

## Save the Date

**May 22, 2017**  
Annual Business Meeting  
Prosperity Bank


**June 4, 2017**  
Athletic Banquet  
Safari Texas

**June 19, 2017**  
Golf Classic  
Weston Lakes Country Club

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## The Arc Extends a huge THANK YOU!

Thank you, **Andy Engleman, President of NXS Construction, Inc.** for leading the construction of a six-foot wide, concrete path at our building on Cypress Point Dr. in Missouri City. The building is leased to Texana Center who uses it as a Learning Center for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The acre in back is perfect for walking and visiting with friends - and affords a bit of exercise in the open air.

The materials and labor for the construction of the path were partially financed with a \$7500 grant The Arc received from the **Fondren Foundation**. Along with **NXS Construction, Inc.**, these fine companies and individuals donated time and materials to complete the path: **Ben & Joe Bono, Durwood Greene Construction Co., Harris Construction, Speedy Grass, Sprint Landfill and Sprint Sand and Clay.**

***Job well done and  
appreciated by all!***



## 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**

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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

# "Wings for All" Program Big Success!

The Arc of Fort Bend County, The Arc of Greater Houston and The Arc of Texas, along with our other partners, George Bush Intercontinental Airport, TSA and United Airlines, hosted our 5th "Wings for All" event on April 18. And, it was another great success!



"Wings for All" is an airport rehearsal program - specially designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and aviation professionals. The program was designed to alleviate some of the stress that families who have a child with a disability experience when traveling by air. The program provides families the opportunity to practice entering the airport, obtaining boarding passes, passing through security and boarding a plane.

"Wings for All" also gives airport, airline, and TSA professionals the opportunity to observe, interact and deliver their services in a structured, learning environment.

Be on the look-out for the next "Wings for All" event in October, 2017!







# 2017 ANNUAL MEETING



Date: May 22, 2017

Place: Prosperity Bank

14060 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Time: 6:00 P.M.

RSVP By: May 15, 2017

We will present The Arc's 2016 financial report, vote on proposed changes to our Bylaws and elect the Board of Directors' Class of 2020. Reservations are available online at [www.arcoffortbend.org](http://www.arcoffortbend.org). There is no charge to attend this event.

Reserve your seat now at [www.arcoffortbend.org](http://www.arcoffortbend.org) and select "Register for Special Events". For more information, please call The Arc at 281/494-5959.



**WESTON LAKES COUNTRY CLUB**

**MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017**

**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](http://www.arcoffortbend.org) "GOLF CLASSIC"**

**TITLE CO-SPONSORS:**



# Thank you Cheryl!

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Cheryl celebrated her 15-year anniversary at The Arc. She has helped countless families secure the supports and services their children need by attending and advocating at ARD meetings.

And, she has submitted her resignation as she has decided to spend more quality time with her husband, Boyd.

Thank you, Cheryl, for your passion and commitment - you'll be missed!



*"Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey."*

- Pat Conroy

## The Arc Family Matters

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**Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Allan Harris, Sr.**, father of Special Olympics athlete, Allan Harris, Jr. and Board Member of The Arc, has been ill. Please keep Allan in your prayers.

**John Moore**, father of Special Olympics athlete, Pam Moore, had surgery recently. Please keep John in your prayers.

**Joann Marie Meyer**, grandmother of Special Olympic athlete, Stevie Meyer passed away on March 3, 2017. She was a longtime supporter of The Arc and a true champion of her grandson.

**Paula Johnson**, mother of Special Olympic athlete, Alex Johnson passed away in March 2017.

**Karen Renee Lehrmann**, prior member of The Arc, passed away on April 6, 2017.

**Ernest Fuchs**, uncle of Special Olympics athlete, Monica Wright and brother to long time member of The Arc, Marian Wright, passed away on April 8, 2017.

# John Watson and Bloom Community

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*Margo Pasko*



**Bloom  
Community**

A 501c3 organization

After 32 years in the mortgage industry, John Watson parted from that business to start a 501c3 nonprofit that focuses on helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities become active participants in the communities where they live, Bloom Community. One of Bloom Community's first projects is helping educate employers on the benefits of hiring people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. To that end, he has financed, directed, and produced a series of marketing videos showing the benefits of hiring an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Bloom community also has a health division that focuses on health education for people with IDD, which includes an indoor cycling program, Bloom Cycle.

