

Save the Date

August 24

Kendra Scott Event
First Colony Mall

July 28 – 30

Texas Advocates Conference
Corpus Christi, TX


November 18

Best in the West
George Ranch Arena

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Donate your vehicle today!
tax deduction and free towing

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

When Houston "ROCKED FOR CHARITY"

Laura LaVigne



Prometheus Foundation, in partnership with IIT Alumni of Greater Houston (IITAGH), organized their second Rock for Charity event on April 23, in the Cullen Theater at Wortham Center. It was a memorable evening of super classic rock for great causes – children, autism and education. They chose The Arc of Fort Bend to receive ½ of the proceeds - \$7000! Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation received the other half.

Dr. Subrata Ghosh, the founder and CEO of Prometheus Foundation said, "I believe in the concept of enjoying quality, classic rock, providing a platform for budding artists and contributing to charities".

And rock, they did! Dr. Ghosh's band, Horizon Fusion Band, covered songs from Dire Straits to Santana and Pink Floyd. It was a super treat for lovers of rock and roll! And, a blessing for The Arc to receive such a large donation!

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 2017-2018**

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*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



PREGNANCY AND ALCOHOL DON'T MIX.

- Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are completely preventable if a woman does not drink alcohol during pregnancy.
- There's no known safe amount of alcohol use during pregnancy or while trying to get pregnant.
- All types of alcohol are equally harmful, including all wines and beer.
- Alcohol can cause problems for a developing baby throughout pregnancy, including before a woman knows she's pregnant.



For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/fasd or call 800-CDC-INFO.

When a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, so does her baby. Why take the risk?



Easter Seals is offering
FREE INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING
to Veterans and ANYONE related to a Veteran
(could be child, parent, grandparent, uncle, etc.).

The reason for counseling can be anything.
It does not have to be an issue about being a
Veteran or being a family member of a Veteran.

**Please call 713-838-9050 ext. 371
for more information.**



United Way of Greater Houston



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FUSION
Bringing Together The Arc's Chapter Network



News from the National Office

Tell Your Senators Now: NO Cuts to Medicaid

Your Senators must hear from you now to stop devastating cuts to Medicaid.



In the beginning of May, the House of Representatives narrowly passed a Medicaid and health care bill that will have a devastating impact on people with disabilities and their families. The bill included over \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid, and would open the door to repealing major health care protections like coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. The Senate is now debating similar legislation and may vote in the next few weeks. **Your Senators must understand the importance of Medicaid in the lives of people with disabilities and their families, so we can stop bad health care**

legislation for good. Senators are currently looking at placing caps on how much states can spend on Medicaid services. Experience shows that over time these caps would mean devastating cuts to services.

Please contact your Senators now and share this Action Alert with your networks.

Visit: <http://disabilityadvocacynetwork.org/app/make-a-call?0&engagementId=351713>

U.S. Department of Education

2017 Determination Letters on State Implementation of IDEA

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services released State determinations on implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Part B and Part C for fiscal year 2015. The 2004 Amendments to the IDEA require each State to develop a State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) that evaluates the State's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the IDEA, and describes how the State will improve its implementation. The Part B SPP/APR and Part C SPP/APR include Indicators that measure child and family results, and other indicators that measure compliance with the requirements of the IDEA. Beginning in 2015, the Part B SPP/APR and Part C SPP/APR include a State Systemic Improvement Plan through which each State focuses its efforts on improving a State-selected child or family outcome.

The IDEA also requires each State to report annually to the Secretary on its performance under the SPP. Specifically, the State must report in its APR, the progress it has made in meeting the measurable and rigorous targets established in its SPP. The Secretary is required to issue an annual determination to each State on its progress in meeting the requirements of the statute. The determinations are part of the ongoing efforts to improve education for America's 7 million children with disabilities.

IDEA details four categories for the Secretary's determinations. A State's determination may be:

- Meets the requirements and purposes of IDEA;
- Needs assistance in implementing the requirements of IDEA;
- Needs intervention in implementing the requirements of IDEA; or
- Needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of IDEA.

