methodist Church teens, could have the entire place to themselves. We were able to orient ourselves to the course in the dimmed lights, play some video games and enjoy two games of laser tag. Everyone had a blast and gobbled up the brownies and cake after the games. What a great day!



And The Award Goes to...

The Arc’s Annual Awards Dinner

Monday, June 27, 2016

Do you know someone who has done an outstanding job in supporting the mission of The Arc?

Review the “Nomination Categories” and nominate that person for one of our awards.

It’s a great way to say “Thank you” to a hard-working volunteer/business/donor.

Deadline: May 27, 2016

Please see newsletter insert for Nomination Categories and form!

Special Olympics Area Basketball Tournament News

Margo Pasko

On Saturday, March 5, The Arc once again fielded a huge roster of six basketball teams and 1 player demonstrating individual skills at the Area 22 Special Olympics basketball tournament in Alvin. We had 53 players, including 5 unified partners.

Dedicated volunteer, Don Duyka, worked with Trevor, helping him improve his individual basketball skills of target passing, dribbling and spot shooting and - he won a silver medal!

Sharks basketball coaches Will and Matt Marshall coached their team to win the gold in their bracket. Shark players included Rafael, Russell, Wayne, Yi-No, Darryl, and brave Hayden, who "took one for the team" (a basketball to the face, that is). Way to go, Sharks!

Cathy Zepeda led The Hawks including Donovan, Nicholas, Lucas, Marques, Ashley, Kristi, Tyler, Deon and Rudy. They brought home bronze medals. Yay, Hawks! Tough guy Lucas, also took a basketball to the face, but is now on the mend.

The Wolverines were coached by returning coach, Hal Marshall and his sons Matt and Will. Their players were Davis, Desney, Larryn, Chris, Chance, Aaron, Jimmy, Jason, Mike M., Stevie, Michael P., and Jack. Coach Hal persevered through a strained back on tournament day, which Larry Lobue said was caused because Hal was "carrying both sons and a 12-player roster"! We hope Hal feels better soon. The Wolverines won bronze medals in their bracket.

The Doves were coached by veteran, Debbie Eddlemon. Her players were Rachel, Ty, JJ, Tony, Geraldo, Ronnie and Andrew and they brought home 4th place ribbons. Great effort!

The Angels, coached by Gary Schottle included Mike C, Michael K, SanJuanita, Tyrone, Timmy, Cesar, Bridget, and Blaine. The Angels took home silver medals. Well done, especially since they played 3 games, back to back to back!

Finally, we had another gold medal winning team - our unified team, coached by Larry Lobue. The unified players were Gary Schottle, Traci Duez, Shemar Douglas, Will Marshall, Matt Marshall, Derek Schottle, Kyle Eddlemon, Ryan Darnell, and Tim Caldwell. Gary Schottle pulled a hamstring and had to sit out part of the tournament. He better work it out before this spring's track meets!

The Arc appreciates the time and commitment that the coaches gave to make the basketball season possible for our athletes. There were a number of volunteers who assisted with the practices and the athletes and coaches sincerely appreciate your help! The cupcakes from Lupe McCoy were a nice surprise treat!



Special Olympics 2016 Winter Games News

Margo Pasko



On Thursday, February 4, twenty-four athletes from three of The Arc's volleyball teams and three bowlers took their yearly, winter road trip to compete in the 23rd Annual Special Olympics Texas Winter Games in Round Rock. According to Special Olympics Texas, 2500 athletes from across Texas competed in volleyball, bowling and powerlifting. They were accompanied by 250 coaches, 500 family members and more than 2000 other volunteers, not to mention all the spectators!

In the bowling competition, dynamic duo, Jason and Steve Lungstrum, won gold medals in their division of unified doubles. Allan Harris, Jr. also had a great Winter Games outing,

bringing home a bronze medal. Good job, bowlers!

The three volleyball teams included the Angels, coached by Debbie Eddlemon; the Wolverines, coached by Hal Marshall; and the Sharks, coached by Carl LaSala. The teams played, lived and ate well on the trip! They stayed in a new hotel, Home2Suites by Hilton. Chaperone Charles McLaren declared it a really nice place, and the sentiment was echoed by head of delegation Larry Lobue and others. They dined at their usual Austin/Round Rock area favorites, The Salt Lick, Whataburger, and Mesa Rosa.

In addition to playing their volleyball games, the teams attended opening ceremonies and the victory dance and hung out at athlete village with new friends. Continuing the tradition of Winter Games, each participant was given a gift from Special Olympics volunteers, hand-knitted scarves! This year's fashionable colors were navy blue and white.

All three teams had sterling accomplishments! Yes, they all won silver medals in their respective divisions. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made this trip possible and congratulations to the athletes!

