



ARCA's mission is working together to open doors for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be valued members of the community.

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60th Anniversary

Outlook

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In the Spirit of Community... The Mayor and First Lady's Charity Gala



The Mayor and First Lady's Charity Gala exemplifies our spirit of community and we were honored to provide the table centerpieces again this year. We not only grew the gorgeous Impatiens, but Ashley, Donna, Kenny, Brian, Susan and Freddie hand painted each pot. The gala committee gave the artists carte blanche and each piece reflected a unique vision, from the subtle hues of the Milky Way to the vibrant colors in our spring gardens. A final collection as diverse and fascinating as our community.



Abundance of Spirit

For 60 years, ARCA has been nationally recognized as a model in providing innovative, impactful supports for infants through seniors with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). For 60 years, our community has embraced the work we do and the cherished people we serve. Our community continues to provide us with glorious opportunities to help individuals in our care live great lives through safe homes, meaningful employment, causative volunteer work, rich social experiences and a strong future.

In just the past few months, community partners have shared their time and treasure to make an ARCA home fully accessible and reflective of the tastes and interests of its residents. Supported Employment staff has worked with new local businesses to identify career opportunities for people we serve - restaurants, manufacturing facilities, retail outlets and laboratories are pleased not only with job performances, but with the impact on morale! Individuals spend countless hours volunteering at area food banks, animal shelters and our ARCA Buddies Civitans remain focused on helping vulnerable friends and neighbors. We love to celebrate and were honored to create the centerpieces for the Mayor and First Lady's Charity Gala and thrilled to enjoy such a beautiful evening. We've had a blast at picnics, concerts and, of course, our annual Bob Scanlon/Steve Mackie Bowl-a-Thon. Community partners are leading the call for a strong future through planned giving to help grow our Endowment.

"The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden." ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The threat of critical Federal and State Medicaid funding cuts continue to weigh heavy on ARCA's staff and volunteer leadership. In response to a decade of reduced reimbursable rates, ARCA is very, very lean and our administrative staff has accepted increased workloads and difficult organizational changes. Yet, an employee survey conducted by the Albuquerque Journal resulted in ARCA being named among the Top Five Workplace (Large Business) in New Mexico. In a world of perceived scarcity, we are blessed by the abundance of spirit in our staff and a community which holds us close. This, in the words of Goethe, "makes the earth for us an inhabited garden."

Edward J. Kaul
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The Albuquerque Journal Names ARCA a Winner of the New Mexico 2017 Top Workplaces Award



ARCA has been awarded a 2017 Top Workplaces honor by The Albuquerque Journal. The Top Workplaces lists are based solely on the results of an employee feedback survey administered by WorkplaceDynamics, LLC, a leading research firm that specializes in organizational health and workplace improvement. Several aspects of workplace culture were measured, including alignment, execution and connection.

"The Top Workplaces award is not a popularity contest. Oftentimes, people assume it's all about fancy perks and benefits," says Doug Claffey, CEO of WorkplaceDynamics. "But to be a Top Workplace, organizations must meet our strict standards for organizational health. Who better to ask about work life than the people who live the culture every day—the employees. Time and time again, our research has proven that what's most important to them is a strong belief in where the organization is headed, how it's going to get there, and the feeling that everyone is in it together." Claffey adds, "Without this sense of connection, an organization doesn't have a shot at being named a Top Workplace."

"ARCA is thrilled to be named among the top five workplaces in New Mexico," said Edward J. Kaul, ARCA President/CEO. "Every day we provide direct support for nearly 700 infants through seniors with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This award is a reflection of our staff - the people who knowledgeably provide support with respect, dignity and always a sense of joy. Our staff is ARCA." Edward Kaul also received a special award for leadership of a large company.

Expanding Horizons

Members of ARCA's Smart Travel Program (STP) took the Rail Runner to Santa Fe for Museum Day. It was a great opportunity for interesting discussion and honing up on STP technology, but also ideal for developing leadership skills. Two members, in the final stages of learning to travel independently to Santa Fe, took charge and assisted others in learning the route. These "Buddy Trainers" helped everyone safely board the train, follow a map and read street signs to the Museum. Individuals and staff were given a private tour of the museum and encouraged to create their own works of art in the Sculpture Garden. After the museum, the group enjoyed music, a leisurely lunch and group discussion in the Town Plaza. A quick shuttle ride back to the train station and everyone enjoyed the Rail Runner trip back to Albuquerque.



