

The Arc of Tippecanoe County

Winter 2011

Kids First Puppet Shows



Kids First exists to promote understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities. By performing educational puppet programs, Kids First is committed to educating children in the community on disability awareness issues as they prepare for a world of diversity.

Topics include AD/HD, Blindness, Bullying, Cerebral Palsy, Deafness, Down's Syndrome, Learning Disabilities, Recovery from Stroke, Name Calling/Teasing, Prejudice, Severe Burns.

Kids First puppet shows follow a three-step learning experience. First, lively and nearly child-size puppets perform a show dealing with a specific topic. Within the show's script, the puppet characters will emphasize the similarities among people even while they fully recognize the differences. In place of myths and conceptions about disabilities and differences, the puppets foster understanding and acceptance.

After each performance, the puppeteers-in character-encourage questions from the audience and answer the children's questions in an upbeat and candid manner. Children ask questions easily of the puppet characters.

Finally, a packet of activities offers suggestions to help children fully understand the subject of the script. Activities include disability simulations, discussions topics based on action in the script, art projects, and creative writing ideas. Also included is a list of pertinent children's and adult's books, sources of audio-visual and teaching aids, and names and addresses of organizations interested in the topic.

For more information, or to schedule a performance, contact Gail McCormick at 474-0758 or tippkidsfirst@aol.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kids First Puppet Shows started in Lafayette in 1994. In 2010 they performed 103 shows to 4640 children and adults!



A Note from Dave

The past year has been very eventful for The Arc, Providers, and most importantly for Individuals who receive or may be seeking services. There have been concerns raised about the future of services, the types and amounts of services that may be available, as well as what to do when you find yourself in need of services. In an earlier letter I stated that we all must seek and take only what services we truly need, not necessarily want. By doing this and being legitimate in our actions, more people can have the potential for accessing services.

Whether or not we are all truly doing that will require each of us to perform some serious soul searching. We have been en-cultured to plan for future needs with the perception we must hold onto what was previously allotted, for fear of not having our needs met. These practices have forced the State to formulate a new allocation process that is proving to be shocking to many as new budgets are being approved. People's needs are rarely adequately met when bureaucratic actions are the point of resolution. Rather, calm rational resolutions are met by realistic presentation of needs, cost, accountability and quality. This applies the same for Individuals, their families, case managers, and providers.

For organizations, the economic times are difficult for all of our communities, as well as the state. Are we being good stewards of the funds that we solicit from grants, foundations, and other funding sources? Are we willing to ask only for what we need? Are we providing a value added supplement or services that are having a constructive impact on those we serve? Are we willing to work together to eliminate overlap and duplication? Can we help each other?

At The Arc we have asked ourselves these questions and believe that we are striving hard to represent individuals and their families, to provide unduplicated opportunities and programs, in a measurable and accountable way. Please take the time to join us and lend us your voice and your energy. We must work together to ensure that everyone has the ability to access services and programs that enrich their lives. We are proud to have the opportunity to partner with each of you, whether you are a provider, a case manager, or an individual who needing services.

How You Can Help The Arc

We know you've got "skills" and we know you are out there! Please consider putting your time and talent to good use with an organization you are already familiar with.

- ✓ Join the fun Adult Recreation group at their next event
- ✓ Volunteer to mentor a newly-diagnosed family
- ✓ Spend an afternoon with some happy campers at Camp SPARKS next summer
- ✓ Create this newsletter, or a better version!
- ✓ Design fliers advertising our events
- ✓ Process our membership applications
- ✓ Serve on the Board of Directors or on a Committee (Direct Services, Education, Fundraising, Membership)

Let us know how you'd like to help:

765-476-3277 or

director@arcoftippecanoe.org

We welcome these new and renewing members of The Arc of Tippecanoe County!

- Meara Bottomley
- Katy Dietrich
- Monica Doerr
- Julie Griffin
- Mary Ann Harrison
- Sherri Massey
- Dave Meadows
- Gale and Ken Schwieterman
- Mark Schwieterman
- Jill Vaught
- Deb Wilson

The Arc of Tippecanoe County is offering a \$500 tuition scholarship to a student whose academic plan of study involves individuals with developmental disabilities.

Qualifications: To qualify, you must be: (a) currently pursuing (or in the case of high school seniors, planning to pursue) an academic major in a field that primarily serves individuals with mental or other developmental disabilities, (b) either be a current resident of Tippecanoe County or enrolled in a school situated within Tippecanoe County, and (c) at least a senior in high school. It must be applied to the Summer 2011, Fall 2011, or Spring 2012 classes.

