

*Our Mission is to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to lead better lives by providing a lifetime of high-quality services, family support and advocacy.*

## Expanding Our Reach

As the needs of the St. Louis community expanded in 2015, so did St. Louis Arc's programs. With the help of a grant from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, the St. Louis Arc piloted the Embedded Early Education Screening and Support Project in Normandy. This initiative allowed two St. Louis Arc early intervention specialists to work with the children, teachers, and families in three Normandy daycares. The overall goal was for the specialists to identify any kind of social, emotional, developmental, or behavioral delays in each child, while consulting with the classroom teachers and families on how to recognize these behaviors, develop plans, and find resources to address the concerns. A year after the Project started, an evaluation was conducted by an outside consultant and confirmed the Project's success at achieving its outcomes. Additionally, the consultant recommended that the Project continue to receive funding and be expanded into 2016.

St. Louis Arc's Neighborhood Experiences program also branched out into North County and North St. Louis City during the summer of 2015. Neighborhood Experiences assists teens with disabilities as they volunteer in their community, gain employment skills, and form new friendships. Thanks to a grant from



*Neighborhood Experiences participant Marcus Young receives training from a Ferguson firefighter.*

the United Way of Greater St. Louis, the Arc was able to offer this program for free to teens living in Ferguson, Dellwood, and St. Louis City.

Finally, Belle Children's Services of St. Louis Arc began promoting their Premie Team of therapists. The Premie Team works directly with area hospitals to focus on families leaving the Neonatal

Intensive-Care Unit (NICU). The therapists support parents as they communicate with doctors, nurses, and case coordinators, and empower parents to ask questions and advocate on behalf of their child.

In the year ahead, St. Louis Arc will continue to strengthen its current programs and evaluate further needs in the St. Louis region.

# CQL Accreditation

Every four years, the St. Louis Arc prepares for the accreditation review from The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). In anticipation of the November 2016 CQL accreditation visit, we will be bringing together a group of St. Louis Arc employees, people receiving supports and their families, volunteers, community supporters, funders, and board members for two-and-a-half days of interactive dialogue, debate, and action planning. This forum provides an opportunity for a variety of stakeholders to identify the Arc's strengths, weaknesses, and areas we should prioritize in the future. The result will be a plan that addresses those priorities over the next four years. If you are interested in learning more, or being a part of this process, please contact Stephanie Scott, Director of Quality of Enhancement, at 314-817-2274 or [sscott@slarc.org](mailto:sscott@slarc.org).

Learn more about the St. Louis Arc and our services by visiting our website at

[www.slarc.org](http://www.slarc.org)

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Jeanne Ritter, Graphic Artist

Questions, comments, story ideas, photo submissions, and letters to the editor may be emailed to [cchazen@slarc.org](mailto:cchazen@slarc.org).



## Always Evolving

During the past five years, growth and change have become constant themes at the St. Louis Arc. From moving into a new facility in 2010, to merging with The Belle Center in 2012, and saying goodbye in 2015 to our longest serving President and CEO, Kathy Meath.

In the spirit of change, and after much careful thought, the Executive Team is excited to announce a newly created department: Community Support. This division will oversee the St. Louis Arc's CONNECT, Leisure, and Supported Employment programs. These three areas have undergone



tremendous expansion and we expect that to continue.

As we move into 2016, we look forward to more positive growth as we continue to meet the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Keeley, President and CEO

## New VP of Community Support

The St. Louis Arc welcomes Shaughnessy H. Daniels as the new Vice President of Community Support. Shaughnessy leads the CONNECT, Leisure, and Supported Employment teams with program planning, development, and implementation. She also works with the Executive Leadership team to help fulfill the mission of the St. Louis Arc. Shaughnessy spent the past decade as



Vice President of Urban Strategies, and brings with her a broad range of experience working with non-profits.

# GIVING THANKS

On December 7 at the Deer Creek Club, the St. Louis Arc honored retiring board member Thomas K. Vandiver for his 26-years of leadership and service. Tom served as Board Chairman in 1996 and 1997, but his leadership was a constant over the entirety of his board tenure. Tom, who is a partner at Dentons, will now be known as a "Board Member Emeritus" for the St. Louis Arc.

Dillon Ohlemiller, who has been a participant in St. Louis Arc programs since he was two-years-old, was the featured speaker of the evening. Dillon is currently a 22-year-old student in the SUCCEED program at UMSL, and described how the Arc has helped him achieve many personal goals.

Additionally, the St. Louis Arc paid tribute to outgoing Chairman David Giuntoli for his outstanding leadership during the past two years. Under David's term the Arc created a new strategic plan, regained 100% control of Childgarden Early Childhood Center, launched the Early Start Denver Model, and expanded programs in North County.



Left to right: David Giuntoli and Tom Vandiver.



Left to right: Mark A. Keeley and Arc participant, Dillon Ohlemiller.