Popejoy Presents Community Outreach

Thanks to the generosity of Popejoy Presents Community Outreach program, a very enthusiastic group from ARCA's ACES program was treated to a Sunday matinee performance by an ABBA tribute group. Todd was singing and dancing to the song "Waterloo" and David performed his favorite tune "Fernando" alongside the group. When the audience was asked to show some ABBA love, Donald shouted, "Alright, we love you!" above the din of the crowd. Toward the end of the evening, Donald shared, "This is the best time of my life, ever!"



ABQ Breakfast Civitans Annual Picnic!

Dining al fresco with friends and family is one of summer's greatest pleasures and no one throws a more perfect picnic than our Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans! This annual feast is not only much anticipated for the very best burgers, but for the chance to spend time in the great outdoors with such special friends. Thank you Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans for grilling up great times with ARCA!



Circle of Promise




Each and every day, we see joy in the eyes of individuals ARCA serves – joy each of you help create through your commitment of time and treasure. ARCA's Circle of Promise members not only help people we serve live great lives today, but also work to create a strong future for generations to come.

ARCA's Circle of Promise Task Force recently hosted an evening at ARCA's La Entrada greenhouses to help others learn about planned giving opportunities available at ARCA. Maureen Gannon, Chris Keller and Bob Scanlon spoke about their relationships with ARCA and why they are each committed to helping secure bright tomorrows for today's little ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

As ARCA's Community Relations Director, I took the opportunity to reflect on nearly four decades of service to ARCA and the extraordinary changes I have seen in opportunities for people with IDD to live full, rich lives. Edward Kaul, President/CEO, shared ARCA's passion for excellence and his joy in seeing people we serve valued in our community. Michele Cody, Executive Director of the ARCA Foundation, speculated on what the next 60 years might offer people with IDD. She encouraged guests to talk with me and members of our Task Force about ways to leverage an investment in ARCA through planned giving and just how easy it can be to have an enormous impact on our future.

We are deeply grateful to our Task Force and all our Circle of Promise members, for creating a future filled with opportunities for people with IDD to live, love and dream big.

Please contact me to learn more about the opportunities available for your legacy at ARCA.

Blessings and gratitude,

 Elaine Solimon • Community Relations Director
 505-480-4321 • esolimon@arcaspirit.org

Earth Day at Intel

ARCA Organics celebrated Earth Day at Intel! We brought organic produce and beautiful spring plants to sell at their Earth Day market while Intel staff helped get our summer crops underway by planting seeds in starter pots. Thank you, Intel, for taking such care with our environment and a very special thank you for all the ways you help ARCA shine.



Up with People's 2017 World Tour

Up with People is a global education organization focused on bringing the world together through service and music. While in town for two performances at the Hiland Theatre, cast members offered helping hands, strong backs, technical expertise and energetic spirits to our New Mexico Brain Injury Resource Center (NMBIRC). They cleared out storage areas, inventoried hundreds of books, painted rooms and even installed electronic equipment. John Pimentel, ARCA's Service Development Director, provided an educational talk on brain injury and The Square Pegz (a troupe of brain injury survivors who share their world through comedy, music and skits) performed.

Every morning, Up with People cast members share with one another stories about their community service experiences the day before. The best experience is labelled a Pink Panther, because it is "a gem of a story." The cast agreed, their experience with ARCA and our NMBIRC, was a Pink Panther they would long remember. For our part, this group of talented performers made our hearts sing.



The Prader-Willi Syndrome Project for New Mexico

ARCA's Prader-Willi Syndrome Project regional conference, *Building a Community of Supports*, was held at the Albuquerque Sheraton Uptown. Keynote Speaker, Linda M. Gourash, MD, a national expert in the syndrome, shared her knowledge and extensive experience about topics including the genetic root cause, understanding behaviors and state of the art therapies. Attendance ranged from family members who support someone with PWS to service providers, physicians, nurses, teachers, principals, paramedics, physical and occupational therapists, social workers and counselors. A special thank you to everyone involved for helping us build a community of supports through education and awareness.



For more information about the Prader-Willi Syndrome Project of New Mexico, contact Penny Chavez at PChavez@ARCASpirit.org

The Bob Scanlon and Steve Mackie 9th ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON!

featuring Mayors on Strike!



"I am proud to be part of this remarkable day. . ."

ARCA celebrated its 9th annual Bob Scanlon/ Steve Mackie Bowl-a-Thon featuring Mayors on Strike! Over 1,000 families, friends and community partners filled 72 lanes during three bowling sessions, enjoyed lunch, New Mexico's finest silent auction and cheered on their favorite mayor during Mayors on Strike.

