

THE ARC OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2020

OUR MISSION



Our mission is to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We believe that all people deserve to love, work, play, and learn in the communities in which they choose to live, and that all people, with or without disabilities, have inherent value with innate abilities and strengths and are equal before the law. Each individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect where they have choice and a voice in their everyday lives.

The Arc of Southwest Colorado is on the front lines to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have the support and services they need to be fully engaged in their communities.



WHO WE ARE

The Arc of Southwest Colorado's primary objective is to ensure the rights, responsibilities and participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in society through advocacy, education and social opportunities in La Plata, Montezuma, Archuleta, San Juan and Dolores counties. The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We encompass all ages and more than 100 different diagnoses including autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and various other developmental disabilities. There are over 600 chapters in the United States and 15 chapter across the state of Colorado.

STAFF

Liz Mora, Executive Director
Russell Fontenot, Education Advocate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr Mareca Pallister, Past President
Charles Spence, President
Jay Wood, Vice President
Teresa Sheehan, Secretary
Joe Kusar, Treasurer
Gregg Donaldson, Board Member



MEMBERSHIP & GRANT FUNDING

The Arc of Southwest Colorado is SO proud of our 2020 accomplishments despite the barriers that the COVID 19 pandemic presented. We could not have done it without our family of corporate and individual donors and of course, The arc Thrift. The arc Thrift continues to be our biggest funder making up 76% of our budget. There are 29 stores in Colorado, all of them directly support the 15 Arc chapters in Colorado. In 2020, Grand Junction opened its first arc Thrift, and our very own Speaking for Ourselves group attended the Grand Opening back in February. Although all chapter funding was cut back in March of 2020, The arc Thrift taught us resiliency and inspired hope by becoming the largest relief provider in Colorado.

2020 CORPORATE DONORS

DEMA Plumbing Inc., Durango Land and Homes, Game Winner Sports Management, Four Corners OBGYN, Sinberg Capital Lending, Jay Hwang, State Farm Insurance, The Bank of Colorado

2020 GRANT FUNDERS

United Way of Southwest Colorado, Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado, 9-R School District, Ballantine Family Fund

2020 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Margie Dean and Will Gray, Margaret Herrick, Graham Smith, Sue and Dick Griffith, Barb Shore, Joe and Debbie Bishop, Julie Craft, Gregg Donaldson, Jay Wood, Joe and Mika Kusar, Teresa and Mike Sheehan, Dr Kane Anderson and Dr Mareca Pallister, Charles Spence, Greg and Angie Dinger, Martha Mason, Kent and Kathleen Stottlemeyer, Pat Smith, Darla Stuart, Randy Patrick, Martie Maloney, Kathleen Adams, Melissa Hubbard

THANK YOU.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



EDUCATION ADVOCACY

About 1 in 4 American households with children will have one or more children with disabilities at some point in their development. Under IDEA law, every student with disabilities deserves a free appropriate public education. Public schools must provide specialized instruction outlined in an IEP to help the student access their education in the least restrictive environment along with their peers. Our Education Advocacy continues to assist more and more families:

- Facilitate communication between parents and school teams
- Assist families and schools with resolving conflict associated with behavior issues so parents can work
- Collaborate with schools to discuss appropriate supports for students so they can learn in the Least Restrictive Environment
- Assist families with resources to navigate the identification, evaluation and IEP process
- Assist families with information on transitioning their student from high school into a transition program or the workforce.

During the 2019/2020 school year, we assisted 121 students through our Education Advocacy Programming. This makes up only 1% of the total students in our region that access special education services so we have a lot more work to do to reach these families!

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

"I am thankful for the Arc of Southwest Colorado's Education Advocate who has supported my son's educational needs over the past 5 years. He was 6 years old when I asked for help and now he is going into middle school. It's been a challenging journey that I would not have been able to do without this kind, professional support! The good times are getting more plentiful and that has a lot to do with the ground work and time that The Arc advocate invested in providing parent and community education around his needs. I am so grateful for how my son is doing in the present. He is worth every second of effort. I really don't think he would be where he is today without The Arc's support."



SELF ADVOCACY

Speaking for Ourselves is a statewide grassroots organization of people with disabilities who want to speak out on issues that involve and affect them. We started a local group here in Southwest Colorado whose mission is to get together and give back to the community. In just a short time in 2020 this group volunteered at Manna Soup Kitchen on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, held three food drives, and stuffed over 100 hygiene socks that have been given to people in need. In March of 2020 members of our group attended the Legislative Luncheon in Denver and learned about public policy and how our voice can make a difference by speaking out on issues that affect people with disabilities. We look forward to meeting again in the summer of 2021 and creating a local legislative luncheon and inviting our local legislators.



Mollie Hanson and Summer Youngman with self advocate and Arc of CO board member Mitch Routon who spoke at the legislative luncheon in 2020.



Speaking for Ourselves group in the Capital

"One reason why we participate in Speaking For Ourselves is we get to help our community and contribute to it by helping our homeless population with hygiene socks and food drives. As individuals, our group has given us a voice and a better understanding of how we need better legislation through our governmental institutions to address the inequalities that do exist for people with disabilities. Our trip to Denver opened our eyes to the fact that we are underserved in our local community and these issues can only be addressed or changed if we are present with a voice. Also, our leader, Liz, is very organized which helps us stay actively involved! We want to thank everyone involved for giving us this opportunity!"

~ Summer Youngman, Steve and Lena Gallegos

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020, The Arc of Southwest Colorado was proud of the social opportunities we offered so people of all abilities could get together. The opportunities included Game Day that met weekly for two hours on Mondays. Before the March shut down, at least 15 people attended Game Day weekly and we are looking forward to resuming Game Day this year when it is safe. We also partnered with Allen Theaters to provide FREE movies to families on Saturday mornings. Before the shutdown we had 82 people attend.

At the end of 2020, we were thrilled to once again participate in Community Connections' annual fundraiser Festival of Trees. We not only sponsored a tree, but we partnered with Durango Land and Homes and decorated their tree.

FESTIVAL OF TREES



THANK YOU ALLEN THEATERS



GAME DAY





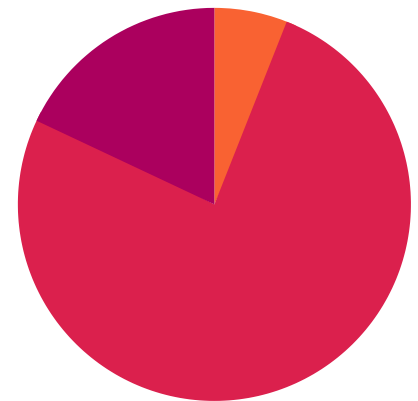
FY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

We continue to be blessed with financial stability even in a year like 2020 due to our generous donors and The arc Thrift. **unaudited*

Corporate & Individual Membership
18%

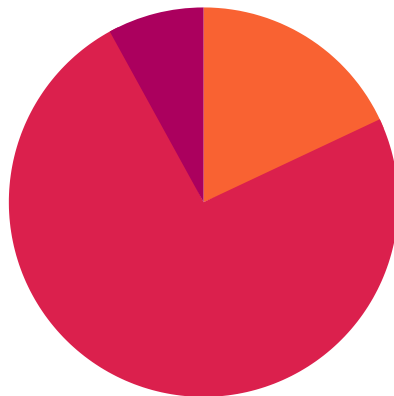
Grant Funding
6%

REVENUE- \$166,873.77



Fundraising Expenses
8%

Admin Expenses
18%



EXPENSES - \$185,248.88

Program Expenses
74%

