



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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Opening Doors for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1957. www.ARCASOpeningDoors.org

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Please consider adding the ARCA Foundation to your will or estate plan. Contact Elaine Solimon at 505-480-4321  <https://www.facebook.com/arcaoopeningdoors>

ARCA Organics Receives 2016 Best of Corrales Award

ARCA Organics is thrilled to be the recipient of this year's prestigious Best of Corrales Award!



The Corrales Award Program annually honors the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Corrales area. Recognition is given to those companies whose best practices and implemented programs generate long-term value.

Each year, the Corrales Award Program identifies companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Corrales area a great place to live, work and play.

The 2016 Corrales Award Program focused on quality and winners were determined based on information gathered by various third parties.

Congratulations to ARCA Organics for this impressive recognition!



Tax Work Tackled through Teamwork



ARCA had another successful tax day for individuals we serve!

On April 3, 2016, our amazing volunteer team of Don Wright, UNM Beta Alpha Psi members, REDW, Atkinson & Co. and ARCA Staff spent a Saturday completing tax returns for 225 individuals receiving ARCA services. Very special thanks to our Supported Living Case Workers, Independent Living Program Managers and InterCare Social Workers who provided the extra documents needed to complete the tax packets.

This stellar day resulted in over \$44,000 in refunds for individuals ARCA serves!

Every Step.....

ARCA is a large, complex organization providing specialized support services for hundreds of children and adults with intense and compound needs. As I read the stories in this issue of Outlook, I am in awe of the joy, love, spirit and hope that embraces our family every day. We celebrate not only success, but every step of the journey. We cherish learning opportunities for, and from, those we serve. We welcome our community partners to share in our lives and they take us to new heights.

We focus on the possible and dream for the impossible. Who would have imagined our Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans would continue to host an annual picnic after 30 years, and that it would still be so much fun? The first year we grew poinsettias they bloomed in February; Valentine poinsettias never quite caught on. Today we have 25 associate employees who grow stunning plants; we had over 12,000 geraniums this year and sold out! Our business enterprises employ 28 associate employees who have made careers in janitorial services and organic farming. Our annual Bowl-a-Thon is just a hoot, yet when Bob Scanlon first proposed it we had no idea it would become our signature event. This year I was once again struck by the magic of being in a room with hundreds of smiling, laughing, joyful people. We experience loss and feel it – hard. But our memories are in a life well led.

We all have challenges. We are each blessed with the option of reveling in those remarkable moments, both great and small, that make life worthwhile. I wish you and yours a memorable summer, filled with all things possible and dreams of the impossible things that lay just ahead.


Edward J. Kaul
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"We celebrate not only success, but every step of the journey."



Centerpieces of Love

Albuquerque sees many charitable events during the year, but there are few as inspirational and empowering as the Mayor and First Lady's Charity Gala. We were humbled to be invited for a second year to provide the centerpieces for all 140 tables! The Gala committee had a great idea when they asked us to grow wheatgrass in clear rounds. Seeing the intricate root system through the transparent vessel was awesome! For icing on the cake, the committee added two long-stemmed Gerber daisies into each centerpiece - just beautiful.



These stellar rounds were proudly grown with love by individuals in ARCA's care. Everyone was so excited; our gardeners encouraged the wheatgrass every day to grow extra beautiful!

We are grateful to live in a community that revels in the special gifts of each of her citizens.



Welcoming Spring

Our annual geranium celebration is a great way to welcome spring, but it's a perfect way to catch up with you! Our geraniums seemed especially beautiful this year and we are grateful to you for welcoming them into your homes and offices.



Congratulations Iris!

The National ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) Conference was held in Chicago this year where they celebrated excellence through their annual Direct Support Professionals Recognition Awards. ARCA's Iris Lucario was the New Mexico Award recipient and humbly accepted her much deserved recognition.

Barbara Merrill, ANCOR CEO, wrote about the award. "Excellence. Passion. Commitment. These words only begin to capture the 2016 Direct Support Professional Recognition Award Recipients. Your stories – and the stories of your colleagues across the nation – show us why your work matters. You are truly our heroes."