## NEW CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER



The St. Louis Arc is excited to announce the appointment of Scott Monette as the Board Chairman for 2016-2017. Scott previously served as the Chair of the Arc's Finance Committee since 2013. Scott is the Founder of 100 Percent Wine, which donates 100% of its profits to organizations that help people with disabilities find jobs.



Karen Jordan is the newest member of the St. Louis Arc Board. Karen is a partner at Dentons, specializing in advising corporate clients in a wide range of finance, real estate, and securities transactions. Before joining the Board, Karen provided pro bono legal work for several of the St. Louis Arc's strategic initiatives.

## Arc Anniversaries

During the first six months of 2016, the following employees will celebrate two decades or more of working at the St. Louis Arc. We are grateful for their outstanding service.

### JANUARY

Mary Carthen: 27  
Sayer Johnson: 20

### FEBRUARY

David Schaffner: 27  
Ed Nieman: 26  
Ola Pennington: 24  
Lauren Robb: 21

### MARCH

Bryan Miller: 37  
Rose Bretana: 29  
Phyllis Bauer: 28  
John Taylor: 25  
Richard Lloyd: 24

### APRIL

Lori Milton: 32  
Darlene Buckner: 28  
Cameron Ford: 25

### MAY

Toni Jodlowski: 34  
Sharon Spurlock: 27  
Colin Maag: 25  
Aileen Shortall: 24

### JUNE

Mary Anne Tolliver: 32  
Kevin Barrett: 29  
Mark A. Keeley: 27  
Julia Schaffner: 26

# St. Louis Arc **Accentuate The Positive**



CQL presents the Award of Excellence to St. Louis Arc and SUCCEED.

## St. Louis Arc Receives CQL International Award of Excellence

The St. Louis Arc and the SUCCEED Program were honored on October 21 with the International Award of Excellence by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). SUCCEED is a partnership between the University of Missouri – St. Louis and the St. Louis Arc that allows people with disabilities the opportunity to live on-campus, while taking classes that match their skills and interests. The St. Louis Arc provided training on intellectual and developmental disabilities to the UMSL residential life staff and campus security, and helped develop the curriculum for the program. This award acknowledges St. Louis Arc’s support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve outcomes in education. “The SUCCEED Program is a fantastic example of an innovative approach in helping people with disabilities achieve their outcomes,” said Cathy Ficker Terrill, President and CEO of CQL.



## Self Advocate of the Year

Adonis Reddick, a member of St. Louis Arc’s Social Justice and Human Rights Committees, was the winner of the 2015 Self Advocate Award from The Arc of the United States. The St. Louis Arc nominated Adonis for his efforts on three major campaigns to change policy with McDonald’s, Metro Transit, and St. Louis County. In addition to his committee work, Adonis addressed over 50 corporate volunteers last year by sharing his story and advocating for people of all abilities. St. Louis Arc Directors Sharon Spurlock and Stephanie Scott presented Adonis with his award when he was honored at The Arc’s National Convention in Indianapolis on October 5.

## School Days

No child should ever have to worry about whether they will have enough school supplies to last throughout the year. Thankfully, our friends at Wells Fargo Advisors felt the same way. For the second year in a row, they raised more than \$4,000 in school supplies and cash donations for children involved in St. Louis Arc programs. The St. Louis Arc is grateful to Wells Fargo Advisors for helping our children be prepared for their first day of school.

Right: Employees from Wells Fargo Advisors and the St. Louis Arc fill up their cars with supplies.



# St. Louis Arc **knowledgements**

## Summer Service



The Seckman High School Jag Swag dance team devoted their June service project to collecting toys for children in the Capable Kids and Families program. Children received fun summer items such as sidewalk chalk, bubble wands, and markers. Many thanks to the Jag Swag crew for reaching out to our Capable Kids!

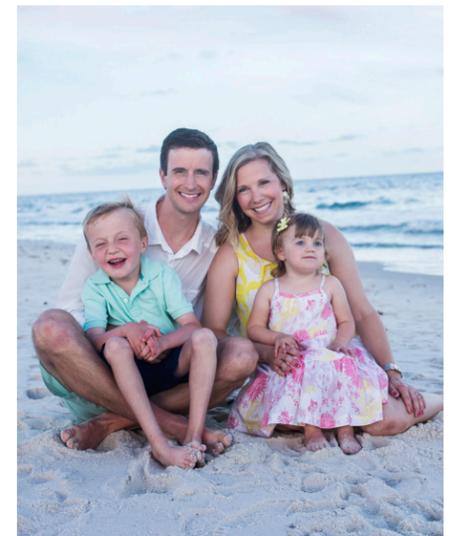
## 2015 Giving Tree

The holiday spirit was all-consuming at the St. Louis Arc Family Center – literally, there were so many gift and food donations that much of the building was consumed by them! St. Louis Arc’s annual Giving Tree donation drive provided clothing, toys, and food to 193 children who participate in the Parents Learning Together and Capable Kids and Families programs. In 2015, a record-breaking 1,158 gifts and 800 nonperishable food items were collected and distributed



to St. Louis Arc children and families. The major success of this toy and food drive would not be possible without the support of the following community partners: Centene, Dent Wizard and KhS, Express Scripts, Hands That Serve, Monsanto, Priory High School, St. Louis Staffing, Technology Partners, Inc. and US Bank. St. Louis Arc is grateful for the giving spirit of everyone involved in this endeavor.

