



THE ADVOCATE

The Arc of Calhoun
and Cleburne Counties

Volume 16 Issue 1

Spring 2015

Tammy W. Moreno Becomes Executive Director

Tammy Woodard Moreno is learning how to split her time between two offices at The Arc these days.

Moreno, who joined the staff as The Arc's Family Advocate in March of 2013 was selected as the agency's new Executive Director. Ms. Moreno began her new role on April 1, 2015.

"The Board of Directors is looking forward to working with Tammy Moreno as the Executive Director in the pursuit of the mission of The Arc," said Robert Elliot, President of The Arc Board of Directors. "Tammy will take her position to heart in directing The Arc in providing for the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

In addition to supporting individuals with I/DD and their families in day-to-day activities and life transitions, Moreno also served as the coordinator for The Arc's summer day camps for children with developmental disabilities and speech and language delays.

She will continue to work in both areas until a new Family Advocate is hired in the coming weeks.

Prior to coming to The Arc, she was employed by the Cleburne County Department of Human Resources until her retirement in June of 2011. She also worked for the United Way of East Central Alabama during the 2012-13 fundraising campaign.

A native of Calhoun County, she has been married to Ron Moreno since 1990. The couple is active at Redeemer Church.



"I am honored to serve as Executive Director of an agency that has contributed so much to the community since 1959," concludes Ms. Moreno. "I believe that Helen Keller said it best, 'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.'"

Plans for Day Camps Underway

Plans for The Arc's four summer day camps for children with developmental disabilities and/or speech and language delays are well underway.

The Knights Camp, for children ages 5–21 with moderate intellectual disabilities, and Camp United, for children ages 5–21 with multiple disabilities will be offered Monday–Thursday June 8–25 along with the first session of Camp Spectra, which serves students 13–21 with on the autism spectrum.

A second session of Camp Spectra, this one serving students ages 5–12 on the autism spectrum, will be held July 6–23 along with the Speech Camp, for all students ages 5–12 who need to continue speech and language therapy over the summer. Applicants to the speech and language camp must have completed their first year of Kindergarten and be referred by a speech therapist to camp.

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Did you know.....

The Alabama Legislature is considering steep budget cuts which will drastically impact funding for services to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities?

Legislators want to cut \$13 million to the Medicaid budget. This will cause a loss of an additional \$33 million in federal funding for a total loss of \$46 million.

Medicaid provides many services for adults with disabilities, such as medical care, residential services and day habilitation services. Without this funding, services such as group homes and day work and shelter programs will be reduced, if not eliminated.

Organizations that help people with disabilities, including The Arc, rely on State and Federal funding in order to operate. Current program funding only allows for state programs to serve 5,829 people of the nearly 9,000 people who are in need of services.

More budget cuts will mean less services, less program staff and more waiting lists.

Limiting services hurts the people who receive the services, their families, the employees of the impacted organizations, their families and the community at large.

Please contact your local state representative or senator to tell them you do not want the services to you, your family member or the people you work for reduced.

A list of contact information for members of the Alabama House and Senate may be found here:

ccofal.org/alabama/alabamalegisature



A support meeting for those with special needs, their families and caregivers

First Thursday of each month.
5:30—7:00 p.m.

Leatherwood Baptist Church
2709 Old Gadsden Highway
Anniston, Alabama

Finger Foods and desserts served.
Activities and /or care provided for those with special needs

Free of charge.

Call Melonie Jones at 256-820-0717



A weekly health and fitness class for individuals with disabilities.

Tuesday nights
6:00—7:15

Oxford Civic Center
401 McCullars Lane
Oxford Alabama

Healthy snacks are prepared as part of the activities

Free of charge

Call Shannon Bridges at 256-452-6311

Congratulation to our State Award Winners!

Congratulations to the local members of The Arc who recently were honored for their contributions to the agency and its consumers by The Arc of Alabama. Board Member Jerry York, above left, received the Volunteer of the Year Award for his fundraising efforts on behalf of the agency.



Jerry York, above and Mark Dugans, below, receive their awards from Terry Pezent



Mark Dugans, below left, earned the Citizenship of the Year Award for being a strong self-advocate and for giving back to his community through volunteerism and Special Olympics success.

Melissa Akles, right, received special recognition for having her self-portrait chosen as the artwork for the convention's flyer and program.



Pezent and Melissa Akles

The three were recognized at the Alabama disabilities conference in October.

Terry Pezent, Executive Director of The Arc of Alabama, presented the awards.

CAMPS *Continued from page 1)*

All camps will operate from 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at the Bynum Community Center, under the supervision of camp director Theresa Bowen.