Back by Popular Demand!

Margo Pasko

On Sunday, March 6, 2016, The Arc's TwentySomethings and families enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, arcade games and pizza at The Main Event in The Fountains. TwentySomethings Facilitator, Wendy Chong, planned the event and included special guests, the "Bauer Ambassadors". The "Bauer Ambassadors" are part of the C. T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. They focus on leadership, Bauer pride, and community service. We all had a great time and met some new friends!



S o c i a l

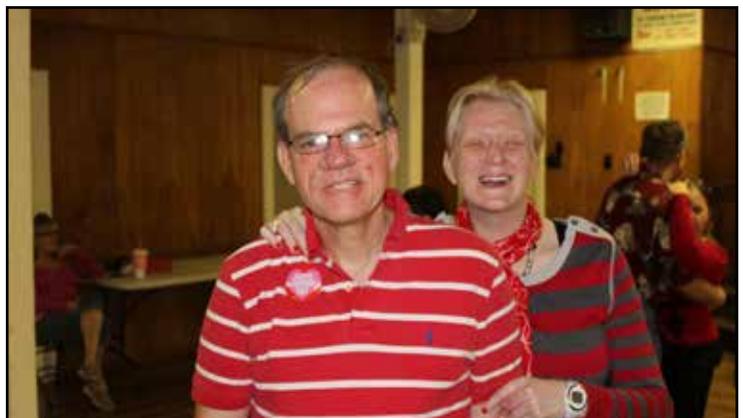
Harlem Globetrotters



St. Therasas Dance



Valentine's Day Dance



R e c r e a t i o n

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo



Mardi Gras Ball





Project SEARCH Community Resource Fair

When: Tuesday April 26th, 2016 at 6:00pm

Where: Fort Bend Independent School District Annex
119 Sweetwater Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479

This event is for Fort Bend ISD students, ages 18-22, and their families to learn more about adult transition services in our community. We would love for your organization to be a part of this event! Each organization will have their own table for families to approach and receive more information. Organizations will arrive at 5:30pm to set up and the fair will begin at 6:00pm.

Community resources attending include:

- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
- Texana
- Social Motion Inc..
- Driver's Education
- Social Security Benefits
- The Arc
- Hope for Three

Brought to you by:





The Arc of Fort Bend County ensures opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to maximize their quality of life within our community.

Membership Form

Date: _____

Please indicate New Member Renewing Member

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____ HCS Provider: _____

I am a:

- Family Member Person with Disability Interested Citizen Professional who works in the Disability Field

Indicate the age of person with a disability: 0-12 13-22 23-54 55+

Membership Levels:

Individual with Disability \$20.00
-reserved for those not living at home and not included in a family membership
-receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Single \$35.00
-receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Single Lifetime \$500.00
-receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Family \$50.00
***Names of all family members:** _____
-includes all immediate members of the family living in the home
-includes a family member with a disability living outside of the home
-receives two votes at meetings of the membership

Corporate \$100.00
-receives one vote at meetings of the membership

Corporate Lifetime \$2000.00
-receives one vote at meetings of the membership

VIP
-given yearly to chairs of Best in the West and Golf Classic
-given yearly to Head Coaches of Special Olympic Sports

Additional Tax Deductible Donation: \$ _____

If you wish, you may donate to a specific program:

- Bowling Education/Employment Self-Advocacy
- Social Recreation Special Olympics Transportation

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail form and payment to: OR Join online at www.arcoffortbend.org

The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

The Arc of Fort Bend County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

The Arc of Fort Bend County
123 Brooks Street
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Phone: 281-494-5959
Fax: 281-494-5960

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Achieve with us.



Add us as your friend and
keep in touch with all
events at The Arc!
facebook.com/arcoffortbend

facebook

“Wings for All” is coming to Houston! *again*

The Arc’s “Wings for All”, is coming to George Bush Intercontinental Airport!

“Wings for All” is an airport rehearsal program for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their parents. The purpose of the “Wings for All” program is to:

- Provide people with I/DD and their parents with an opportunity to prepare for, practice, and gain confidence with air travel in a controlled, real-life environment
- Provide airport, airline and TSA professionals with an opportunity to interact with and learn from people with I/DD and their parents and acquire a deeper understanding of how to provide services to accommodate their unique needs

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2016

Where: Terminal E, George Bush Intercontinental Airport

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon



Go to: <http://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism> to learn more and register for the event. Click on “Houston, TX April 19, 2016” under “Upcoming Events”. See the link to register as a participant in Wings for All.

Please contact llavigne@arcoffortbend.org 281-494-5923 if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting you at “Wings for All” at IAH!