## Holiday Cheer



Jeff, Jacob, Nicole and Lydia Gorczyca.

Jeff and Nicole Gorczyca joined the St. Louis Arc family in 2010 when their son, Jacob, enrolled in Capable Kids and Families. At the time, Jacob was nearly three years old and still unable to crawl. However, through this St. Louis Arc program, Jeff and Nicole were able to borrow therapeutic toys and equipment that helped Jacob learn to crawl and eventually walk. In 2015, the Gorczyca family decided to give back to the St. Louis Arc with a generous donation. Every year during the holidays, the extended Gorczyca family choose a different non-profit to donate to in lieu of exchanging gifts with one another. This time around it was Jeff and Nicole’s turn to act as the donation coordinators and they chose St. Louis Arc. Thanks to Jeff, Nicole and many Gorczyca family and friends, who raised \$1,125 for the St. Louis Arc and Capable Kids and Families!

## Autism Invitational Golf Tournament



The winning team (Left to right): Mike Moriarty, Mike Caruso, John Kelly & Chico Trujillo.

On August 24 the picture-perfect weather and scenic Boone Valley Golf Club provided a magnificent backdrop for an event that raised more than \$175,000 for the St. Louis Arc's autism services. The St. Louis Arc thanks its generous co-chairs Tom Caruso and Dan Kelley, and tournament chairperson Jo Ann Kindle, for making this amazing day possible.

## JOE'S NIGHT



The family of Joe Aufferberg celebrate Joe's life at Busch Stadium.

More than 120 family and friends of the late Joe Aufferberg gathered for the second annual "Joe's Night at the Ballpark" on September 21. Joe was a beloved St. Louis Arc participant and Board member and this evening is made possible by a fund established in his memory. The fund celebrates Joe's spirit and creates opportunities for Arc participants to take part in activities that Joe enjoyed. If you would like to make a gift to the fund in Joe's memory, please contact (314) 817-2242.

## ARC IN THE PARK



Despite the cold temperatures, 450 friends and families of the St. Louis Arc attended the annual Arc In the Park picnic on October 3 at Tiemeyer Park. Once again, a major thank you to John Meixner and his BBQ crew for serving up a delicious array of food for the hundreds of Arc patrons.

## POKER TOURNAMENT



Pictured left to right: Wayde Stallmann, Tommy Rosenthal, Ken Zehnder.

On November 13 the St. Louis Arc welcomed 160 card sharks to its annual "Showdown for the St. Louis Arc," a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament held at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel. \$30,000 was raised with the proceeds benefitting St. Louis Arc programs.

Tommy Rosenthal walked away as the Champion for this year's event, while Wayde Stallmann placed second and Ken Zehnder took home third place.

## Trivia Night



The "Downton Abbey" table took home first place.

The St. Louis Arc's 12th Annual Trivia Night received a standing ovation for raising more than \$26,000! More than 600 people took their seats at St. Louis University High School on Friday, January 22 for a trip 'Around the World'. Thanks to the generosity of Anheuser-Busch, Coca-Cola, and Whole Foods Market, the Arc's trivia attendees enjoyed free food and drinks throughout the evening.



**Superheroes for Kids** is a cosmic cocktail party of epic proportions, and you're invited to join us on **Thursday, April 21** at the Palladium St. Louis. Enjoy spectacular food, drinks, and entertainment all in support of the St. Louis Arc's programs for children with developmental disabilities. Arrive dressed as your favorite comic book hero -- or come as you are -- but everyone will go home a superhero!

The event is made possible through the leadership and creativity of honorary co-chairs, Mary and David Steward II, and event chairs, John and Mimi Londoff. Emcee Charlie Brennan from CBS St. Louis will lead the evening's program, which will include delicious food, drinks, fun, and a few surprises. The Superhero for Kids Award will be presented to Senator Eric Schmitt for his tireless advocacy for people with disabilities.

To register for this event, go to [www.slarc.org](http://www.slarc.org) or contact Tessa Klassen at 314-817-2241.



PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR THE

**ST. LOUIS ARC'S  
26TH ANNUAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
ON  
MONDAY, MAY 23  
AT THE  
COUNTRY CLUB  
OF ST. ALBANS

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT  
**JOHN TAYLOR**  
AT 314-817-2240  
OR JTAYLOR@SLARC.ORG.



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