On behalf of everyone at ARCA, thank you, Iris, for your dedicated service in creating meaningful opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live great lives.



A Perfect Picnic

For over 30 years our Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans have hosted an always anticipated annual summer picnic for ARCA. This year was more fun than ever with amazing food and company, perfect weather and lots of live music. Thank you, Albuquerque Breakfast Civitans, for cooking up fun with ARCA!

Special Olympics

by Richanne Cunningham, BSN, RN, CDDN, NSC/QIDP

Special Olympics New Mexico held it's State Summer Games on May 20-22 at the UNM Track. The theme this year was Star Wars and the games were well attended by athletes, coaches, Unified Partners and families from around the State. Los Amigos had athletes competing in Bocce Unified and Traditional, Track and Field, and Skill events. Family member Yvette Apodaca and Heather Baker, RN not only ran the Unified Relay with Matthew Hoard and Delbert Sandoval, they won the Silver Medal! There were lots of medals, mostly gold, hanging around athletes necks as we headed off to Cliff's for rides, dinner, dancing and closing ceremonies!



Circle of Promise

Since 1976, when I happily accepted my first job at ARCA, I have found great joy in spending time with the cherished little ones through elders who are part of ARCA's family. It is especially touching to see young children matched with a loving family when they come to ARCA needing out of home placements. While each of these little ones has a unique, and often heartbreaking, background, the common thread is how each child is nurtured and supported by one of our specialized foster families.

This image came to mind when I heard UNM College Student and ARCA Circle of Promise member, Christopher Ortiz speak at a recent ARCA event. "ARCA is the unconditional love of a family," he said. "The services ARCA offers are completely majestic. The way ARCA comes together is stunning and heart touching." Very impactful words from a 19 year old man who became involved with ARCA seven years ago when his mom, Lori Ortiz, joined the ARCA Foundation Board of Directors.

It is awe inspiring when I think of the impact our legacy donors will have on generations to come when remembering ARCA in their will or estate plan now. Christopher helps me realize our Circle of Promise

donors find as much joy in the giving as we do in knowing the positive outcomes of these planned gifts.

If you are intrigued by the impact of a planned gift, please contact me. I would be honored to help you fulfill your dream of creating generations of bright futures at ARCA through your legacy gift.

With gratitude,

Elaine Solimon

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



Honorary Coach . . . Ruben!

They say a picture paints a thousand words...there are no words to describe the thrill Ruben experienced being named the honorary coach of our New Mexico Stars! He was even presented with the game ball autographed by the players.

Thank you New Mexico Stars for making dreams come true!

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Project for New Mexico

ARCA's Prader-Willi Syndrome Project recently hosted a **Day of Play** at Rio Rancho's *A Park Above*. It was a great time for clients, families and staff to relax and have fun together. The water balloons, bubbles and sea creatures were a big hit!

It was also a time to celebrate long time PWS Project Medical Director Carol Clericuzio, MD, who is retiring on July 1st and welcome Dr. Theresa Anaya. Dr. Clericuzio has been integral in the success of ARCA PWS Project and will be greatly missed.

Dr. Anaya is a respected pediatrician at UNMH who has experience working with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Everyone had a blast getting to know Dr. Anaya at the park and we look forward to working together.



2016 Bob Scanlon/
Steve Mackie
BOWL-A-THON
Featuring Mayors on Strike!



The Spirit of ARCA is about many things - gratitude, compassion, innovation, hope, opportunity, loyalty, leadership, service and, perhaps most of all, joy.

Bob Scanlon exemplifies these values and eight years ago wanted to create an opportunity for others in our community to experiences the Spirit of ARCA. His vision for a bowl-a-thon: it had to be a blast; increase community awareness; and, it would be nice if it raised a little money. Knowing ARCA's funding challenges, Bob continues to underwrite the costs.

