Please consider adding the ARCA Foundation to your will or estate plan. Contact Elaine Solimon at (505) 332-6805

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

11300 Lomas Blvd. NE • Albuquerque, NM 87112
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ARCA Opening Doors.
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The Amen of nature
is always a flower.
~ Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

Life at ARCA’s La Entrada greenhouses has been bustling! Gorgeous geraniums, daisies and other spring and summer beauties were planted with love, tended with care and are almost ready for your home, garden and office. Join us at our annual geranium celebration and sale for a beautiful selection of plants ranging from $7.50 – $14.50.

Please email Michele at MCody@ARCASpirit.org to let us know you’re coming. Can’t wait to see you!

At ARCA, we are athletes, artists, students, mentors, advocates and role models. We are all ages, genders and ethnicities. We offer our talents and insights without hesitation. We ask for help and lend support. We have dreams of service and leadership. We struggle, we fail, we succeed.

We ask the really hard question, “why?” We ask it of ourselves, our community and our state and federal leadership. We embrace both change and tradition. We value those who provide guidance, while offering insights to those who place our challenges above our achievements.

ARCA is optimistic children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, compassionate staff, dedicated families and engaged community partners. Each of us mindfully undertakes many responsibilities. We work diligently to find new paths, knowing the journey is our mission.

I am proud of ARCA and our contributions to community.

We hoped New Mexico’s improved economy would provide desperately needed resources. After a decade of ever increasing regulation alongside sharp declines in funding, our hopes were once again set aside. Nonetheless, we will move forward carrying with us the belief that as awareness grows so will the deep understanding of our value and our real and meaningful contributions.

This issue of Outlook is dedicated to our entire ARCA family as we continue working together to open doors for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be valued members of the community.

Edward J. Kaul
ARCA President/CEO
(505) 332-6825 • Ekaul@arcaspirit.org

Celebrating Excellence

Lora Cunningham once again shared her insightful talents with ARCA by producing and directing two public service announcements. “Enchiladas” makes a trip to the grocery store a joyful adventure and “Evergreen” reminds us what a difference an investment in ARCA’s Endowment makes for the future of our little ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Both were nominated for an Addy this year and Enchiladas was featured at the awards show. Two of our stars, Johnny Campbell and Tim Kominiak, enjoyed seeing themselves on the big screen. If you’d like to see these videos, please visit our website at ARCAOpeningDoors.org/news.

Megan Ward was recognized with the Juror’s Choice Addy Award for her excellent work in producing ARCA’s 60th Anniversary Annual Report. This beautiful report records both decades of innovative, compassionate service and the hopes and dreams for a strong future—in only eight pages! A digital version of the report can be seen at ARCAOpeningDoors.org/AboutUs/financials.

Moving Forward

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On Saturday, June 2nd, Bob Scanlon and Steve Mackie will host ARCA’s 10th Annual Bowl-a-Thon featuring Mayors on Strike. What a decade it’s been! Countless smiles, thousands of new friends and nearly $900,000 raised.

Mayors on Strike for ARCA is back, too! Stay tuned for exciting updates on our favorite New Mexico Mayors’ competition.

A New Development in ARCA’s Business Services

At ARCA, we create opportunities for individuals with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community. In this spirit, and thanks to the foresight of Michael Langford, ARCA’s ABI Division Director and Erica Salas, ARCA’s Janitorial Service Manager, ARCA is developing a Janitorial Training Program.

Erica recently completed a comprehensive training program with ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, one of the most recognized education and certification providers in the professional cleaning industry. Through this training, Erica obtained expert-level certification which not only boosts her knowledge and qualifications, but enables her to teach and certify others. As manager of ARCA’s Janitorial Services, Erica is now working to develop a curriculum based on ISSA’s strict guidelines for individuals interested in receiving certification to help them obtain employment in the community.

Training will be available to persons of all abilities. For more information, contact Erica Salas at ESalas@ARCAspirit.org.