For the first time in 2014, and again in 2015, 2016, and 2017, the Department made Part B determinations using both compliance and results data, giving each equal weight in making a State's determination. For the first time in 2015 and again in 2016 and 2017, the Department made Part C determinations using both compliance and results data, giving each equal weight in making a State's determination. OSEP's accountability framework, called Results Driven Accountability (RDA), brings into focus the educational results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities while balancing those results with the compliance requirements of IDEA. Protecting the rights of children with disabilities and their families is a key responsibility of State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) for Part B, and Lead Agencies and early intervention service programs for Part C, but it is not sufficient if children are not attaining the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish the ideals of IDEA: equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

IDEA identifies specific technical assistance or enforcement actions that the Department must take under specific circumstances for States that are not determined to "meet requirements." If a State "needs assistance" for two consecutive years, the Department must take one or more enforcement actions, including, among others, requiring the State to access technical assistance, designating the State as a high-risk grantee, or directing the use of State set-aside funds to the area(s) where the State needs assistance. If a State "needs intervention" for three consecutive years, the Department must take one or more enforcement actions, including among others, requiring a corrective action plan or compliance agreement, or withholding further payments to the State. Any time a State "needs substantial intervention" the Department must take immediate enforcement action, such as withholding funds or referring the matter to the Department's inspector general or to the Department of Justice.

IDEA PART B DETERMINATIONS:

Following is a list of each State's performance in meeting the requirements of IDEA Part B, which serves students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21:

- **MEETS REQUIREMENTS**

Alabama, Delaware, Federated States of Micronesia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

- **NEEDS ASSISTANCE (one year)**

Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada

- **NEEDS ASSISTANCE (two or more consecutive years)**

Alaska, American Samoa, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, **Texas**, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Washington

- **NEEDS INTERVENTION (six consecutive years)**

Bureau of Indian Education

IDEA PART C DETERMINATIONS:

Following is a list of each State's performance in meeting the requirements of IDEA Part C, which serves infants and toddlers birth through age 2:

- **MEETS REQUIREMENTS**

Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

- **NEEDS ASSISTANCE (one year)**

Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Carolina

- **NEEDS ASSISTANCE (two or more consecutive years)**

Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virgin Islands

- **NEEDS INTERVENTION (one year)**

California

2017 Annual Awards Dinner



Beverly Cushenberry
Volunteer of the Year



Sandra Lopez
Outstanding Educator



Michele Ambrosy
Outstanding Educator



Michelle Barth & Kara Thayer
Outstanding Educators



Bobbi Threatt
Outstanding Educator



Michelle Barth & Kara Thayer
Outstanding Educators



Shruti Misra
Community Awareness



Kris Daw, Linda Witt, Ella Ghica
Community Awareness

2017 Annual Awards Dinner



Robert Barbee - Food Town
Outstanding Employer



John Watson - Bloom Community
Advocacy Award



Mike Martin - Gallery Furniture
Advocacy Award



Elvis Dean
Special Recognition



Grant Kennedy
Special Recognition



Sydney Wormser
Special Recognition



Marian & Milton Wright
*Accept Larry Sharp Award for
The Graves, Chick-fil-A*



Rick Cushenberry
*Accepts Larry Sharp Award for
Sherri Fontenot, Re/Max*

The Arc's 2017 Kathy Moody Memorial Scholarship goes to:

Stephen Plascencia



The Arc Family Matters

Celebrations:

Don Duyka, Special Olympics volunteer, is now the proud grandfather of twins, Myles Michael Morse and Kyle Claire Morse, born April 29, 2017.

Debbie & Steve Eddlemon, and son, Kyle, announce the birth of Saylor Mae Eddlemon, daughter of Ashley and Kelly Eddlemon. Debbie is Head Coach of Volleyball and Kyle is one of our athletes.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers:

Carlos Hernandez, Carmen Hernandez's husband and David's father, passed away on April 28, 2017.

Charlie Howard, longtime friend of The Arc, passed away on May 2, 2017.