To view John's videos showing the benefits of hiring an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, visit [www.arcoffortbend.org](http://www.arcoffortbend.org).

## Shruti Misra's Spring Fling Activity Day

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*Cheryl Sewell*

Remember the name Shruti Misra for I'm sure that she will be a successful powerhouse where ever she lands in the future. Shruti, a senior attending Clements HS, has been very involved in the disability community for several years, both at Clements HS as well as in India. She focuses her volunteer services on people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Shruti planned the "Spring Fling Activity Day" for families with school-aged children with disabilities, extending the invitation to all families in Fort Bend County.

She organized the location, volunteers, snacks, fun and games. She planned different stations with arts and crafts, sensory items, puzzles, an obstacle course and games of skill and chance. Parents enjoyed watching their children have a great time. The line dancing was a favorite with everyone.

Way to go Shruti! We look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments!





# Social Recreation

## Mardi Gras Ball Moody Gardens

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## Monster Trucks – NRG Stadium

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# Social Recreation

## HLSR

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## St. Patrick's Day Dance

## St. Theresa's Catholic Church

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# Special Olympics 2017 Winter Games News

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*Margo Pasko*

Never let it be said that The Arc's Special Olympics' volunteers aren't the greatest ever! Our own Buddy Meyer literally gave the shirt off his back, in front of God and everyone, so that one of our players would have a regulation white t-shirt to wear under his volleyball jersey, permitting him to play in the volleyball Winter Games 2017 statewide tournament. Thank you, Buddy!

Coach Hal Marshall also showed his dedication to our delegation by celebrating his birthday while at Winter Games. Happy birthday, Hal!

Here's the rest of the story. On Thursday, February 2, 29 athletes from all four of The Arc's volleyball teams and three bowlers made their annual winter road trip to compete in the 24th Annual Special Olympics Texas Winter Games in Round Rock. According to Special Olympics Texas, over 2600 athletes from across Texas joined in the fun, competing 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!

Dynamic bowling duo, Jason and Steve Lungstrum, brought home ribbons in their division of unified doubles. Allan Harris Jr. also came home with a ribbon from his bowling division. The Lungstrums and the Harris look forward to the Winter Games trip every year!

The four volleyball teams were the Angels, coached by Debbie Eddlemon; the Wolverines, coached by Hal Marshall; the Doves coached by Beth and Jimmy Jimenez, and the Sharks, coached by Carl LaSala. The Angels came home with gold medals. The Doves came home with bronze medals. The Wolverines came home with silver as did the Sharks. Congratulations to all! The teams played, lived and ate well on the trip! They stayed at Hampton Inn, dined at the usual crowd favorite, The Salt Lick, and added Joe's Crab Shack for a new dining option this year.

They played their volleyball games, attended the athletes' celebration and victory dance, and then hung out at athlete village - where they made new friends. In the tradition of Winter Games, each participant was given the gift from Special Olympics volunteers – handmade, knitted scarves! This year's fashion colors were burgundy, grey, and white.

All four teams had great accomplishments! Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made this trip possible! Congratulations to the athletes!

Be sure to view the photos online at <http://www.arcoffortbend.org/programs/special-olympics/>

# Special Olympics Area Basketball Tournament News

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*Margo Pasko*



The Arc Special Olympics basketball program had its own kind of March Madness on Saturday, March 4, at the Area 22 Gulf Coast Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Alvin! 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. We had 59 players, including 5 unified partners.

Sharks basketball coaches Carl LaSala and Will Marshall coached their team to win the gold in their bracket. Shark players were Jeremie Brown, Hayden Buckles, Kim Butler, Darryl Childs, Rafael Fajardo, Wayne Heitman, Nicole LaSala, Lizeth Ore and Russell Smith. Jeremie's dad Michael Brown, a new volunteer with our program, helped out on the court and we heard

he had a good time. Way to go, Sharks!