Every year it takes on a life of its own - from MMA Fighters to movie and television celebrities to mayors – and Steve Mackie, owner of Ten Pins and More in Rio Rancho, provides the perfect venue! Steve's warm spirit is prevalent throughout the day as he encourages bowlers to score and friends and family to find the perfect Silent Auction treasure.

The past two years have included a signature competition Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull envisioned called Mayors on Strike. It is an honor for individuals in our care to bowl with our mayors and a great opportunity for state wide leadership to spend time celebrating community and the citizens who make New Mexico such an enchanting place to live. Mayor Eckstein took home the coveted First Strike Award for bowling a strike in the first frame. The First Strike Award is sponsored by Cedar Marketing Group who made a \$2,000 donation to ARCA in Mayor Eckstein's honor!

Each participating mayor was presented with a goodie bag filled with items from our community partners, including a Bank of the West bear, a complete skin care line from Purity of Elements, a Lewis University t-shirt, Bank of Albuquerque Piggy Bank and so much more! Mayor Hull was presented with a hand-painted bowling pin designating him ARCA's kingpin!

The winner of the George J. Kominiak Leadership Award this year was Mayor Scott Kominiak. The award was presented to him by his brother Matthew, who spoke about his father George's values and the gentle leadership he provided his nuclear family, his ARCA family and our greater community.

Victor, Clinton, Paul and their staff made a beautiful watercolor and hand lettered copy of Sam McBratney's classic book "Guess How Much I Love You" as a token of our gratitude for Bob Scanlon.

It becomes harder to tally the outcomes each year, but with over 1,000 people in attendance from all over the country the laughter is rich and contagious. The new friendships are meaningful and lasting. The cumulative money raised is, at over \$700,000, significant. But it happily pales next to the treasured memories.

If you've never been to our Bowl-a-Thon, we hope you'll mark the first Saturday in June, 2017. The bowling is a blast, the food is terrific and the company is extraordinary. The magic in the air - well, that's a little tougher to describe. I do know it seems to only happen when we're all together.



ARCA Buddies Civitan Club

by Carol Kline

Our ARCA Buddies Civitan Club has been busy! The Club held its first outside service project and members were excited help CLNKids, a daycare for homeless children aged 6 weeks to 5 years old. CLNKids has an outdoor play area for the children and the members did a great job washing the outdoor toys. Everyone is looking forward to helping CLNKids again on Wednesday, July 13th when they will bring activity bags they made for the children and toiletry bags for their parents.

Very special thanks to our great speakers, including Chris Ramirez, KOB-TV4 Investigative Reporter and his Cameraman, Carlos. Tonya Rivera of Every Child Deserves a Playful Life was an informative speaker and the visit from three adorable Therapy Dogs from the North Valley Clinic Family Medicine was a huge hit.

Mark your calendar for our next Club fund raiser! **Join us Saturday, July 9th, 10:00 a.m. – noon at Putt Putt Golf Course, 5100 San Mateo Blvd. NE.** Tickets are \$13.50 and include two rounds of golf (can be used any time), game tokens, a soda and a snack. Contact Carol at 452-0585/720-2550 for tickets or if you would like to support the benefit.

If you, or someone you know, would like to give back to our community by becoming a member or helping out at our meetings, please contact Carol Kline at 452-0585 carol@eventsplus.net or Faylene Wytewa-Alire at 332-6700 FWytewa@arcaspirit.org. ARCA Buddies Civitan Club meets the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday, 2:30-3:30PM at the North Valley Senior Center (4th & Aztec). There is a one-time initiation fee of \$25, with quarterly dues at \$24, or \$12 if you have an intellectual or developmental disability. Come check us out!



HR Corner



ARCA employees are dedicated to providing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to live great lives! ARCA is passionate about recruiting the best staff and hire only the top 10% of applicants. Applicants go through a rigorous screening process which includes attending a one-hour informational session, interview, criminal background check, employment verifications, reference checks, drug testing and an intensive two-week paid, training program.

Recently, ARCA's Training Department added a new level of staff support. Senior Trainers Crystal Cantu and Christy Pina are mentoring and coaching staff at their individual work locations. Not only does this free up house Managers to perform their other duties, but the results with staff have been fantastic.

Typically, a Program Manager will ask Crystal or Christy to address a specific training issue at one of their homes. Coaches work with staff by providing customized training on teamwork, medication delivery, improved communication skills and other topics the Manager has identified. The Program Managers and staff appreciate the help and quickly see the home performing more effectively.

This support enhances the workplace experience for staff while creating new opportunities for individuals in our care. Thank you Crystal and Christy!

“Just Have More Fun!”

Thanks to the generous support of Popejoy Hall's Community Outreach Program, ARCA's Travelling Theater Troupe attended “One Night of Queen performed by Gary Mullen and the Works!”

Everyone LOVED the performance - clapping and singing along. Afterwards, energy levels were high and there was lively conversation about the show. A few of the comments included, “I love this show!”, “This was a power house performance!”, “I loved the clapping and being able to dance!”, “It was really nice these tickets were given to us, what a great performance.”

Our drama students shared the performance will impact their own performance skills, including using more facial expressions and being more “lively” in singing and dancing. Stephen summed it up best when he said, “Just have more fun!”

Thank you, Popejoy, for the opportunity for our students to experience these amazing productions!

National Nurses Week

by Richanne Cunningham, BSN, RN, CDDN, NSC/QIDP



May 6 – 12 is National Nurses Week and recognizes the crucial role nurses play in our health care.

While Nurses Week has been observed since 1954, it wasn't until 1982 that May 12th, the birthday of the founder of professional nursing, Florence Nightingale, was introduced as a nationally observed day of recognition.

At ARCA, we are grateful for the professional, compassionate care of our nursing staff each and every day. Our Annual Health Professionals Appreciation lunch was well attended by the nurses, CMAs and Nutritionists who choose to make a career at ARCA. Ed Kaul, ARCA President/CEO, addressed the group, thanking them for their continual support of individuals receiving services. La Paloma greenhouses provided beautiful geraniums for everyone in gratitude to all our Health Professionals for all they do!

Remembering

ARCA provides lifelong services and, during these decades of care, lifelong friendships develop. When an individual receiving services passes, we celebrate their life and honor their memory.

We recently were invited to a memorial service in Corrales, where a tree was planted in memory of an individual in a park where he played as a child. Many of our homes have trees, strong and laden with fruit, planted by staff in memory of an individual in their care. These trees are lovingly nurtured and provide shade, sweetness and beauty. Plaques, photos and written remembrances are shared and displayed as a tangible tribute to extraordinary people. At this year's Bowl-a-Thon, two teams were named “Byron's Babes” and Byron's Buds” in memory of their dear friend.

When a beloved person in our care passes, we mourn; but, we never forget to celebrate the lessons they taught us and the experiences we shared. Our memorial trees and serenity gardens recognize the amazing stories we all have and those special moments of connection between lives well led.



In Loving Memory



Cynthia Jane Nye, 67, loved life! In 1991, Governor Bruce King awarded Cindy with a Certificate of Appreciation for improving the quality of life for present and future generations of New Mexicans. Cindy loved to travel, do crossword puzzles and watch John Wayne movies. Music, especially soundtracks, was very important to her. Cindy was an accomplished athlete who was most proud of her 1999 Gold Medal for swimming at the International Special Olympics in North Carolina. The theme for that event was “All about Attitude” and hers was exceptional. Cindy's friends and family know heaven is filled with laughter, singing, dancing, swimming, bowling, bocce, good movies and many adventures! She will be greatly missed.



Patricia “Patty” Binette passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, May 20th. Patty came to ARCA in 2012 and her staff loved her very much. Patty was loving and had a smile that would melt your heart. She will be missed tremendously.



Sabrina Rivera was feisty and bright. She knew how to make the people around her smile. Though she had many medical concerns, Sabrina fought with valor and was admired by her staff. In and out of the hospital, Sabrina knew how to cherish the little things in life and always focused on things she enjoyed. Sabrina knew how to incite love among her friends and family. She will be missed and thought of often.

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