

today's

ARC

Summer 2009



A PUBLICATION OF *The Arc* THE ARC OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, INC.

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We attempt to keep our mailing list current. Please call The Arc of Tuscaloosa County at 205-556-4900 to notify us of any changes, corrections, or duplications in your address. Thanks for your help.

NOW, more than ever... WE NEED YOU!

The Arc's Membership Committee is in the midst of a membership drive and needs to increase our membership base by 15%. That means that we need every single member to renew and recruit 24 new members. If you're not a member, please join today. If you're already a member, ask your friends or neighbors to join. Just clip the form on this panel and send it in today. It's a great bargain. Membership in The Arc of Tuscaloosa County automatically makes you a member of The Arc of Alabama and The Arc of the United States.

You'll be glad you did!

Real People. Real Needs. Real Help.

THE ARC NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Recruited By: _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Consumer | <input type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Staff/Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership plus Donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Family | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Business | |

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Consumer Profiles in Success Jerries Patrick

When Jerries Patrick began attending program at McGraw Center, we noticed that she was very shy and reserved. She typically had very little to say and, during her annual planning meetings, deferred to others in the room to provide information and answer questions.

Seems now that Miss Patrick has turned over a new leaf. She's undoubtedly one of the busiest people we know and is making decisions about her life while contributing to her community.

Jerries chooses to bowl on Monday, swims on Wednesday, volunteers with Meals on Wheels on Thursday, and on Friday she goes shopping. But it's the Tuesday event she particularly enjoys. Classroom A makes friendship visits to Oak Hill School and the people in our programs make friends with the students. Jerries takes along books and reads to the students. Everyone enjoys the time spent making new connections and enjoying different stories every



Jerries and her friends enjoy sunshine and sharing stories with students at Oak Hill School.

week. It is a very fulfilling time for Jerries who experiences the joy of giving to others.

Along with her community outreach activities, Jerries has a penchant for having fun. She has planned two trips and selected her friends in the program and the staff to accompany her to both the Birmingham Zoo and Alabama Adventure Water Park. On both trips everyone had a great time and we're quite sure Jerries will be planning another outing.

Board of Directors 2009-2010

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Annual Meeting & Awards

We recently gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the past fiscal year and to honor the people who have contributed greatly to the programs and services of The Arc of Tuscaloosa County. State Representative Cam Ward was our keynote speaker. Please join us in honoring those individuals who have made significant positive impact on the lives of people with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities and their families:

Volunteer of the Year: John Austin. John has served on the board of directors for The Arc for decades and has tirelessly worked as an advocate for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Employer of the Year: Krystal Northport. The management and staff of Krystal have been very supportive of the seven people they have hired through our supported employment program. Through their caring supports and prompts, they consistently help people with disabilities to succeed.

Professional of the Year: Tim Green. This award recognizes an individual employed in community services or supports who has demonstrated sensitivity and the ability to provide outstanding support, which results in increased independence for people with mental retardation. We honor Tim for his leadership of the supported employment program and the successes of the people they serve.

Bill Sackter Personal Achievement Award: Eric Clark. Eric is an independent, self-motivated, hard working individual who is active in supporting and advocating for others with disabilities.

Family of the Year: The Williams Family. The Lida Williams family is a perfect example of inclusion — providing all of its members with love, understanding and support. They support Syria to achieve her goals in life.

Employee of the Year: Barbara Curry. Barbara always has a smile on her face and is willing to pitch in and help with anything. She is an excellent teacher, role model, and co-worker. Her leadership in the greenhouse this year led to beautiful plants and a very successful summer sale.



Special Recognition

This year, the Board of Directors created a new award, the **Distinguished Service Award**. It is given by the sitting President of the Board and it is the highest honor one can receive from The Arc of Tuscaloosa County. For going far beyond what is expected and selflessly giving of oneself to further the mission of The Arc of Tuscaloosa County, and for advocating for individuals everywhere whose lives are affected by disabilities we honor **John Austin**. He will not be deterred. He is the ultimate advocate. He is the ultimate friend of one in need. His plaque reads, simply: **"A Dedicated and Tireless Advocate."**

This years winners:

(L-R) Amanda Dancy, Syria Williams, Fred Brock, Lida Williams, John Austin, David Williams, Barbara Curry, Eric Clark, Mary Guyton, and Tim Green.



The people served in our programs at McGraw and Palk painted pictures for outgoing president Janet Dill as a reminder of our appreciation for her service to The Arc.

L-R Andy Butler, Lorri Bentley, and Janet Dill.

Summer Fun

It's been quite a busy spring and summer around McGraw Center and Palk Enterprises. Officers from the Tuscaloosa Police Department came out to talk about safety in the community and how to communicate with police officers if the need should arise. Firemen from the Tuscaloosa Fire & Rescue squad came over to provide information about safety at home. We've also had several fun outings. McGraw Center's picnic was held at Tannehill Historical State Park. In addition to delicious food and a fun train ride, awards were given to many in attendance. Here, Matt Arnold shows his award for "Best Macarena Dancer." If you'll stop by McGraw one Friday afternoon after lunch, Matt will be more than happy to demonstrate!

Palk Enterprises outings included a Birmingham Barons baseball game for big fun in the sun and a picnic at Moundville Archaeological Park.

