



# THE ADVOCATE

The Arc of Calhoun  
and Cleburne Counties

Volume 13 Issue 1

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## The Arc Welcomes New Executive Director — Karen Chappell Davis Assumes Role

The Arc family grew just a bit in September as the agency board and staff welcomed the agency's new executive director, Karen Chappell Davis.

Karen comes to The Arc of Calhoun & Cleburne Counties from Jacksonville State University where she was employed for 20 years, retiring as the Director of Human Resources.

She retired from JSU in 2010 to spend more time with her family. During her time out of the work force, she enjoyed time with her family, reading good book (preferable a mystery or historical fiction), and volunteering with a hospice. She was also able to travel. She went to Kenya on a photography safari and took a very special trip to Russia with her mother. Karen holds this a truly special memory, since her mother passed away in October.

Karen grew up in Montgomery and graduated from Auburn University-Montgomery and Troy University-Montgomery. She was employed by the State Personnel Department for approximately 5 years. Leaving state employment, she worked for Faulkner University in Montgomery as the director of a degree completion for adult students.

Karen moved to Jacksonville to accept the position at JSU in 1990, the same year she married John W. Davis Jr. Mr. Davis is employed by the Calhoun County Health department. Their son, Caleb, is 17 and a senior at the Alabama School of Math & Science in Mobile.

Karen is The Arc's fourth executive director in the agency's fifty-three year history.

"I feel honored and humbled to be of-



ferred the opportunity to work with Arc," Karen says. "I look forward to getting to know our members, clients, friends."

## We Are on The Web!

The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties has a new website!

Thanks to Widenet Consulting, consumers, volunteers, families and other supporters of The Arc of Calhoun Counties can now keep up with the latest news from the agency with a simple click of the mouse.

Go to [calhouncleburnearec.org](http://calhouncleburnearec.org) to check out our new website and tell us what you think.

And as always you can also keep up with the latest Arc news by finding us on facebook!

### Inside this issue:

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### Notice Anything New?

*We have a new logo and a new layout for The Advocate!*

*Check out the new logo at the top left hand of the page, then look through this edition of The Advocate to see what you think about the changes.*

*We would love to hear from you!*



### Congratulations Kim!

Kim Rudolph receives her Employee on the Year Award from Marty Gwin, Greater Calhoun County Area Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities President. Kim was one of seven individuals or groups honored at the committee's annual luncheon on October 24. For story see page 2.

## EVENTS

- Support Group for Parents of Children with Disabilities meets each week at The Arc offices, 401 Noble Street, at 6:00 p.m. Open to parents of children of all ages. Free. Call Mindi at 256-236-2857 for more information.
- The Anniston Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Program's Christmas Party, Monday, Dec. 3 5:30—8:30 p.m. at The Anniston PARD Therapeutic Recreation and Senior Center. Call Bernadette M. Burroughs at 256-241-2679 for more information.
- The Prevocational Elementary School Christmas Party for children with intellectual disabilities, Dec., 12, First United Methodist Church of Weaver, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Call Pati at 256-236-2857 for more information.
- The Prevocational High School Christmas Party, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Hillcrest Baptist Church. For high school and middle school students in Calhoun and Cleburne counties with intellectual disabilities. Call Pati at 256-236-2857 for more information.

### *Area Committee Recognizes Efforts to Employ People with Disabilities*

The members of the Greater Calhoun County Area Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities recognized the efforts local individuals seeking to make a better life for those with intellectual and or physical disabilities at the committee's annual award luncheon October 24 at Jacksonville State University.

Kim Rudolph, a participant in both The Arc's and Anniston Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation programs, earned the committee's Employee of the Year Award in recognition of her job success. Kim observed her tenth year of employment with the Wendy's Restaurant chain, where she works full-time as a cashier.

The Anniston Runners Club received the committee's Partnership Award in recognition of the many programs the ARC undertakes to benefit the community. The Arc, along with the east



### *Running to Help*

Anniston Runners Club members Brooke Nelson, far left, Amie Hinton, Joseph Jankoski, Steven Miles, and Hayley Long accept The Partnership Award at the Greater Calhoun County Area Governor's Committee on the Employment With People with Disabilities Annual Luncheon from Committee President Marty Gwin, right. ARC supports the programs of The Arc and East Central Alabama UCP through the Woodstock Run.

Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy are recipients from the funds raised through ARC's annual Woodstock Run each August.