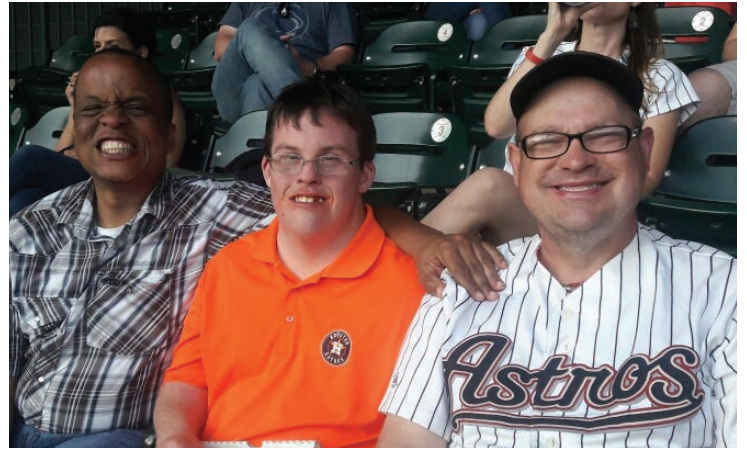
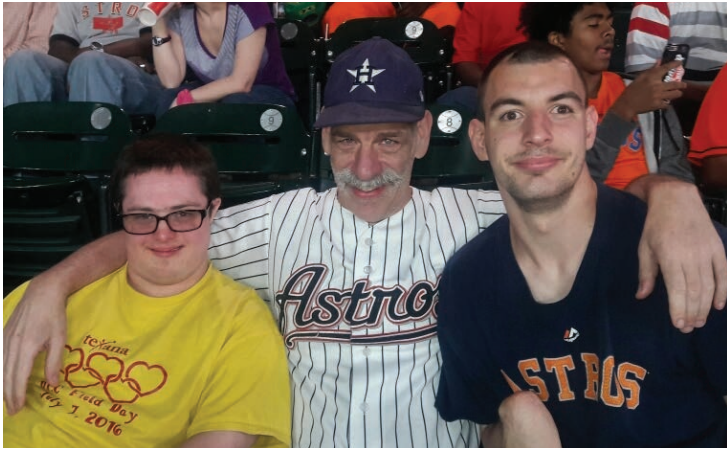
Suzanne Saenz, member of The Arc, passed away in June 2017.

Anita Swoboda passed away Friday, July 7, after battling cancer. Keep her husband, John, son, Craig, and daughter, Kristi, in your thoughts and prayers.

Robert Edward Johnson, long time member of The Arc and father to Special Olympics athlete Scott Johnson, who participated in all of the Arc activities, passed away on June 17, 2017.

Social Recreation

Houston Astros Baseball - Minute Maid Park



Sugar Land Skeeters - Constellation Field



Arabia Shrine Circus - Fort Bend County Fairgrounds



Special Olympics Sports Banquet 2017

Margo Pasko

We had the BEST SPORTS BANQUET EVER on Sunday, June 4th! Over 220 bowlers, athletes, family members, friends and volunteers attended the event at Safari Texas Ranch.

The attendees enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner cooked up by Safari Texas and served by volunteers Jeff Hoffman, Marian Wright, Allan Harris, Sr. and Ann and Katie Johnston. I hope I didn't miss naming any of the great servers! Thank you for taking care of the bowlers, athletes, family members, friends and volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you!

Avis Goldy, Carolyn Spiceland and Gardenia Burton recognized the bowling skills of 45 of the members popular Saturday afternoon bowling league, presenting trophies to the members of the red, white and blue teams. They also thanked the volunteers who help them week in and week out, from Labor Day to Memorial Day. We truly appreciate the dedication of Avis, Carolyn and Gardenia!

Larry Lobue then took the mic and recognized 90 athletes for their participation in The Arc's 9 sports. Contact Margo at The Arc if you were not there to receive your trophy! Larry also honored the Head Coaches of sports with commemorative plaques, which read: "Thank you for giving some time from your life so that our Special Olympics athletes can have the time of their lives".

The bowling and Special Olympics volunteers received insulated zipper bags emblazoned with The Arc logo, in appreciation of their dedication to our bowlers and athletes.

On the music scene, we had a new DJ this year, Ed Madonio. He did a great job getting everyone out of their seats and on to the dance floor, until he was upstaged by a special guest whose presence was arranged by Marilyn Ward, Russell's aunt. CJ Fiedorowicz, Houston Texans tight end, showed up! He graciously posed with everyone, for each and every selfie. Facebook was blowing up with all the tags on Sunday afternoon! Thank you, CJ, and thank you, Marilyn! We were Texans fans before, but now CJ has a new fan club! Check out the pictures!

What a wonderful afternoon it was! The Arc family really does matter!



Special Olympics Athletes Compete at Summer Games in Arlington!



The 48th annual Special Olympics Texas Summer Games took place over Memorial Day weekend at UT Arlington. Nearly 3,000 athletes came from all across the Lone Star State for four days of competition! Here's how the largest gathering of the year went, by the numbers:

Track and field athletes from The Arc of Fort Bend County: 24

Coaches and volunteers from The Arc: 14 Total number of Athletes at Summer Games: 2,910

Number of athletes participating in:

Track and field (Athletics): 1320

Basketball: 1175

Cycling: 90

Soccer: 155

Gymnastics: 40

Tennis: 130

This year, our athletics (track and field) program was The Arc's sponsored sport to go to Summer Games. Coach of the Year for Area 22, our Head Coach, Cathy Zepeda was assisted by Head of Delegation, Larry Lobue, assistant coaches Debbie Patton, Gary Schottle, Jenny Webb, and Reed Beck. Don Duyka, who helped throughout the season, stayed in Fort Bend County to cheer as he spent time with his newborn twin grandbabies.