It is a great opportunity for children with developmental disabilities and/or speech and language delays, to continue their goals from the school year while having fun in a day camp setting.

Camp applications were distributed through school systems throughout Calhoun and Cleburne Counties. Applications may also be picked up at 401 Noble Street, Anniston, requested by a phone call to 256-236-2857 or downloaded from our website at calhouncleburnearc.org.

The cost of each camp session is \$120. Financial aide is available for qualified appli-

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**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
calhouncleburnearc.org



People at The Arc

Board President
Treasurer

Robert Elliot
Ron Drury

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

Tammy W. Moreno
Betty Kelley
Pati Tiller

Doris Cooley
Mark Dugans
Christy Crosson
Jerry York
Robert Elliot
Tony Hattock
Kay Sewell
Mike Abrams
Becky Fearon
Marcia Ghee
Lynetta Owen

Shannon Bridges
Susan Goodwin
Bernadette Burroughs
Pam Harris
Paula Mason
Rinique Simmons
Sharon/Desiree Davis
Joan Frazier
Joe Harrington
Amy Ward

Special Olympics Calhoun and Cleburne Athletics Held at Oxford High

Athletes from Calhoun and Cleburne Counties celebrated St. Patrick's Day on the field of competition March 17, as they participated in Special Olympics Calhoun and Cleburne Counties Athletics Events.

Some 154 athletes, ages 8 -21, registered to compete in this year's events, which is sponsored by The Arc. The athletes trained for their completion in the 50 meter, 100 meter, softball throw, shot put throw, tennis ball throw, wheel chair events and standing long jump and long jump.

It was the second time in as many years that the event was hosted by the Oxford School System, which again did an outstanding job of conducting the proceedings.

Special recognition goes to OHS teacher and coach Dana Webb, who served as the point of contact and coordinator of the system's involvement. Her fellow teachers helped run the actual events, along with the staff of the City of Oxford's Parks and Recreation and Wellborn High School. Jim Barnes of Special Olympics Alabama brought members of his athletics team to assist with the running of the games.

The staff of the local office of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and volunteers from Seven Springs Ministries worked the ribbon table along with Oxford High School Key Club members.



Cleburne County Middle School's Juan Becarra waits to see the results of his softball throw.



Wellborn, Anniston, Alexandria and Jacksonville runners compete, right



Oxford Middle School students take a break.

Students from the Oxford, Ohatchee, Wellborn, Jacksonville, White Plains, Cleburne County, Anniston and Alexandria High Schools served as buddies to the athletes, making sure they enjoyed the day. Other OHS Key Club members set up the field and organized fun events for the participants to enjoy when not competing.

Longtime volunteer Charles Trull coordinated the lunches for all the athletes and volunteers involved in the day's events. Mr. Trull contacted and secured donations of hamburgers from local Hardee's, McDonald's Jack's and Burger King Restaurants, chips from Golden Flake, Inc. and soft drinks from Coca-Cola, Inc. He also worked with Dorsey's Supermarket to supply water and cookies for the lunches. Several OHS students helped put the lunches together and, along with Mr. Trull, distribute them to hungry participants on the day of the event.

This year's Athletics Events, were originally scheduled for March 12, but were postponed by weather. St. Patrick's Day turned out to be a great day for the outdoors event.

We at The Arc would like to thank all our supporters for their part in making the day a great success.

Wellborn's Dakota Beecham gets some family support, left

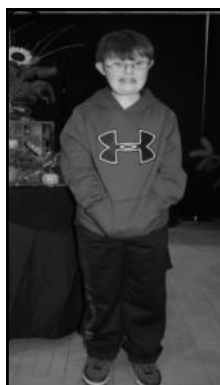
Weaver Elementary students show off their ribbons back at school, right



Rayka McGlond of Anniston Middle School jumps for her ribbon.



*Models of The Arc's 2014 Annual Awards
Banquet and Fashion Show*



Arc Annual Meeting Recognizes Achievements and Abilities

This year the celebration moved south as some 300 people gathered at the Oxford Civic Center to take part in The Arc's Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show on November 20, 2014.

Attendees were treated to a delicious meal catered by The Peerless Grill as they were serenaded by Cleburne County Probate Judge Ryan Robertson.

Judge Robertson also provided musical accompaniment a short time later as 20 consumers of all ages modeled clothes supplied by Dillard's Department Store.

The fashion show was emceed by Robin Kines.

Jon Holder served as the emcee of the awards portion of the evening as The Arc honored individuals, families and others who have made a significant contribution in the area of intellectual disabilities during 2014.