How to Apply: Individuals who are interested must submit (1) a cover letter that includes contact information, (2) a one page statement explaining why he or she is an appropriate candidate for the award, (3) two letters of recommendation from teachers or other professionals who can also document his/her academic interest, and (4) a copy of current academic transcripts (note that no specific grade point is required).

Application materials should be submitted to: The Arc Scholarship Committee, PO Box 1222, Lafayette, IN, 47902-1222. Applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2011.

Notification of the Winners: Applicants that are awarded the Scholarships will be notified by March 15, 2011.

Questions: Please call (765) 476-3277.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Arc of Tippecanoe County is committed to all individuals with developmental disabilities realizing their goals of learning, living, working, and playing in their community.

- **Empowering individuals through advocacy and social opportunities.**
- **Empowering their families through education**
- **Empowering their communities through awareness.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

KIDS FIRST - Kids First is an educational program using the nationally renowned Kids on the Block puppets. These demonstrations teach children about a variety of disabilities and social problems in an entertaining way.

CAMP SPARKS - A six week recreational day camp for children ages 5-17 with developmental disabilities.

SUPERSTAR SOCIAL CLUB - Monthly events such as dances, picnics, and other social outings for middle school to high school aged children.

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT RECREATION - Activities such as bowling, dances, and movies are regularly hosted for individuals ages 18 and over throughout the Greater Lafayette community.

AKTION CLUB - The Aktion club is a Kiwanis Club for adults with disabilities. They meet monthly and participate in community service projects.

BEST BUDDIES - Volunteers and adults with developmental disabilities are paired to encourage long-term relationships.

CHIMING CHAMPS - A dynamic group that practice choir chimes weekly and perform at various events. Group membership is always open.

Upcoming Events

Kids Night Out
Feb 11 6pm - 9pm
T.C. Harris School

Adult Recreation Valentine's Dance
Feb 12 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Bauer Community Center

SSSC Winter Dance
February 18

Activities Fair
March 10 6:30pm - 8pm
T.C. Harris School

SSSC Bowling
Mar 11 or Mar 12

Adult Recreation March Madness
Fri Mar 18

The Arc of Indiana Pathways Forum
Tue Mar 22 6pm - 8pm
Earhart Elementary School

Adult Recreation/SSSC Homeward Bound Walk

The Arc Annual Meeting
Tue Mar 26 7pm - 8:30pm
Tippecanoe County Library



Go, Grow, Know & Flourish!
Scholarships Available for you to attend conferences!

Through a grant from The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, The Arc of Tippecanoe County established *Go, Grow, Know & Flourish!* to offer financial assistance to individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend training and conferences related to their disability.

This fund reimburses the registration or participation fees associated with conferences, trainings, or workshops that help individuals and families better understand their disability and/or resources available.

If you are interested in getting one of these scholarships, give us a call at 765-476-3277 or email to director@arcoftippecanoe.org.

The Arc BOARD OF DIRECTORS
board@arcoftippecanoe.org

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Ask A Question . . .

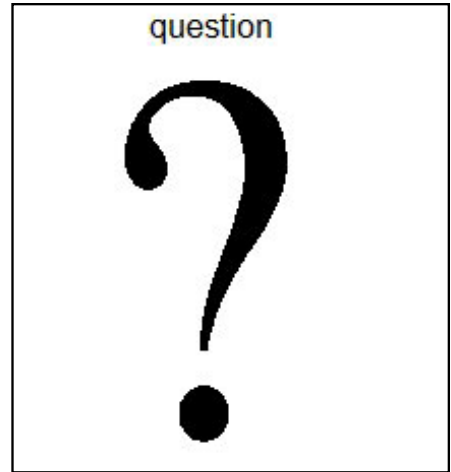
Q: What are some fun things my family can do during the summer?

A: The Greater Lafayette community has a variety of fun activities for your child and for your family. There is fishing, water sports, Camp SPARKS, horseback riding, hunting, cheering, swimming and MORE!

Learn about these activities and more at our annual Activities Fair.

Thursday, March 10, 2011
6:30pm - 8:00pm
T.C. Harris School (3700 Rome Drive, Lafayette)

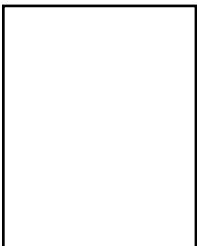
This event is free and open to the public.



Contact Us:
director@arcoftippecanoe.org
765-476-3277
P.O. Box 1222
Lafayette, IN 47902-1222
www.arcoftippecanoe.org

Visit our website to receive updates and this newsletter electronically.

Reaching Out To Individuals with Developmental Disabilities



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