Other award winners included Steve Stevens and Julie Daniels of WVOK's Steve and Julie Morning Show, Media Ward: Anniston arm Deport, Large Employer of the Year; Long John Silver's Seafood, Small Employer of the Year; Michele Conger of Gadsden State Community College, Outstanding Advocate of the Year and Maudine Holloway of the Community Enabler, Outstanding Advocate of the Year.

## The Advocate

is published by  
**The Arc**  
**of Calhoun and Cleburne**  
**Counties**  
in the interest of  
people with intellectual disabilities.

For comments or questions, please  
contact us at

401 Noble Street / PO Box 1848  
Anniston AL 36202  
256-236-2857

TheArc@cableone.net  
calhouncleburneorg.org



## People at The Arc (as of Nov. 8, 2012)

Board President  
Treasurer  
Executive Director  
Administrative Assistant  
Program Assistant  
Family Advocate  
Recreation Aide  
Board Members

Jerry York  
Ron Drury  
Karen Chappell Davis  
Dot Lovelidge  
Pati Tiller  
Mindi Amberson  
Doris Cooley  
Joyce Dempsey  
Robert Elliot  
Bill Lamberth  
Randy Payne  
Cindy Beam  
Valerie Gamble  
Becky Fearon  
Amy Ward  
Glenda Berry  
Claire Dryden  
Kelly McCord  
Cynthia Russell

Kathy Elliot  
Jonathan Gorman  
Paula Mason  
Mike Abrams  
Valencia Cantrell  
Leigh Hulsey  
Glenda Turner  
Sygrid Beard  
Tammy Burkhalt  
Mark Dugans  
Jeanie Klezaras-Jaskowski  
Sharon Davis



Make a Difference This 2012 Holiday Season  
by Supporting the Programs of

**The Arc**  
**of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties**



**Working to include all children and adults with cognitive, intellectual,  
and developmental disabilities in every community.**

Programs of The Arc ( located at 401 Noble St., Anniston) include  
camps for children and adults, art, recreational activities, sports training, Kids on  
the Block (educational puppets) and Special Olympics  
For more information, please call 256-236-2857.

Thank you for your Tax-Deductible Donation of any amount to support these programs.

Please return the lower portion of this page, along with your donation to

**The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties, P. O. Box 1848, Anniston, AL 36202**

Thank you for your December donation,

***Board of Directors***

The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties

Sharon Davis  
Joyce Dempsey  
Ron Drury  
Paula Mason  
Robert Elliot  
Leigh Hulsey

Amy Ward  
Jonathan Gorman  
Ron Haygood  
Bill Lamberth  
Jeanie Klezaras-Jaskowski  
Mike Abrams

Kelly McCord  
Randy Payne  
Valencia Cantrell  
Valerie Gamble  
Glenda Turner  
Becky Fearon

Kathy Elliot  
Kathy Schultz  
Kay Sewell  
Geraldine York  
Jerry York  
Cindy Beam

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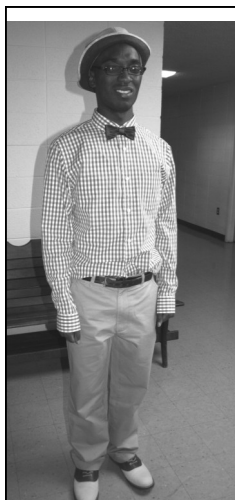
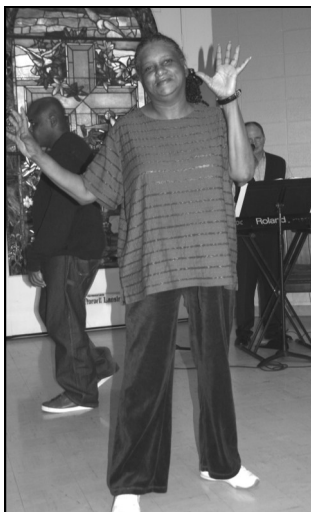
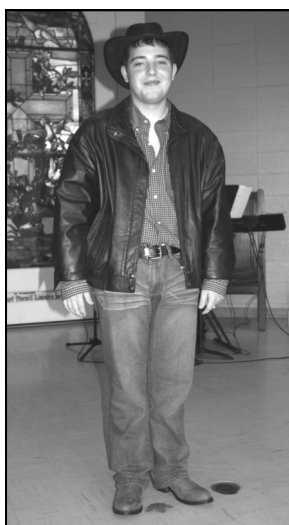
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*THANK YOU in advance for your donation!*

*Arc Board Member,* \_\_\_\_\_



## The Models of the 2012 Arc Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show





### *And the winners are ...*

The recipients of the 2012 Arc Community Awards pose with their plaques following The Arc's Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show on Nov. 8 at First Presbyterian Church of Anniston. For a list of winners, please see story below

## The Arc Honors Supporters with Awards and Meal — New Board and Officers Also installed at Annual Meeting

The Arc extended its appreciation to its community supporters and program participants with a presentation of great food and awards during its Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show on November 8, 2012.