Cathy Zepeda led the awesome Hawks. Her players were Donovan Ben, Nicholas Calvin, Lucas Castro, Ashley Hobbs, Kristi Oujesky, Tyler Sims, Deon Sullivan, Rudy Vasquez, and new players David Cordova, Brandon Horton and Charla Hyles. They brought home silver medals this year! Yay, Hawks!

The Wolverines were coached by returning coach and member of The Arc's Board of Directors, Hal Marshall. His players were Davis Caruthers, Desney Cheeks, Chris DeLaPaz, Chance Geary, Jimmy Griffin, Aaron Lindsey, Larryn Lobue, Jason Lungstrum, Mike Marshall, Stevie Meyer and Michael Pelz. According to Coach Hal, "The Wolverines had a very eventful tournament this year. We played five games on Saturday - almost having to play a sixth for a tiebreaker. Our team won four games and lost only one and that game by just one point. We had also beat that team by one point so were in a dead-even tie with that same team at 5:30 PM heading into a six game tiebreaker. The teams voted to flip a coin because it was so late and everyone was so tired and fortunately the Wolverines won the coin flip and we came home with gold! We were very tired, but also very happy."

The Doves were coached by new coach recruit Rhonda Pierce who was ably assisted by Mike Biasini. Doves players were Matthew Biasini, Ronnie Bourgeois, Blaine Hylton, JJ Jimenez, Andrew Kase, Mainak Pandya, Stephen Plascencia and Tony Presson. They brought home 4th place ribbons. Good job!

The Angels were coached by Gary Schottle. Their players were Deandre Burnett, Cesar Castro, Mike Cushenberry, Tyrone Frederick, Michael Kidd, Jonathan Lucio, Sanjuanita Soto, Bridget Stephney and Timmy Trachier. The Angels took home gold medals this year. Well done!



*Gold Medal Angels*

Finally, we had another gold medal winning team - our unified team, coached by Larry Lobue. The unified players were Tim Caldwell, Ryan Darnell, Shemar Douglas, Traci Duez, Kyle Eddlemon, Darryl Fortenberry, Will Marshall, Derek Schottle and Gary Schottle. Gary Schottle did NOT pull a hamstring this year, so he was able to play! Congratulations!

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!



*Gold Medal, Unified Team*



# Special Olympics Golf Team News

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Margo Pasko



Returning members of The Arc's Special Olympics golf team shook off their cobwebs after a winter of hibernation and kicked off their season by playing in the Spring Panthers Invitational Golf Tournament at The Woodlands Country Club Players Course on March 22, 2017.

Coach Ken Elliott said it was quite a hike up to the Woodlands and commented, "The course was beautifully maintained, but quite difficult...Every hole had multiple carries—a lake or wide gully or wetland in front of the tee box or green. It was a beautiful day and we had fun!"

Stevie Meyer, a level 4 player brought home a blue ribbon in his division. His dad, Buddy, caddied for him. Mike Marshall and his alternate-shot partner, brother, Will Marshall, brought home second-place ribbons. Tank Schottle and his alternate-shot partner, dad, Gary Schottle, won blue ribbons in their division, as well.

Coach Joanne Meyer picked up lots of good ideas for organizing the golf team this season and she's ready to go!

## Special Olympics Coaches Receive CPR Training

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Margo Pasko

**And we're stayin' alive, stayin' alive**

**Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive**

**Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive.**

*(Thanks to the Bee Gees)*

That was the rhythm for compressions that The Arc's Special Olympics coaches were taught to use during their CPR/AED and first aid course. Coaches Vanessa Luna, Joseph Reed, Janet Wantuch, Gary Schottle, Jeff Hoffman, Margo Pasko, Will Marshall, Debbie Patton and Jenny Webb took the course on Saturday, January 28. The Arc sponsored the class so that our athletes will have "back up" if they ever need it. The coaches not only learned a lot, but they had a great time, too!



