



The Arc Today

Fall 2016
Volume 15, Issue 3

Save the Date

February 12-14, 2017
Inclusion Works Conference
Royal Sonesta Hotel
Houston, TX

Inside this Issue

The Arc Needs You!3

STAR Kids8

Volunteer Spotlight.....9

Easy Ways to Help The Arc....18

Membership Form19



The Arc
Fort Bend County

Proudly Presents

BEST IN THE WEST
DINNER AND DANCE
SILENT AUCTION, BID BOARD
& LIVE AUCTION

NOVEMBER 19, 2016
GEORGE RANCH ARENA

BBQ: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

LIVE BAND: THE TRIUMPHS

DRESS: CASUAL (BOOTS & JEANS)


Do your Christmas shopping at the
**BIGGEST SILENT AUCTION IN
FORT BEND COUNTY!**

TICKETS: \$60

TABLE FOR 10: \$600

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Donate your vehicle today!
tax deduction and free towing

 **(877) ARC-CARO**
(877) 272-2270

Benefiting The Arc of Fort Bend County • For more information, please call 281-240-1313 or 281-494-5920

Achieve with us.

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 2016-2017**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Chairman**
Stewart Jacobson
- Vice Chairman**
Charlie Huber
- Treasurer**
Jenny Gortney
- Secretary**
Becky Geary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

- Patrick Bullard
- Himesh Gandhi
- Avis Goldy
- Allan Harris, Sr.
- Charlie Huber
- Sharon Lee
- Larry Lobue
- Hal Marshall
- Diana Rushing
- Charles Swihart
- Monica Wright

Executive Director
Laura LaVigne

Director of Youth Programs
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

The Arc Needs You!

The Arc's annual Best in the West fundraiser is November 19, 2016 at George Ranch Arena. This is one of two fundraisers we hold each year. Funds raised pay for the programs we provide all year long- Special Olympics, Recreation, Educational Advocacy, Employment Assistance and Bowling at AMF Stafford Lanes.



We are in need of a few auction items. Below is our auction wish list:

- Vacation homes, time share weeks
- Travel vouchers, airline tickets
- Sporting events: Astros, Texans, Dynamo, Rockets, U of H, Rice, Baylor, A&M, UT, LSU
- Golf Outings
- Fine dining restaurant cards/certificates for 2 or 4
- Movie, ballet, symphony, opera, concert or theatre tickets
- Hunting or fishing trips
- Car Rentals
- Services: haircut, make-up, mani/pedicure, massages, beauty care package, house cleaning, home decorating, photography, dental, fitness, spa and gym memberships
- Jewelry, handbags, quilts, fashion accessories
- Sport memorabilia
- Super Bowl 51 – 2 tickets
- Houston Livestock Show & rodeo & Bar-b-que tickets
- Hotel stays, Bed and Breakfast – Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, etc.
- Casino getaways
- Electronics, TV, Fitbit, Drone,
- Yeti items
- Car wash & detail packages, oil changes,
- Assortment of themed gift baskets
- Wine tasting, tours, overnight stays
- Items are just not limited to what is on this list

The Story Behind “The Best Smile”

Posted by Steve Helm on August 5, 2016 - Compliments of Special Olympics Texas



Gary Schottle, father of SOTX athlete and Global Messenger Derek “Tank” Schottle, was selected as the winner of this week’s “Best Shot” photo contest for the image of Chance Geary. As you can imagine, the buzz has been all about that smile! Thanks to Gary and the Arc of Fort Bend County, we have been able to learn more about athlete Chance Geary, who is the featured athlete showing us those pearly whites, so we wanted to share:

“Chance Geary is a one-man welcome committee,” said Margo Pasko from the Arc of Fort Bend County. “He always has a smile and greeting for everyone. This picture truly captures his joyful personality!”