The evening began on a musical note as Cleburne County Probate Judge Ryan Robertson took to the keyboard to entertain the guests with song as they dined on a Thanksgiving-themed meal catered by Refuge on the Greens.

Judge Robertson stayed at the keyboard to provide accompaniment to the fashion show which followed. Fifteen agency consumers of all ages modeled outfits put together from favorite pieces of their own wardrobe. (See photos page 4).

The fashion show was emceed by Robin Kines. Jon Holder then took over the microphone to announce the winners of the 2012 Arc Awards, as The Arc honored individuals, families and others who have made a significant contribution in the area of intellectual disabilities

Board members Randy Payne and Jerry York were surprised to learn they had received individual Arc Member of the Year Awards for their work on behalf of the agency and its board of directors. Among their other efforts on behalf of The

Arc, Payne serves as the board's legal advisor and York is returning to the position of board president.

Award committee members also selected two individuals to receive Educator of the Year Awards. The recognition went to Lynetta Owens and Valerie Gamble, both of whom are instructors at Jacksonville State University. Tera McIntee, who teaches students with intellectual disabilities at Constantine Elementary School, won the Teacher of the Year Award.

Three groups, one from Anniston High School, Oxford High School and the Calhoun County Career Technical Center, each earned the agency's Youth Volunteer Award (s) for their help in the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll fundraiser and The Arc's spring fundraiser.

Tammy and Gary Wigington, parents of a child with autism, received The Arc's Family Involvement Award

for their efforts to raise awareness about the disorder. Honeywell Employees were awarded The Arc's Distinguished Service Award for supporting such efforts as those of the Wigingtons through donations and volunteerism.

Millie Haygood picked up an Appreciation Award to the My Father's Arms ministry for that agency's work dedication toward housing and employing a local man with intellectual disabilities. The night's other Appreciation Award went to Karen Montgomery for her ongoing support of the Arc's art program

The evening ended with a business meeting as The Arc's general membership approved changes to the agency's by-laws and voted on the slate of new officers and members of the Arc board of directors into office.

New members Tammy Burkhardt,

*See Banquet and Awards.*  
*Continued on page 6*



*Arc Board Members*



**The Arc of Calhoun and  
Cleburne Counties**

The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties  
401 Noble Street  
PO Box 1848  
Anniston, AL 36202

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**Banquet and Awards**

*(Continued from page 5)*

Sygrid Beard, Glenda Berry, Claire Dryden, Mark Dugan, Jeanie Klazaras-Jaskowski, Kellie McCord and Cynthia Russell were elected to join the board as the Class of 2015. Elected to hold office as the 2013 executive board were Jerry York, President; Bob Elliot, Vice-president; Cindy Beam, Secretary; Ron Drury, Treasurer; and Sharon Davis, Immediate Past President.

Tom Holmes, Executive Director of The Arc of Alabama, installed the new board members and officers and briefly updated those in attendance about the current work of The Arc Alabama and The Arc of the United States.

The evening was made possible by the assistance of many volunteers, including the board members and their families. Special appreciation was given to First Presbyterian Church of Anniston for hosting the event, and to special education classes at Cleburne County High School, Cleburne County Middle School, Saks Elementary School and Weaver Elementary School for providing the table decorations. Door prizes were donated by Kellie McCord, CAST Theatre and Wendy Thompson and the participants in the Jacksonville Senior Center program.

## **The Arc's General Membership Approves Changes to Agency By-Laws**

The general membership of The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne counties gave its approval to changes in the agency's by-laws on November 8, when those in attendance at The Arc's Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show voted to approve proposed changes to the document without any dissent.

The majority of the approved changes deal with updating the language of the in the document. The term "mental retardation" was replaced throughout the wording by the terms "intellectual disability" and/or "Intellectual/ developmental disability" or "I/DD".

These changes reflect a move by The Arc of The United States and disability rights advocate groups to halt the use of the word "retardation" in its various forms due to the negative and sometimes derogatory connotation the word has gained by misuse from the public at-large.

For a complete look at the changes to the 2007 version of the chapter's by-laws, check out our website at [calhouncleburnearc.org](http://calhouncleburnearc.org).

# **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

From all of us at  
The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties!