

THE ARC OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

2021 seems like a bit of a blur to me as it may to you. Schools started in person but quickly went remote and in-person activities were really only acceptable outside for most of the year. Despite these challenges, The Arc of Southwest Colorado came out ahead.

Our Education Advocacy programming focused on assisting parents navigating Covid protocols and compensatory education services, as well as supporting parents through remote learning.

When we felt comfortable, our Speaking for Ourselves group met outside and supported The Dave Spencer classic and the Festival of Trees. We filled over 300 hygiene socks and handed them out at Manna Soup kitchen and residents at Purple Cliffs homeless camp. I am so proud of the giving nature of this group.

In the Fall, we saw glimpses of normalcy and also realized we needed to add to our staff in order to meet the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the region we served. Once we hired a third staff member to our team, it became clear we needed a bigger space. In late November, we signed the papers on a mortgage to our very own office space in downtown Durango!

For a year that started with so many questions and uncertainty, we ended 2021 poised to enter 2022 with a bang. Thanks to all of you that have continued to support us in our mere 7 years of existence. We have so much in store for you in 2022!

Warmly,

Liz Mora

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, Director of Advocacy
Tiffany Hoyopatubbi, Education Advocate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past President-Charles Spence
President-Jay Wood
Vice President-Laura Chapman
Secretary-Teresa Sheehan
Treasurer-Joe Kusar
Member-Gregg Donaldson



MEMBERSHIP & GRANT FUNDING

The Arc of Southwest Colorado is SO grateful to our family of corporate and individual donors and of course, The arc Thrift. The arc Thrift continues to be our biggest funder making up 72% of our budget. There are 29 stores in Colorado, all of them directly support the 15 Arc chapters in Colorado. The arc Thrift continues to teach us resiliency and the importance of giving back as it continues to provide relief to so many families in Colorado.

2021 CORPORATE DONORS

The arc Thrift, Durango Land and Homes, Four Corners OBGYN, Sinberg Capital Lending, Pediatric Partners of the Southwest, and The Bank of Colorado

2021 GRANT FUNDERS

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

2021 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Margaret Herrick, Graham Smith, 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, Martha Mason, Kent and Kathy Stottlemeyer, Pat Smith, Darla Stuart, Kathleen Adams, Brenda Macon, Kim Kitchens, Kerri Cardin, Grace Kirby, Morgan Mahan, Greg and Angie Dinger, Allison Dance, Frances Dance, Blair Ruder, Laura Chapman, Robyn Miller, Dieter and Nell Paul, Christine and Mike Phillips, Steve and Lena Gallegos, Summer Youngman, Douglas McCarthy, Cassie Robinson, Paul Meeker, Rosemary Johnston, Jocelyn Swayze, Art and Carroll Pulis, Barb Shore, and Thomas and Karen Stuen.

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 2020/2021 school year, we assisted 98 students through our Education Advocacy Programming with only 1 Education Advocate. We hired Tiffany Hoyobatubbi in the hopes to reach more families in 2022!

TESTIMONIALS

Navigating special education can be very challenging for families who have children with special needs. Fortunately, we have the Arc of Southwest Colorado that supports families through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and ensures school based teams provide the services written into the IEPs. The Arc of Southwest Colorado has been instrumental in supporting families when there has been a communication breakdown and acting as an objective voice in advocating for what a child needs in order to be successful in schools. The Durango School District is fortunate that we have a strong working relationship with the Arc of Southwest Colorado and we hope to maintain that in order to support families in our community. ~ Steve Steiner, 9-R school district

As a single foster/adoptive mother, I have asked The Arc of Southwest Colorado to help with many of my children's IEPs and teacher education. It has been so valuable to have the support of The Arc of Southwest Colorado in IEP meetings and getting my children the support they need in school. It always seems like a huge mountain to climb, but with The Arc of Southwest Colorado on our side, it seems accessible. Thank you so very much for all of the support and work. It has made a huge difference in the lives of my children. Thank you very much. ~ Kristine Bianchi

HIGHLIGHTS

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.

Our activities were limited in 2021 but we still managed to participate in The Dave Spencer Classic, Festival of Trees, and stuffed over 300 hygiene socks.



FESTIVAL OF TREES



ARC THRIFT CELEBRATION LAST FALL



**SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES FIRST
IN PERSON INSIDE MEETING**



NEW OFFICE



GAME DAY

“I enjoy participating and volunteering with The Arc of Southwest Colorado because it gets my clients more involved in the community. We love meeting new friends and connecting with people we have known for years. The Arc of Southwest Colorado helps us find out even more about our community and supports inclusion for everyone.”

~Morgan Mahan

Save the Date for The Arc of Southwest Colorado's Annual Celebration

Thursday, October 27th from 5:30-7:30pm - Lola's Place 725 E 2nd Ave. Durango, CO.

We are excited to welcome The arc Thrift's CEO, Lloyd Lewis as our keynote speaker!



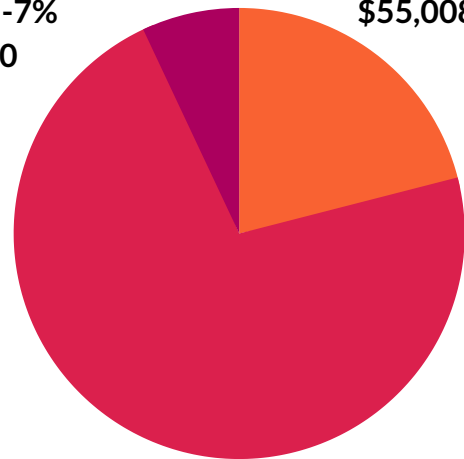
FY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

We continue to be blessed with financial stability due to our generous donors and The arc Thrift. **unaudited*

REVENUE- \$261,941.00

Corporate and Individual
Membership -7%
\$18,619.00

Grant Funding -21%
\$55,008.00

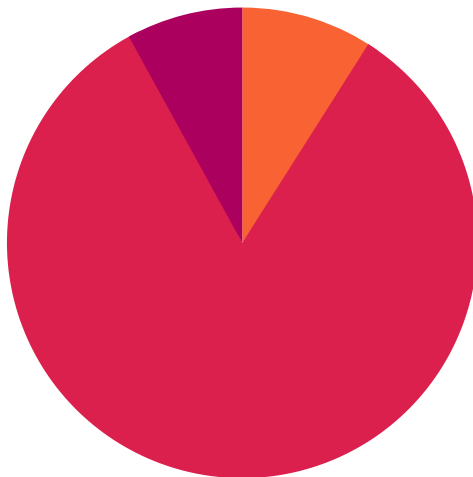


arc Thrift -72%
\$188,314.00

EXPENSES - \$232,236.00

Fundraising Expenses - 8%
\$20,115.00

Admin Expenses -9%
\$20,263.00



Program Expenses - 83%
\$191,858.00



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