"Carrie and I have enjoyed ARCA's Bowl-a-Thon since 2014," said Gregg Hull, Mayor of Rio Rancho. "We had such a great time our first year, we knew we wanted other Mayors to experience the absolute joy of this event and bring vital information about ARCA back to their communities. The Mayors on Strike competition grows every year. Once you experience it, you just want to come back year after year." The year's competition included Mayor Gregg Hull, Rio Rancho; Mayor R.J. Berry, Albuquerque; Mayor Scott Kominiak, Corrales; Mayor Mark Gwinn, Rio Communities; Mayor Ted Hart, Moriarty; Mayor Scott Eckstein, Bloomfield; and, Mayor Jackie McKinney,

Gallup. Mayor Eckstein took home the George J. Kominiak Leadership Award and Mayor Kominiak won the First Strike Travelling Trophy.

"As humans, we seem to always attach terms and conditions to our love," said Bob Scanlon. "But, when you share a moment with someone who is helped by ARCA, the love is truly unconditional. I am proud to be part of this remarkable day and especially pleased to help celebrate ARCA's 60th Anniversary. I look forward every year to the first Saturday in June; I know I will take away priceless memories."

Bob Scanlon first proposed the idea in 2008 and underwrites the annual cost of the Bowl-a-Thon, which is free for all attendees. Local corporate sponsors, team pledges and silent auction proceeds raised \$114,000 this year. "The funding is crucial for ARCA," said Edward Kaul, ARCA President/CEO, "But it pales in comparison to the sheer delight in the room and our community's increased awareness about people we serve."

Keller Williams Riverside RED DAY

Keller Williams Riverside selected ARCA for its annual RED Day and we had a blast!

RED Day (Renew, Energize and Donate) is an initiative dedicated to celebrating Keller Williams Realty's year-round commitment to improving our local communities. Each year, on the second Thursday in May, tens of thousands of associates from across the United States and Canada participate in a wide range of projects, devoting their time to renewing and energizing aspects of the neighborhoods in which they serve.

May is an especially hectic time at ARCA Organics, and when we heard 50+ volunteers would spend the day with us, we got busy putting together a long list of chores, from weeding to transplanting to painting. These rock stars in red shirts wrapped their arms around the tasks and, in only hours, finished months of work. Best part of the day? Every chore was washed with laughter, talking, sharing and so many hugs.

RED Day lasted hours. These new friendships will be with us for a lifetime. Very special thanks to Rosie Maez, Chair of the Keller Williams Riverside RED Day Committee, for all her work in preparing for this special day and, most importantly, for sharing her Keller Williams family with ours.



Sunflower Labyrinth

Students from Corrales Elementary and Cottonwood Montessori schools joined us at Gonzales Field in Corrales this spring to plant sunflowers. The sunflower seeds weren't planted in the usual straight row, but instead followed a plan that recreates the Labyrinth of Chartres Cathedral in France, a famous labyrinth where pilgrims have been coming to walk for 1,000 years. Because of these very special students and their hard work, we will all be walking through an "a - maze - ing" sunflower labyrinth later this Summer.



Spring Gardens

Our annual geranium celebration was especially festive this year! The weather was warm and beautiful; a perfect setting to spend time with friends and loved ones. We relish the opportunity to give greenhouse tours and everyone was enchanted to see our abundance of spring plants and farm starts. We even adopted a new mascot named Zoe. If you'd like to schedule a tour, please contact Michele at MCody@ARCASpirit.org.



Helping Friends and Neighbors

Our ARCA Buddies Civitan Club helps our friends and neighbors by doing a variety of community projects. At our most recent meeting, we made emergency contact booklets for Veterans. Making these booklets not only provides a wealth of information on services available in our community, but is an opportunity to work together to give back to people who need our support.

If you or someone you know, would like to join our club or help at our meetings, please contact Carol Kline at 452-0585 or carol@eventsplus.net.



First Responder Training

Several individuals in ARCA's Supporting Living program have expressed interest in public safety and a strong admiration for our first responders. When Katlyn and Brandie learned Los Lunas was hosting a Public Safety Day last month, they asked these individuals if they would like to go and the answer was a resounding "Yes!" We learned so much, including how different helicopters are used, animal control functions and how K-9s find drugs and bombs. We got to sit in S.W.A.T. vehicles, ambulances and police cars and talk with the different officers. We took lots of pictures, brought home souvenirs and even got autographs from the first responders. It was a great day!



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