# Legislative Advocacy

## What's important this session?

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### 2016 - 2017 Policy Priorities

The Arc of Texas' 2016/2017 Legislative Platform lays out our priorities for the current Legislative Session. Issues that are important to us in this session include:

- Long Term Services and Supports
- Early Intervention and Education
- Employment
- Guardianship



To find out more in-depth information, you can read our detailed priorities at:

<https://www.thearcoftexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/The-Arc-of-Texas-2016.pdf>

## Tank Shottle Chosen as Global Ambassador for SOTX

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*Margo Pasko*

And now, heeeeeere's Tank! Yes, Derek "Tank" Schottle is a media figure. He is a global ambassador for Special Olympics Texas' Athlete Leadership Program. In this capacity, Tank is a public speaker who spreads the word about Special Olympics and how important it is to him.

On March 3, 2017, Tank addressed a large audience of United Healthcare employees at a luncheon. He gave an inspirational speech about his journey to be a better athlete. He explained how he lost weight, became fit and how he keeps fit.

Special Olympics Texas CEO, Margaret Larsen, attended the luncheon to thank United Healthcare for its support of statewide competitions. She introduced Tank to the audience. Tank's proud father, Gary Schottle, also attended the luncheon.



The employees also participated in a team-building exercise. They put together "goody bags" to be given to the athletes in "Athlete Village", an area designated for athletes to wait in between their competitions at Summer Games in Arlington over Memorial Day weekend. The Arc will be sending a large delegation of track athletes to Summer Games, so they will be on the lookout for the new goody bags!

**We are so proud of Tank!**

# Don Miller Memorial Scholarship



*The Arc of Texas promotes, protects, and advocates for the human rights and self-determination of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

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#### *Who was Don Miller?*

*From 1967-74 Don Miller was an active youth volunteer leader in the San Angelo and Texas Teens Aid for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities program sponsored by The Arc of Texas. He was instrumental in the planning and implementation of local and state-level recreational, athletic and social services and supports for people with intellectual disabilities. Although confined to a wheelchair by Muscular Dystrophy, Don became a great example of volunteerism in action. Following his death in 1974, the Don Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to honor his memory.*

The Arc of Texas is pleased to announce the availability of the *Don Miller Memorial Scholarship* for eligible students who will be enrolling in a college or university in Texas for the 2017-2018 fall and spring semesters. Specific details about the scholarship are as follows:

- *Offered to full-time students in need of financial assistance who have chosen a degree plan that will result in a professional career in the field of intellectual and developmental disability services.*
- *Limited to \$2,000 annually and is paid in equal semester installments.*
- *Available only to junior and senior students.*
- *The deadline for application submission is **Friday, September 1, 2017.***
- *The Arc of Texas awards only one (1) scholarship per year.*

The recipient is chosen by a Scholarship Selection Team comprised of senior staff from The Arc of Texas. All decisions of the Scholarship Selection Team are final.

Copies of all materials relating to the scholarship, including the application form, are also available at The Arc of Texas website at [www.thearcoftexas.org](http://www.thearcoftexas.org).

*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*





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:

- |   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Bowling           | <input type="radio"/> Education/Employment | <input type="radio"/> Self-Advocacy  |
| <input type="radio"/> Social Recreation | <input type="radio"/> Special Olympics     | <input type="radio"/> Transportation |

### Total Amount Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and payment to: **OR** Join online at [www.arcoffortbend.org](http://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.

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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](https://facebook.com/arcoffortbend)

**facebook**



## Thank you, Skeeters Foundation

### We appreciate your support and generosity!

Margo Pasko

The Arc's athletes and head coaches will be looking good in the "Parades of Athletes" at all competitions, thanks to the Skeeters Foundation grant for new delegation jackets!

On March 9, Skeeters co-owner Marcie Zlotnik, presented a check for \$5000 to The Arc for the purchase of new jackets for athletes and head coaches. Modeling their stylish new looks are left to right: *Lucas Castro, athlete; Larry Lobue, Head of Delegation; Kyle Eddlemon, athlete; Gary Shottle, Head Coach; Tank Shottle, athlete; Marcie Zlotnik, Co-Chair, Skeeters Foundation; Debbie Eddlemon, Head Coach; Cathy Zepeda, Head Coach; Larry Lobue, athlete*



Larry Lobue is not only our head of delegation and member of The Arc's Board of Directors, but he also serves on the Skeeters Foundation Board of Directors. We are grateful for the generosity of the Skeeters organization as well as their community spirit!