



Empowering children and adults with developmental disabilities.

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# Introducing The “New” Arc

Three dynamic, award-winning organizations – The Arc, Palm Beach Habilitation Center, and Seagull Services – have joined forces to create The “New” Arc of Palm Beach County. Together, our teams have the vision, passion, expertise, and resources to elevate the disability community and build a brighter future of choices, opportunities, and independence.

The “New” Arc celebrates people with unique abilities, and we are poised to make an even greater impact on our community than ever before. Our enhanced team, composed of the best providers in the county, now includes 290 team members who provide essential care for nearly 3,500 individuals. Our expanded reach and services ensure that we can serve the whole person across their lifetime, supporting each person’s right to live a life of meaning and dignity. We are embracing this opportunity to dream big and cultivate a suite of programs and services that help every individual live, learn, work, and thrive.

The Arc continues to receive outstanding community recognition for our work. At the 2021 Nonprofits First Hats Off Awards, Sara Bonhomme, our senior director of residential services, won the MVP of the Year award for her amazing leadership and perseverance throughout the pandemic. Sara ensured that our residents, who are very vulnerable to the coronavirus, were safe, well cared for, seen, and supported despite the numerous challenges they faced through periods of mandated isolation and restrictions. Michael Erven, our senior director of business development and operations, received a well-deserved nomination for Professional of the Year for his relentless dedication to our team and clients. I was also deeply grateful to accept the Nonprofit Executive of the Year award.

The Arc has achieved so much over the past few years for those we serve, our team, and our community. I thank every team member for their commitment to our mission, vision, and the disability community.

Kimberly McCarten  
President & CEO

## Then & Now

	Pre-Mergers	The “New” Arc (2022)
# Employees	160	290
# Adult Clients	105	600
# Children in Charter Schools	32	80
# Clients in Recreation Programs	73	200
# Campuses	3	6
# Buildings for Education, Production & Art	7	22
# Residential Homes	4	8
# Transportation Vehicles	14	52
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$9 million</b>	<b>\$17 million</b>



# EDUCATION

Potentials had a very exciting first semester. We welcomed a new teacher, Peggy Boule (Miss B), for intermediate classes, and an occupational therapist, Tatyana Kovalevich, to our exceptional team. Three new students also joined our Primary Class. Students had a blast trying out new physical therapy equipment, cooking, meeting firefighters from our community, participating in a Trunk-or-Treat event, racing in Thanksgiving-themed relays, and enjoying interactive, holiday-themed story times and vocabulary bingo games.

Our Primary Class students studied adapted versions of the novels *Matilda* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Students learned about time and shapes by creating pumpkin clocks and shape turkeys. In the Intermediate Class, students enjoyed hunting for different words and shapes around the classroom. They also read the book, *Grace for President*, learned about the electoral process, and studied the elements of a story by creating a pictograph.

An exciting addition to The "New" Arc's programs is SAIL, a middle and high school for students with disabilities. **Together, Potentials and SAIL enable**

**The Arc to serve children from pre-K through age 22, providing for their educational and therapeutic needs with seamless transitions from grade to grade and into adulthood.**

SAIL team members and students were excited to be back together in person for the new school year, with precautions in place to keep us all safe and healthy. Teachers used the technology skills gained over the course of the pandemic to supplement instruction in all subjects through interactive lessons, videos, and Kahoot! quizzes. Students learned about outer space, history, and zoology through virtual field trips with organizations like NASA and the Cincinnati Zoo. They then constructed solar system models, wrote reports about their favorite reptile, formed biographies on famous Hispanic celebrities, and explored ways to be empathetic and caring toward others. Students also created artwork for display in our conference room art gallery and enjoyed visits from musicians and magicians.

We cannot wait to see what the second half of the school year brings!



## RESPIRE & RECREATION

On November 17, we held our first in-person Respite & Recreation team meeting. We discussed joining forces with Seagull Services and Palm Beach Habilitation Center and will be offering full-time respite positions. Twenty respite families received pantry bags and a turkey for the Thanksgiving holiday, and we resumed Saturday respite programming in December. Our team is prioritizing family services and support for our clients. We held a "Social Security Parent Workshop" on December 1 with facilitator Angie Hoffman, who is trained by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Angie provided information and planning services to beneficiaries about employment and how it affects their loved one's benefits. Our team provided respite care during the training.