“When I started volunteering in 2001, on my very first trip with Lamar CISD, Chase roomed with me at the hotel so you could say he ‘indoctrinated’ me into Special Olympics,” Schottle said. “From what I know of him, he is always happy and smiling. He loves the Opening Ceremony and the dances, as he loves to dance. He also likes being around the beauty queens that usually show up at the events”

Geary participates in Aquatics and Basketball with the Arc of Fort Bend. He comes from a family that has always strongly supported Special Olympics.

His mom, Becky, has coached the Arc of Fort Bend aquatics program for at least eight years. His dad has volunteered for many years, chaperoning, driving and toting equipment. His sister not only volunteers, but several years ago, started “Olympic Town”, a miniature athlete village for Lamar CISD’s annual invitational track meet, a tradition that continues to this day.

Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

Laura LaVigne

Grant Kennedy, Boy Scout Troop 1000, recently completed his Eagle Scout project for The Arc – 210 perfectly sized clipboards to hold the bid sheets for the Silent Auction items.



In 2011, Michael Erickson made the first 150 clipboards for The Arc as his Eagle Scout project. However, we needed many more. When I learned that Grant needed a project I asked if he would consider making the clip boards.

For those of you who attend the “Best in the West”, you know that some of the silent auction items are too big for a table, or they are displayed on hay bales. The clip boards provide a flat, hard surface to write on – so that our bidders can easily bid higher!

Thank you, Grant, for making the clipboards just in time for this year’s event on November 19. And, congratulations on earning your Eagle Scout Award!



The Arc Chosen for Girl Scout Silver Award Project

My name is Sydney Wormser. I am a ninth grader at Ridgepoint High School and a Senior Girl Scout with Troop 28061. I have had the pleasure of working with The Arc of Fort Bend over the past year as part of my Girl Scout Silver Award Project. I wanted to help people with special needs as the focus of my project so helping the Arc was a perfect fit.

I have enjoyed learning how The Arc of Fort Bend serves our community, especially through their involvement with the Special Olympics. I learned about how much work goes into running an event like the Regional Bocce Ball Tournament by setting up the volunteer website which included volunteer job descriptions and shifts for the tournament. My favorite activity was working at the Bocce Ball Tournaments. I loved seeing the athletes joy while competing and receiving their medals. My time has also been spent organizing player information onto a spreadsheet, stuffing envelopes at home, and working in the office assisting with various office tasks. My final activity has been creating a first aid and game drive. When the athletes travel out of town to compete, they will now have two backpacks full of various games to keep them preoccupied while they wait to compete. The first aid supplies will help them replenish needed items to keep on their vans as they travel.

I want to thank the Arc of Fort Bend, especially Margo Pasko, for allowing me the opportunity to work with such a great organization. It has been a memorable experience and I would be honored to work with them again.



Social Recreation Fort Bend County Fair



Sugar Land Skeeters



Social Recreation St. Theresa's Dance



2016 Texas Advocates Conference

Jody White

The Texas Advocates Conference was August 12th, 13th and 14th in San Marcos. We stayed at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center. We were able to check in the hotel when we got there and headed to our rooms. We had a barbecue dinner and watched a movie called "Becoming Bulletproof". It was a western that had actors with and without disabilities.

Saturday morning started with breakfast and the opening session with Sheila Allee as the Keynote speaker. She wrote a book about her Uncle called "My Father's Eyes". After the opening session there were several workshops to choose from including: Staying safe with personal and media safety tips, Voting, Healthy lifestyle information, everyone can work, how to own a home, Stranger Danger, money management and many others. After the workshops our group went up to their rooms to rest up for the big dance. We had dinner and dancing until midnight.

Sunday morning we had breakfast and then it was time to head back to Sugar Land. We would like to give a big thank you to all of our advisors, chaperones and staff for a good job on conference and help this year.



2016 Texas Advocates Conference

Got Medicaid? You might be getting STAR Kids instead!