Michael B. Abrams was selected to receive The Arc Member of the Year. A member of The Arc's board, Abrams also serves as a liaison to The Arc of Alabama and is active in fundraising for the agency through The Knights of Columbus.

Charles Trull, the man responsible for the coordination of lunches for some 700 athletes and volunteers appeared delighted to receive the Lolan Granger Award. Mr. Trull works year round to secure donations and supplies for the lunches, which he then helps create and distribute on site.

This year's Personal Achievement Award went to consumer Jonathan Gorman in recognition of his success in creating an independent professional and personal life.

Pati Tiller, The Arc's Outreach Coordinator, received the Professional of the Year Award. Tiller, who has

worked at The Arc for 19 years, serves as the coordinator of the agency's Special Olympics, Kids on the Block Education Puppet Program, publicity, Adult Camp and some fundraising efforts.

The Educator Of the Year Award was presented to Beverly Butler, a teacher of the self-contained autism unit at Saks High School who devotes time and effort to the development of her students both in and outside of the classroom.

Long-term volunteer J.D. Plummer took home the Friendship Award in recognition of his work at The Arc's Christmas parties for students, adult and student day camps and fundraisers.

Amber Young, took home the Youth Volunteer Award for the many contributions she makes at the summer day camps for students.

Shannon Bridges, an educator at Coldwater Elementary School, picked up Appreciation Award for her creation of "Fit Friends," a free weekly fitness and exercise program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Dillard's was awarded The Arc's Distinguished Community Service for providing monetary support and supplies to The Arc's art program.

Terry Pezent, Executive Director of The Arc of Alabama, presented The Arc of Alabama's Volunteer of the Year Award to Jerry York. (see page 2)

Her remarks were followed by a surprise visit from none other than Santa Claus, who wished everyone a very happy Season and New Year.

Prior to the meeting, The Arc board held a brief general membership meeting to approve changes to the by-laws and install new members and officers for the coming year.

Shannon Bridges was elected to serve the remainder of a term in the 2015 Class. Mike Abrams, Becky Fearon, Joan Frazier, Marcia Ghee, Joe Harrington and Lynetta Owens were elected to the Class of 2017.

Elected to the 2015 executive board were Robert Elliot, President; Mike Abrams, Vice-president; Becky Fearon, Secretary; Ron Drury, Treasurer; and Jerry York, Immediate Past President.

See Banquet and Awards.

Continued on page 6



Award winners above and past and present members of The Arc's Board of Directors at right at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet and Fashion Show.





The Arc of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties

401 Noble Street
PO Box 1848
Anniston, AL 36202

Join The Arc

Be an advocate
for people with
intellectual disabilities

Your annual membership dues entitle
you to membership in the local, state
and national Arc organizations.

Individual

Family

☐ \$20.00

☐ \$30.00

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Non-profit
organization
Postage Paid
Anniston, AL

Permit #338

Address Correction
Requested

*An Affiliate of
The Arc of the U.S.
The Arc of Alabama
A United Way Agency*

Help The Arc Achieve Its Mission

As a non-profit, The Arc has a continuing challenge to find the financial resources to adequately serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Calhoun and Cleburne Counties.

You can help us in our mission by donating a little or a lot to The Arc!

In this issue you will find an envelope in which you can return to us with a donation of any amount of your choosing. Or you can use it to return the completed form above to become or renew your annual membership in The Arc.

You can also help us in the following ways

- 1) going to www.regionstradition.com/birdies-for-charity.php and making a donation or pledge to The Regions Tradition Classic's Birdies for Charity or
- 2) Contacting us at 256-236-2857 to purchase an advertisement in the Sunny King Charity Golf Classic program.

Thank you for continuing to support The Arc by making our Advocacy, Education, and Therapeutic Programs possible.

Banquet and Awards

(Continued from page 5)

The evening was made possible by the assistance of many volunteers, including the board and their family members. Special appreciation was given to The City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Department, Honda Manufacturing, Peerless Grill, Dillard's, Cleburne County Career Technical School, HOSA students, Cindy Beam, Mary Brown, Leigh Hulsey, Annual Meeting Planning and Decorating Committee members, the classes of Cleburne County Middle School for their assistance in the proceedings.



Thank you Karen and Mike

*We want to thank
Karen C. Davis,
above, and Michael
B. Abrams, right, for
their work as The
Arc's Executive Di-
rector and Interim
Executive Director.
Davis was employed
here for just over two
years before moving
away in December.
Abrams served for
three months until a
new ED was hired.*