The Recreation Department hosted our second annual Fall Festival, an outdoor parking lot Trunk-or-Treat event. **More than 100 families joined us to pick pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, decorate candy bags, and collect candy from 13 amazing and creatively decorated trunks.** During our Friendsgiving Party on November 19, adult participants socialized with their friends, created friendship bracelets, played bingo, and enjoyed a lovely meal together.

## COMMUNITY INCLUSION

The Arc held six inclusion trainings over the past few months for out-of-school-time program practitioners, funded by Prime Time Palm Beach County. These trainings are integral to achieving inclusion and acceptance for youth in after-school and summer programs. We continue to conduct most trainings virtually, but we are preparing for in-person trainings at a few community sites in 2022.

## STAND UP AND AMERICORPS

Over the past few months, our AmeriCorps members have been leading clients in chair yoga exercises and facilitating a Therapeutic Rhythmic Arts Project curriculum that promotes learning and fun through tap drums. They also participated in community projects like Reading Counts with the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.

Our AmeriCorps and Stand Up members have collaborated with each other on many projects benefiting our clients and community. Mentors from both programs helped assemble and distribute more than 100 hurricane-preparedness and hygiene kits to community members for The Arc's 9/11 Emergency Preparedness Event.



In honor of Veterans Day, they partnered to distribute more than 100 hygiene kits for unhoused veterans and over 100 kits of school supplies for our next-door neighbor, Lincoln Elementary School. AmeriCorps members also worked alongside clients to package more than 200 Thanksgiving meal bags for our families.

Leah VanBommel, one of our Stand Up teen mentors, taught classes in sign language for other mentors in order to help them implement more inclusive forms of communication when working with mentees. Stand Up also implemented the Impact Projects that they created over the summer. Our Fashion Show impact group worked with the Adult Day Program to help them design “wild pants” to model down the runway on December 2 for our annual WILD Pants Party fundraiser. The Science Project impact group displayed educational science projects at our 9/11 Emergency Preparedness event, teaching participants about weather patterns, and at the Trunk-or-Treat event, conducting spooky experiments.



## ADULT SERVICES

More than 100 clients, family, and team members joined an Open House Town Hall meeting at the new north campus, The Arc's Achievement Center, on October 13. We presented our plans for the Achievement Center, including enhanced programming and remodeling. Our Q&A panelists answered questions and concerns about the recent and future changes. This wonderful night gave everyone a chance to meet new people and see the amazing changes already happening at our north campus.

The Arc coordinated with Parkshore Pharmacy to hold on-site COVID-19 Booster Clinics on November 23. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, and The Arc is always looking for ways to advance the health and safety of our clients and team. More than 150 clients and team members participated in clinics at two campuses.

## ADULT CAREER & EDUCATION

The fall season was full of fun activities for our Adult Day Training participants. They participated in yoga lessons, music therapy, drum circles, and new activities to stay engaged. Our focus these past few months has been our "Around the World" lessons. Each week, participants learn about a different country, listen to native music, create their own version of each country's flag, taste a cultural snack, and partake in other fun, educational activities.

Participants were very excited for Halloween, and they enjoyed decorating cookies and making slime at our Halloween Party. We voted on who wore the "Scariest" and "Most Creative" costumes, and Caryla's group won the pumpkin decorating contest with their "Mummy Mickey Mouse" pumpkin. In November, two groups went to Keiser University and painted fall décor crafts with first-year students. Participants loved going out into the community, meeting new people, and getting crafty. Participants from the Courim Center and the Achievement Center have also been writing pen pal cards, and sharing pictures and "About Me" facts to get to know each other.

The **Collective Employment Program** continues to grow and form meaningful work partnerships with local businesses. We have executed new contracts with Labovick & Labovick Law Group, Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa, and CheeseBoarder. These partnerships provide work opportunities in various environments and industries. Collective Employment team members perform different job tasks to earn income, develop their vocational skills, and find their passions. Job opportunities within this program now include light gardening, packaging, preparing special mailings, housekeeping, and laundry services.

WE THANK THE NEW SUPPORTERS OF OUR WORK PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES, THE FREDERICK A. DELUCA FOUNDATION, AND THE JIM MORAN FOUNDATION, FOR HELPING US EXPAND WORK OPTIONS FOR OUR CLIENTS.



## ARTISAN PROGRAM

Our Artisans were proud to present The Arc's first **Holiday Card Catalog**, supported by The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation. Artisans designed colorful and festive cards for the catalog, which was distributed to 3,500 businesses throughout the county. Our Artisans seized the opportunity to market their creations to these businesses. The catalog served to spread awareness and recognition of their talents, as well as The Arc's community-focused work programs for individuals with disabilities.

From November 27, 2021 to January 2, 2022, the Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa featured a stunning, 25-foot tree with handcrafted, Sun 'N Surf-themed décor designed by our Artisans. Throughout the resort, guests supported The Arc by shopping for one-of-a-kind Artisan gifts at the gift shop, enjoying holiday treats from the Bake Shop on the Beach, and getting into the spirit with a holiday cocktail.

## RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Our team continues to work to get all residents back into a day program. Residents enjoyed dressing up for the annual Arc Board Meeting and Reception on December 8. They celebrated alongside team members in congratulating board members for their dedication and advocacy. The Residential Team has completed the annual relicensing for the Eleanor Trachtenberg Residence. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities conducted a full, comprehensive review of all client and HR files, policies, and procedures, and performed a medical review and safety assessment of the home.



## WILD PANTS PARTY

On December 2, Arc supporters and clients celebrated the finale of the annual WILD Pants Party with a rowdy runway show at Gehring Group in Palm Beach Gardens. Together, we celebrated individuality, innovation, and community spirit, and raised more than \$77,650. Our clients stole the show, and Josh Sandquist hyped up the crowd and earned the popular vote.



# AGENCY IMPROVEMENTS

## FACILITIES

The Operations Department has been busy renovating the former Seagull Services into the Achievement Center, which is now The Arc's north campus. We are creating new and improved spaces for a large Artisan classroom, two large adult training classrooms, and creative learning pods throughout the facility. Interior modifications also include a state-of-the-art breakroom for the team members, and ample space for the clients' meal preparation and personal storage.

Our Facilities Team is evaluating the Palm Beach Habilitation Center's buildings to explore renovation and expansion options that will improve capacity and function of all spaces. We aim to create The Arc's LifeCenter, our south campus, where our adults can live, learn, work, and thrive.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Manning Residence project, a new group home that will help to transform the Northend RISE neighborhood of West Palm Beach, is scheduled to break ground by mid-year after completion of the permitting process. We are also in the review stage of our Courim Center renovation and expansion plans. These improvements include the creation of two new classrooms, an expanded conference room, increased office and storage space, a new metal roof, impact windows, and a face-lift. Perhaps the most exciting part of the effort is the interactive sensory playground that will be easily accessible to our schoolchildren with mobility challenges.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Successful mergers require a robust technology plan to continue service provision without a loss in productivity. The Operations Department created a full assessment and evaluation of IT needs across the three agencies and established a phased implementation plan for the installation of new and efficient servers, hardware, software, and enhanced cybersecurity systems. In December, our new and upgraded server at the Achievement Center went online, immediately improving workflow for our team and clients. The agency's technology improvements are generously supported by The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation.

## TRANSPORTATION & FLEET

Our fleet has grown from 14 to 52 vehicles in uniting with Seagull Services and Palm Beach Habilitation Center. Training our drivers and keeping our vehicles in prime condition at all times is a full-time job for two of our outstanding team members, Amar Dhandahari, director of transportation and fleet, and Bill Stevens, maintenance technician. These vehicles provide access to more than 13 Arc locations throughout the county. Team members shuttle our clients to and from their residences, personal and social outings, work and training sites, and school or educational programs.