Cheryl Sewell

Many parents have recently received a packet from the Medicaid office informing them that their child with disabilities, aged 0 to 20, must switch from “traditional” Medicaid to Texas’ new STAR Kids program. The Arc hosted a presentation with Elva Caballero, Regional Manager of MAXIMUS, to discuss how this change will affect services. Parents were able to discuss their options with insurance agencies offering STAR Kids and then signed up with an agency on-the-spot.

STAR Kids is a new Texas Medicaid managed care program that will provide Medicaid benefits, beginning November 1, 2016, to children and adults 20 and younger who have disabilities. Participation in the STAR Kids program is required for those who are 20 or younger, covered by Medicaid, and meet at least one of the following:

- Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Get SSI and Medicare.
- Get services through the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) waiver.
- Get services through the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) waiver.
- Live in a community-based intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition (ICF/IID) or nursing facility.
- Get services through a Medicaid Buy-In program.
- Get services through any of the following Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) waiver programs.
 - o Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)
 - o Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)
 - o Home and Community-based Services (HCS)
 - o Texas Home Living (TxHmL)

Managed care means that you will pick health plan that will provide the health services you need through a network of doctors, specialists, and other providers. Those enrolling in the STAR Kids program will choose a health plan, as well as a primary care physician or clinic who will provide basic medical services, like check-ups, and provide referrals to a specialist when needed.

Basic medical benefits, coordination of care

STAR Kids is designed to meet the unique needs of youth and children with disabilities. The program will provide benefits such as prescription drugs, hospital care, primary and specialty care, preventive care, personal care services, private duty nursing, and durable medical equipment and supplies. Children and youth who get additional services through MDCP will receive their MDCP services through STAR Kids.

If you or your child lives in a community-based intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition (ICF/IID) or nursing facility, your long term services will be provided the same way they are now.

If you or your child receives services from any of the following programs, they will be provided the same way they are now:

- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)
- Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS)
- Texas Home Living (TxHmL)
- Youth Empowerment Services (YES)

If you or your child receives Medicare, your Medicare benefits won't change. You will keep using Medicare for basic health services and medicine ordered by your doctor.

Through STAR Kids, families will also receive help with coordinating care. Each health plan will provide service coordination, which will help identify needs and connect members to services and qualified providers. STAR Kids MCOs will assess each member's service needs, which will be used to help the family and the MCO create an individual service plan.

A core component of the STAR Kids program will be a standard screening and assessment process health plans will use to determine each child's needs as they relate to health and independent living.

Managed Care Organizations

Each health service area in the state will have at least two health plans, or managed care organizations (MCOs), that will provide services through the STAR Kids program.

For additional information about STAR Kids, contact:

**Elva Caballero, Regional Manager
MAXIMUS – Texas Health Steps/STAR**

650 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E, Ste 507, Houston, Texas 77060
Office: 281.260.9871
Cell: 281.682.0133
Fax: 281.260.9520
elvacaballero@maximus.com

Special Olympics - Area 22 - Gulf Coast Volunteer Spotlight: Margo Pasko

Compliments of Special Olympics Texas

Margo Pasko plays a very valuable role as an Area 22 volunteer, trainer, coach and competition committee member. She helps in numerous aspects of competition and training along with organizing the Arc of Fort Bend County athletes. In addition to her position with the Arc, Margo coordinates facilities for the Area 22 Bocce Competition and recruits knowledgeable volunteers for this competition. Margo is always willing to help with a positive attitude and jumps in whenever and wherever needed. This year she helped in organizing the Torch Run at Opening Ceremonies for the Aquatics Competition along with delivering numerous cases of water to two of our events. Margo does a great job at keeping accurate records and medicals up to date for all the athletes in the Arc of Fort Bend County. Whether it's coaching her Special Olympics athletes, organizing events or volunteering, Margo gives 100% at all times. Area 22 is proud to announce that Margo Pasko is our choice for this month's Volunteer Spotlight. She is an asset and inspiration to every life that she touches and we are very lucky to have her working in the Gulf Coast Area.



Kids & Youth Group News: Laughter and Laments!

Cheryl Sewell

So far this school year, our Kids and Youth Group families have enjoyed fun at Main Event, the Fort Bend County Fair, and a picnic playdate at Sugar Land's universally accessible playground.

On September 17, at Main Event, we enjoyed an "All Access Pass" which gave the kids unlimited access to bowling, laser tag, ropes, billiards and shuffle board for four hours! Plus, lunch was included and a two-hour unlimited video game card! We made out like bandits!

On September 26, we enjoyed The Fort Bend County Fair's "Special Citizen's Night". They rode the rides, ate carnival food and enjoyed all the sights, sounds and smells (especially near the animals) of the fair!

On October 2, we played at Sugar Land's Universally Accessible Playground. The playground was built to accommodate the special needs of those who use wheelchairs. The playground boasts a rubberized surface plus ramps all the way up to the top of slides. There are areas to safely position kids to slide down. There are "sensory" stations that make noise or beautiful music with bells or drums. There is also a large seating area that rolls – imitating the ocean - so the kids can pretend they are pirates sailing the open seas!



All the kids drew chalk drawings on the sidewalk and played horseshoes, ring toss, frisbee and football. The little ones also enjoyed all the bubbles. Parents brought plenty of hotdogs, chicken tacos, and tostadas to share. Nobody left hungry.

The final event of the day was the Silly String "free-for-all" war. Lots of laughter from the parents and lots of laments from the kids when their cans ran out.

Upcoming Kids & Youth Group Events

November 5 - 10:15 am to 2:00 pm

Our next Kids and Youth Group event is a Youth In Philanthropy partnership with high school students. The Arc will host a picnic at Lost Creek Park Sugar Land, where we will enjoy games and food to start the holiday season off right. Games will include a snowball fight, silly string fight, horseshoes/ring toss, bubbles, arts/crafts, chalk art, games of skill and games of chance. There is also a playground available, but it's not totally "accessible."

December 3 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

This event will be held at "The Glazery" in Missouri City. The cost is flexible, depending on the ceramic you pick to paint. Discounts available.

Jan/Feb Laser Tag and/or making Marshmallow Shooters

March Tour a cruise ship. Very limited space available

April Picnic in the Park with Marshmallow Shooters

To join our Kids & Youth Group and get direct notifications of these activities and more, e-mail Cheryl Sewell cbsewell@arcoffortbend.org.

They Rocked Around The Clock!

Margo Pasko

On August 28, the TwentySomethings members pulled out the poodle skirts and rolled up those t-shirt sleeves for the 50's "Jive Dance" organized by TwentySomethings facilitator Wendy Chong. Once again, Cassandra and Allison Wen provided the beautiful San Antonio Room at Safari Texas for the afternoon.

Wendy started the event by teaching everyone how to do the "Twist". Elise McCutchen, Alex's mom, joined in and demonstrated more dance moves from the 50's!

There was a "bubblegum" blowing contest, wherein Meredith and Desmond blew the biggest bubbles-- with their bubble wands. New member, Gheori was the most limber limbo-er.

Awards were given to: Best Bubble Gum Blowers, Meredith and Desmond; Fantastic Fifty's Costume, Alex and Christina; Most Fabulous Limbo, Gheori; Talented Twister, Donovan Ben; Jiviest Jivers, Kristi and Sydney.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Margo Pasko

Sugar Land Skeeters set a goal to sell-out the ballpark on Friday, Sept. 2! Thanks to Larry Lobue, The Arc received 75 field box tickets for the game which enabled our Special Olympics softball players and TwentySomethings members to enjoy the game and the Fireworks at Constellation Field! In addition to the fireworks, because the Dream League was the featured beneficiary for tickets sold with their promotional code, they received \$4 for each ticket. Thank you, Larry Lobue, for the effort you continually put forth on behalf of our programs! And thank you, Skeeters Baseball!

Special Olympics Golf Team News

Margo Pasko

The Arc's Special Olympics golf team had a great outing on July 25, when three of our five players participated in the Spring Panthers Invitation Golf Tournament at Northgate Country Club in Humble.

Stevie Meyer, a level 4 player, brought home a gold medal in his division! One of our coaches, Mike Wright, caddied for him. Mike Marshall along with his father and alternate shot partner, Hal Marshall, also brought home gold medals! AND, Tank Schottle along with his father and alternate shot partner, Gary Schottle, won gold medals, too!

Coach Joanne Meyer said, "We love this event! Ever since The Arc initiated our Special Olympics golf program, we have participated in this well-organized tournament." Northgate Forest Country Club is proud of their Woodlands Shooting Stars and so welcoming to all of us. You can see the overall growth of the tournament: twice as many athletes competed in the 18-hole competition rather than the 9-hole level of previous years. The golf program is strengthening, literally!

Mike Marshall said, "We had a great time! Tank gave a real good speech, and we are getting better for the Area Tournament in September." Mike played 9 holes, alternate shots with his dad, Hal who commented: "Northgate Forest Country Club, and The Woodlands Shooting Stars do a great job hosting this tournament. One day we will need to reciprocate in our area, at one of our great area golf courses."

Tank Schottle, a newcomer to our Special Olympics golf program, is a new Global Messenger for Special Olympics Texas. As part of opening ceremonies, Tank was invited to give a speech about what Special Olympics means to him. It was inspirational!

Athlete Stevie Meyer enjoyed having Coach Mike Wright be his caddy. Stevie also said, "Thank goodness it didn't rain" and "That was a good lunch!"

Coach Ken Elliott was unable to be there but sent his regards and best wishes for good games. During the tournament, Coach Kelley Moseley followed each team providing water and encouragement. Jack and Gary Krueger and Josie and Robin Vaiana are also part of The Arc's Special Olympics golf program, but were unavailable for this tournament.

Once again, coaches Kelley Moseley and Ken Elliott made arrangements for the use of RiverBend Country Club's golf course, and GolfTEC's video swing analysis instructors—what generous people all around! Thank you, Kelley and Ken for making it possible!

We would love to have more Ft. Bend Arc athletes join us for golf. Do you know anyone that might be interested? Contact Margo at mapasko@arcoffortbend.org or 281-494-5928.

Athlete Oath:

**LET ME WIN. BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT.**



Left to right: Kelley Moseley, Tank Schottle, Mike Wright, Buddy Meyer, Stevie Meyer, Hal Marshall, Mike Marshall

Aquatics Team Participates in Area 22 Swim Meet

Margo Pasko

The Arc's Special Olympics Aquatics team participated in the Area 22 Swim Meet at Don Cook Natatorium in Sugar Land on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Becky Geary was head coach and Beth and Jimmy Jimenez were assistant coaches. Megan Geary provided lots of team support, especially since Coach Becky was recovering from knee surgery. JJ Jimenez recited the athlete oath at the swim meet. Dave Gonzalez was one of the torchbearers during opening ceremonies.

The great news is that every single athlete medaled in one or more events. It was a tremendous day of individual and relay team successes. Megan Geary said that all of the athletes stepped up their "game day" performances when compared to their practice efforts.

Coach Becky said, "We had a great meet. Our swimmers at the Area meet this year were Steve Bily, Davis Caruthers, Chance Geary, David Gonzalez, Jimmy Griffin, Tommy Hajek, JJ Jimenez, Tony Presson, Danny Ries, Tyler Sims and Monica Wright. Next stop for all of them: Fall Classic 2016, October 13-15 in College Station. We want to give a special shout-out of thanks to Don Ries who recorded all of the times for the entries. It was a huge job! The coaches also want to thank all of the families who got the athletes to practices and pitched-in when supervision was needed—truly a great group!"



Special Olympics Softball News



Larry and Hal



Angels



Wolverines

Margo Pasko

FINALLY! After four years in a row of rainouts for the Area 22 softball tournament, our teams got to play! Their uniforms, new last year, got put to use on Saturday, September 17, at the Area 22 Softball tournament. The games were sponsored by the City of Clute Parks and Recreation Department and were held at the Stratton Ridge Sportsplex.

The softball coaches this season included Larry Lobue and Gary Schottle with the Angels, Cathy Zepeda and Don Duyka with the Sharks, and Hal Marshall with the Wolverines. They coached 36 players divided among 3 teams. Thank you so much, coaches!

Larry and Gary's Angels won the gold medal for their division. The Angels players were Cesar Castro, Mike Cushenberry, Ryan Darnell, Chris De La Paz, Kyle Eddlemon, Alberto Gonzales, Kenneth Hordge, Keith Jensen, Michael Kidd, Jonathan Lucio, Tank Schottle and Timmy Trachier.

Hal's Wolverines also won the gold medal for their division. The Wolverines players were Matthew Biasini, Ronnie Bourgeois, Hayden Buckles, Mike Garcia, Jimmy Griffin, Andrew Kase, Laryn Lobue, Mike Marshall, Michael Pelz, SanJuanita Soto and Bridget Stephey.

Cathy Zepeda's Sharks brought home silver medals. The Sharks players were Kim Butler, Davis Caruthers, Lucas Castro, Yi-No Cheng, Raphael Fajardo, Nicole LaSala, Alexander Mebane, Stevie Meyer, Lizette Ore, Kristi Oujesky, Tyler Sims and Ty Williams.

In addition to the great medals they all received, the teams were awarded mile-high trophies! Cathy Zepeda said she is still admiring their trophy. Hal said lifting the trophies was like lifting weights. It was a great way to end their season! Stop by The Arc office to see the trophies on display!

The Arc thanks Missouri City Parks and Recreation Department for allowing us to use their softball fields for practice!



Sharks

Special Olympics Golf, Area Tournament News

Margo Pasko



Despite record-breaking heat and humidity, The Arc's Special Olympics golfers Mike Marshall, Stevie Meyer and new member of the Golf team, Tank Schottle, had a great outing at the Area 4 Special Olympics regional golf tournament on September 19, at Wind Rose Golf Club, in Spring. For the Special Olympics golf tournament, Stevie Meyer golfed as a level four, 9 hole singles player, with his dad, volunteer, Buddy Meyer, serving as his caddy. Mike Marshall partnered with his father, volunteer and board member, Hal Marshall, in level two alternate shot play. Tank Schottle partnered with Mike Wright, also in level two alternate shot play. Golfer Josie Vaiana was unable to attend, but Coach Kelley Moseley says she will fit in well at next year's tournament.

Our players brought home the rainbow of medals: Stevie had gold, Mike had silver, and Tank had bronze. It was an excellent showing all around! Coach Kelley Moseley said they have all made great progress! Coach Ken Elliott, reporting in from the United Kingdom declared, "Great job, guys, well done!" Hal Marshall said "...the golfers are doing so well and really seem to love the game. We had a great time today—congrats to Stevie for gold in the individual flight. On the way home, both Derrick and Mike talked about working hard to get to that level someday, too." After the tournament, Coach Mike Wright said "They are truly a great group of young men and a joy to be around." Coach Joanne Meyer summed it all up: "It is so cool to see how much these guys have all grown into the game...I love our golf team and families!"

Mike Marshall owned a birdie in the tournament, in his alternate shot round with his father. Mike teed off with a long and straight shot. Hal did a chip shot to get the ball onto the green. Then, Mike sank a 10 foot putt. Way to go!

Once again, certified personal golf coach, Thomas Valdez of GolfTEC, donated many hours of intensive video swing analysis training. Thank you so much, Thomas!