In addition to the sports competitions, there were "Healthy Athlete" screenings where athletes received free hearing and eye exams with free prescription for sports goggles and glasses as prescribed. At Athlete Village and at the Victory Dance, participants enjoyed karaoke and more pictures of athletes with beauty queens than could be counted! The experience of going to Chapter Games (Fall Classic, Winter Games and Summer Games) is much more than a sports competition!

The Summer Games theme this year was Superheroes! Debbie Patton sewed at least a dozen superhero capes. Cathy Zepeda pitched in, buying several capes. Margo Pasko and Jeff Hoffman sent them off with superhero bandanas. Check out the great pictures!

The athletes who traveled were: Lucas, Sharon, Tank, Davis, Tommy, Bridget, Amy, Kaitlyn, Jimmy, Aaron, Tony, Blaine, Russell, Chris, Kim, Wayne, Allan, Dave W., Dave G., Charla, Andrew, Ty, Meredith and Rudy.

In addition to the coaching staff, the volunteers who helped make the trip possible were Debbie Patton, Jackie Butler, Bobby Caruthers, Allan and Minnie Harris, Carolina and Maria Tellez, Wally Martinez and Lucia De La Paz, and Sharon Williams.

The Arc and the athletes appreciate the volunteer and financial support that makes participation in Summer Games possible! Next trip up: Softball teams hit the road to Fall Classic in College Station in October. Thank you for your support!

Special Olympics Soccer News

Coach Carl LaSala

The Area 4 Spring Games were held at Strake Jesuit School on an unseasonably hot May 13th. The Arc was represented by two Soccer teams, Grizzly Bear A and Grizzly Bear B, as well as one athlete that participated in the Individual Skills events and a large contingent of parents to cheer on the athletes.



◀ The Grizzly Bear A team consisted of Yi-No Cheng; Mike Cushenberry; Nicole LaSala; Jason Lungstrum; Michael Pelz; Stephen Plascenia and Tyler Sims. They won 3 out of 4 games in their bracket and won the Silver Medal.



◀ The Grizzly Bear B team consisted of Rafael Fajardo; Stevie Meyer; Lizette Ore; Kristi Oujesky; Courtney Parsons and Victoria Smith. They played hard in all four games and were awarded a 4th place ribbon.

Trevor Dow participated in the Individual Skills events and won the Gold Medal for his efforts.

Our own Coach Cathy, Area 22 Coach of the Year!

Margo Pasko



On Saturday, May 6, Cathy Zepeda was named Coach of the Year for the Gulf Coast Area of Special Olympics Texas! We are so happy that SOTX agrees with us that she is the best! Cathy coaches basketball, softball, and track. She helped with volleyball, and has even helped with the Area bocce tournament – and her son, Lucas, doesn't even play bocce.

Area 22 of Special Olympics Texas is comprised of Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Jackson, Matagorda and Wharton Counties. Being named the Coach of the Year is a BIG DEAL!

Cathy said: "I was very surprised to have heard my name as Area 22 Coach of the Year. I am very honored and proud; I never in a thousand years could have imagined that one day I would be named Coach of the Year. I started coaching because the need was there and I fell in love with the athletes. I got to know each of them as if they were my own. I share the happy moments as well as the sad. We are a family and even though my son would rather I just be "mommy", I balance being both on the playing field. When I look at their faces and they smile back at me it makes my heart smile. I am inspired by them. I truly am a lucky person to be able to work with these amazing young men and women."



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.

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

facebook

The Arc Receives Proceeds from the Corvette Owners Club of Houston Fundraiser

The Arc and the Fort Bend Rainbow Room shared the proceeds of the Corvette Owners Club of Houston's annual Corvette Show on April 29 at Sugar Land Town Square. Pictured are Tonya Lewis, Executive Director, Fort Bend Rainbow Room; Laura LaVigne, CEO, The Arc of Fort Bend and Paul Barley, Board Member, Corvette Owners Club Houston. Each organization received \$5250! Thank you, COCH for your support!