Thank you, Nusenda Credit Union, for your ongoing support. Nusenda is one of the most recognized education and certification providers in the professional cleaning industry. Through this training, Erica obtained expert-level certification which not only boosts her knowledge and qualifications, but enables her to teach and certify others. As manager of ARCA’s Janitorial Services, Erica is now working to develop a curriculum based on ISSA’s strict guidelines for individuals interested in receiving certification to help them obtain employment in the community. Training will be available to persons of all abilities. For more information, contact Erica Salas at ESalas@ARCAspirit.org.

Individuals served by ARCA’s Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) Project have unique and difficult challenges they bravely face every minute of every day. A constant feeling of hunger and a survivalist mindset of not eating enough is a daily struggle. Our Circle of Promise members constantly surprise and delight me with creative, thoughtful and generous ways to help ARCA thrive for as long as there is a need to support little ones through elders with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

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I just got off the phone with a couple I’ve known for decades who are updating their estate plan and creating a special needs trust for their family member served by ARCA. They are setting aside funds to support his needs after their death and have named ARCA to be the remainder beneficiary of his trust. What a touching way to ensure the best quality of life for him and create a legacy for future generations served by ARCA.

With the recent tax law changes, it is even more advantageous to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement account. These contributions not only lower your taxable income, they make dreams come true for the hundreds of people we support today.

There are so many ways you are choosing to support both bright todays and promising tomorrows! Please contact me if you would like to learn more about the many ways to support ARCA’s future and joining ARCA’s Circle of Promise.

Elaine Solomon • Community Relations Director

Elaine Solomon • Community Relations Director

Nusenda

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The Prader-Willi Syndrome Project for New Mexico

Individuals served by ARCA’s Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) Project have unique and difficult challenges they bravely face every minute of every day. A constant feeling of hunger and a survivalist mindset of needing to eat demands most of their attention and energy. It is the support of their team – friends, family and ARCA’s PWS staff – that enables them to feel safe in their environment and turn their attention to other interests. The pursuit of these interests supports a balanced lifestyle and helps shift their focus away from food.

Joanie (pictured at right at the Special Olympics Bocce playing field) has been part of ARCA’s PWS project since day one and has learned the importance of keeping herself active! She participates in the Special Olympics, competing in Bocce ball and bowling and loves volunteering at both her neighborhood senior center, where she works as a Bingo Assistant, and at her church during Bible study. With the tremendous support of her sister, Sue Ann and ARCA’s PWS project, she is happy and healthy. We are very proud of you, Joanie!
KEVA Juice and ARCA

Did you know the wheatgrass at Keva Juice is organically grown at ARCA Organics? For 13 years, all twelve stores in the greater Albuquerque area have sourced the sweetest, freshest, organic wheatgrass from our Corrales greenhouses.

Keva Juice managers and leadership like to stay connected to the source of their products and recently spent a day at our farm. After a tour and some time to visit with our farmers, they rolled up their sleeves for serious volunteer work. The day ended with everyone forming a circle, sharing thoughts and ideas about this strong partnership, shared values and sense of community.

The nutritional benefits of ARCA Organics' wheatgrass are many; the community benefits are profound. A big thanks to everyone at Keva Juice for your hard work and ongoing belief in the work we do and the cherished individuals we serve.

A Surprise Visit!

Melanie Burns, Achievement Gallery, arrived at the greenhouses to pick up centerpieces for an event she was organizing and brought along a few friends. Jaws dropped and spirits soared when she introduced members of the UNM Lobos Baseball Team.

There were non-stop smiles as the athletes toured the greenhouses, individuals served by ARCA proudly shared their work and baseballs were autographed. The energy and joy of this special surprise will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Melanie, for bringing these wonderful people together in the spirit of community, to the Lobos team members for being so generous with your time and attention and to the employees of ARCA Organics for your hospitality and great work!

A Holiday to Remember

This past holiday season was especially joyful at ARCA!

Families from Albuquerque’s East Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints arrived at our Sandia View Apartment bearing gifts, a Christmas tree, homemade ornaments and lots of holiday cheer! Children distributed the gifts while we sang carols in the warm glow of gratitude.

Meanwhile, our Bank of Albuquerque elves were hard at work decorating our Lomas office, serving delicious snacks and helping Santa make sure everyone got the perfect present – all with the joyful spirit only a true elf can bring.

The magic of the season was palpable. Our gratitude is still with us.