Riverbend Country Club also continues to substantially support our golf program. James Brown, the golf pro who manages the RiverBend golf program, allows our athletes to use the course at no charge. Thank you, James and Riverbend Country Club!

Even with this support, the golf program depends on the enthusiasm and the skill of our dedicated coaches and volunteers: Kelley Moseley, Ken Elliott, Joanne Meyer, Mike Wright, Joyce Elliott, and Bob Conners.

For now, the golfers will take a break, but if you are interested in joining our golf program, contact Margo at The Arc (mapasko@arcoffortbend.org).

Special Olympics Bocce News

Margo Pasko

For the third year, The Arc hosted the Area 22 Gulf Coast Bocce Tournament. Seventy-one athletes from four Area 22 delegations, registered for the competition which was held on September 24 at Dulles High School. The participating delegations were The Arc of Fort Bend, Alvin Express, Fort Bend Falcons, and LaPorte Bulldogs. Volunteers also came from far and wide to make the event a success: Bay Area key volunteer Ryne Baker, Dulles HS AFJROTC, Sugar Land Rotary, Knights of Columbus members from two parishes, NHS and TASK from Dulles, and many more. Trent Herrod and Andrew Dojs volunteered first aid services. Jeff Hoffman provided referee training and consultation. Gary Schottle was event photographer. Also from our own group, Board members Allan Harris, Stewart Jacobson, Larry Lobue and Special Olympics coaches, Mike Biasini, Cathy Zepeda, Kathy and Kelly Moynihan, Bonnie Brown and Deborah Blunt all pitched in to help with the tournament. Margo was very grateful that Terry Pelz hauled the 3 canopy tents back and forth to the event. It was an amazing crew! Thank you to all the volunteers who made the games possible!

As the host delegation, we had certain “perks” for opening ceremony roles. Jennifer Daniels read the athletes’ oath. Jeff Hoffman read the officials’ oath. For the first time, Nicki Moynihan carried the torch. It was a bittersweet moment for her friends and coaches—after all these years with our delegation, the Moynihans are moving away from Texas. They will all be missed.

The core of the whole bocce effort was The Arc’s bocce family. The coaches included head coach, Debbie Patton, Kathy Moynihan, Janet Wantuch, Deborah Blunt, Bonnie Brown, Jeff Hoffman and Margo Pasko. The athletes who played singles games were Dominique, Trevor, Courtney, Todd, Mainak, and Carla. Doubles teams were Tony and Russell, Sharon and Carrie, Jennifer and Nicki, Michael and Matthew, Allan and Rudy, Tyler and Ronnie, Hayden and Tank, and Amy and Christopher. The players all brought home medals and enjoyed a beautiful day! Debbie did a fantastic job as head coach!

The Games Committee was comprised of Pam Hollaway, Special Olympics Area 22 Director; Larry Lobue, Area 22 Competition Director; Allan Harris, Sr., facilities coordinator; and Margo Pasko, volunteer coordinator. Major Doug Hawn and Sergeant Patrick Hardy took control of the bocce court set up - which is a huge undertaking! Allan Harris did a masterful job of coordinating the fields and the entire facility set up. Once again, the consensus was that we all had so much fun, we’re going to do it again next year!



Bocce Buddies



Nicki and the Torch



Tank and Hayden

Ambassador Training held at The Arc



For the third time in the past year, Margo Pasko provided training for Fort Bend Transit Ambassadors. Ambassadors assist passengers who need that extra bit of help or supervision in order to safely use Fort Bend Transit. ParkWest Staffing Services, Inc. hires the ambassadors for Fort Bend Transit. Margo developed a curriculum and trained 16 ambassadors on the topic of “Interacting with Agitated Passengers”. She taught them how to recognize when a passenger is becoming agitated, how to “identify” trigger points”, when possible, to prevent the agitation and strategies to use to safely “de-escalate” the situation.