Growing Glory

Albuquerque Involved is an ingenious local nonprofit with a goal to join people with their passions. Members make a monthly donation, 100% of which, based on a grant application process and member vote, benefits a local agency. Since its founding in 2015, they have invested over $94,000 in local nonprofits.

More than a one-time grant, Albuquerque Involved strives to help members find agencies which inspire them to connect directly. Each month, they post three volunteer opportunities on their website. Sign-up is done online and families are encouraged to participate.

When Albuquerque Involved reached out to ARCA, we had the perfect project in mind! Mike, Matthew and Howard are avid gardeners and dreamed of having raised garden beds in their yard. Who knew such a big project could be tackled in one morning – and be so much fun! The frames were built, irrigation installed, soil mixed and gravel moved and raked. The yard looks beautiful and plans are already underway for the first spring planting.

Thank you, Albuquerque Involved, for your leadership in our community.

Thelma the chicken appointed herself supervisor

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Warm Wishes

Pearl Konis is a talented artist and when Rosa Anaya told her about ARCA, she knitted lovely scarves for individuals receiving services. In a purple one, her favorite color! These beautiful gifts were more than a barrier from the winter cold, they warmed our hearts. Thank you, Pearl!

I am Civilian!

The ARCA Buddies Civitan group recently had their Installation of Officers Ceremony. We were honored to have Larry Levy, the District Governor of Civitan, officiate with the support of Terri Keller, Civitan Auxiliary Director. New members were welcomed, including Lisa Simon, Mark Diener and Jim Myers, and officers were sworn in. Jessica Levy and Penny Stevens are ARCA’s Co-President. Bob Reed and Merry Murphy are Co-President Elect, Todd Petits and Ed Kaul are Co-Treasurer, Carleen Blumenthal and Deborah Lucas are Co-Secretary. The Board of Directors include Karen Chavez, Tim Kominiak, Phillip Longley, Felix Madrid and Bobby Stevens.

Jeannie

Jeannie came to ARCA in 1985. For decades, she was an inspiration, a mentor and a true friend. She worked for many years at the Ultimate Change hair salon, served as President of ARCA’s Consumer Council for two terms and only months ago completed her ninth year of service on the ARCA Board of Directors. She was a staunch advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, often travelling throughout New Mexico to bring awareness.

Jeannie loved to read and share her thoughts on books from psychology to travel to historical novels. Active in her church, Jeannie had strong personal relationships throughout our community. Family was most important and she spoke with pride about her siblings Laurie and Tom and her many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jeannie passed away in early March. She will be greatly missed.

HR Corner

With 2017 come and gone, it’s a good time to look at what’s happening in ARCA’s Training department.

In addition to holding 631 classroom and over 3,000 online classes this past year, Training has made great strides in creating a culture of improvement. Past CLIPs have reminded staff how to lead by bringing out the best in others. March, we will be holding an exciting seminar called ‘Improving Processes’ at what’s happening in ARCA’s Training department.

Legislation providing a less-than-5% increase in unit of service reimbursable rates for DD Waiver service providers initially passed both the house and senate, however, in the final budget reconciliation process, the funding was reallocated to cover a deficit within DDSD.

Here’s what happens. Annually, each individual served on the DD Waiver receives a specific number of units of service as determined to be medically necessary through an outside clinical review team. Each unit of service for each category of care is funded with a rate assigned by DDSD. The rate per unit of service is not sufficient by itself to cover the mandated service and regulated reporting requirements. In an improved rate per unit of service for each category of care is funded with a rate assigned by DDSD. The rate per unit of service is not sufficient by itself to cover the mandated service and regulated reporting requirements. In an improved

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are part of New Mexico’s culture and economy and value the opportunity to work, socialize and contribute to our community. When the opportunity to succeed is lost, so are our dreams.

Our annual ARCA Day at the Legislature provides individuals serving the opportunity to see our democratic process in action, visit with their senators and representatives and contribute to positive change in our community. Using assistive technology, our Smart Travel navigated the train and the shuttle to the Round House while others shared a bus ride. Everyone met in the lobby before spending time in the chambers and delivering hand written letters to their legislators’ offices. Special thanks to Deborah Lucas and Kiley Fraser for making this meaningful experience possible!