The two previous trainings that Margo provided included:

- How to help passengers be more independent in their use of Fort Bend Transit services,
- Who has a duty to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation, including how to recognize it and how to report it.

Jalyn Dimmit and Alex McCutcheon, both members of The Arc, are employed as ambassadors and love their jobs helping people.

U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance to Schools on Ensuring Equity and Providing Behavioral Supports to Students with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) issued guidance in the form of a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that emphasizes the requirement that schools provide positive behavioral supports to students with disabilities who need them. It also clarifies that the repeated use of disciplinary actions may suggest that children with disabilities may not be receiving appropriate behavioral interventions and supports. When schools fail to consider and provide for needed behavioral supports through the Individualized Education Program (IEP), it is likely to result in children not receiving the free appropriate public education to which they are entitled under federal law.

“All students, including those with disabilities, should have the supports and equitable educational opportunities they need to be successful in school,” said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. “It’s our duty as parents and educators to ensure that children who show up at school to learn get the maximum out of their educational experience. This guidance will help schools create a safe, supportive learning environment for those students who need additional behavioral supports and services to help them thrive.”

Current law allows educators to remove students with disabilities from their classrooms if the student violates a code of conduct. Data indicates students with disabilities are disciplined at far higher rates than their non-disabled peers. The DCL includes two resource documents to assist teachers and school leaders. The Department is providing supports to assist teachers with classroom management strategies and assist schools in implementing school wide behavioral efforts to create safe and effective environments where all students are given an opportunity to positively engage in their education.

To better address school discipline and to shine a spotlight on inequities, the Department has updated its school discipline webpage, #Rethink Discipline. This online tool contains data, graphics, and other information on the prevalence, impact, and legal implications of suspensions and expulsions; resources on effective alternatives; and ways to effectively create positive school climates. The webpage also highlights the disproportionate rate at which black students, particularly black males, receive out-of-school suspensions, and data on suspended preschoolers, by race and gender.

The Dear Colleague Letter, as well as additional resources, can be found on the Rethink Discipline website at: www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html

The Arc Family Matters

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers:

Stephen Keil, step-brother of Special Olympics athlete, Tony Presson, passed away on July 30, 2016.

Fred Keil, step-father of Special Olympics athlete, Tony Presson, passed away on August 26, 2016.

Robert Vincent Darnell, father of Special Olympics athlete, Ryan Darnell, passed away on August 25, 2016

Ernie Croucher, husband of Beverly Croucher, passed away on August 29, 2016. Ernie and Beverly were committee members of The Arc's annual fundraiser, The Best in the West.

John Woerner, father of Laura LaVigne, Executive Director of The Arc of Fort Bend, passed away on August 29, 2016, at 102 years of age.

Easy Ways to Help The Arc of Fort Bend while Holiday Shopping



As you are planning and shopping for your holiday meals, we hope you will consider linking The Arc of Fort Bend County to your Randall's "Remarkable Card". Every time you shop, 1% of your purchase total will be donated to The Arc. Our Good Neighbor Program (GNP) Account number is 2328. The Arc will then receive a donation every time you shop! Visit <http://www.randalls.com/ShopStores/Good-Neighbor.page> for more information.



Did you know you can support The Arc of Fort Bend County with your Kroger Plus Card? All you have to do is sign up for Kroger Community Rewards® ! If you do, every time you shop and swipe your Kroger Plus card, The Arc will earn rewards. Visit <https://www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3> and select The Arc of Fort Bend.



Amazon Smile allows you to contribute to your favorite charities by shopping! Go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, log in with your Amazon.com account information, and choose The Arc of Fort Bend as your charity!





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

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Sugar Land, TX
Permit No 19

Achieve with us.



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

facebook



The Arc was awarded a \$5000 grant
to offset the costs of painting our Group Homes.

Thank you
Albert & Ethel Herzstein Foundation
for your continued support!