



# Annual Report | 2015



Achieve with us.

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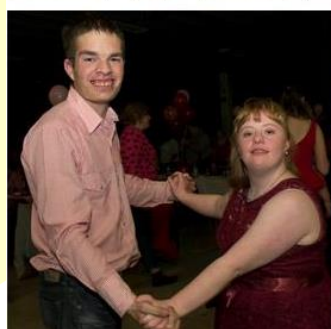
*The Arc Pikes Peak Region is an amazing resource for my family. We have a son with autism, and The Arc provides a highly qualified, smart, kind, and tenacious advocate that helps us to get our son the services that he needs for school. The Arc is full of fabulous resources and is an incredible and necessary part of the Colorado Springs community. Thank you so much for all you have done for our family!*

*-Rebecca, parent of a child with autism*



**The Arc**<sup>®</sup>  
Pikes Peak Region

### 2015- A Year in Pictures



## Who We Are

### Staff

Wilfred Romero,  
**Executive Director**

Christina Butero,  
**Guardianship Coordinator**

Craig Severa,  
**Advocacy Coordinator**

Donna Butzin,  
**Finance Coordinator**

Amber Spinks,  
**Guardianship Specialist**

Daniel Barrera,  
**Guardianship Specialist**

Danna Snedden,  
**Guardianship Specialist**

Connie McKenzie,  
**Advocacy Specialist**

Hannah Widmer,  
**Advocacy Specialist**

Gin Woolsey,  
**Director of First Impressions**

Amanda Blakely,  
**Office Support**

Connor Cassidy,  
**Community Outreach**

Andrew Salazar,  
**NCCJD Research/Advocacy**

Laura Thornhill  
**Receptionist**

Tonia Nifong,  
**Social Media Manager**



### Board of Directors

Jonathan Walker,  
**President**

Heather Jordan Brown,  
**Vice President**

Wade Harris,  
**Treasurer**

Lori Thom,  
**Secretary**

Joy Blackburn

Linda Golden

Ellen Marshall

Ethan Rector

Dennis Schwed

Al Garcia

Tom Martinez Jr.

Blake Wilson

Cynthia Magiotta

Cheryl Potman

Arthur Wirth

Mitch Routon



### ***Celebrating 60 Years of History!***

*Organized in 1955 by a group of parents of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Arc Pikes Peak Region is a local chapter of a national organization of parents, professionals, and interested citizens. Together, more than 700 state and local chapters of The Arc form the largest volunteer organization in the U.S. These chapters are devoted solely to the welfare of the more than seven million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.*

## Greetings from the Executive Director

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The Arc Pikes Peak Region (The Arc PPR) experienced another exciting year in 2015. In my fourth year as Executive Director at The Arc PPR, I have enjoyed watching the organization grow and all the new opportunities yet to be explored. There continues to be an increase in the demand for our services, a 23-person waitlist for our guardianship program, and requests for guardianship trainings and consults are increasing drastically. The Arc PPR hired Andrew Salazar as a permanent Criminal Justice Researcher/Advocacy Outreach Worker, to help with the growing need for criminal justice advocacy and research. The Arc PPR continued to add to our summer staffing by partnering with Colorado College's Public Interest Fellowship Program.



This year we hosted our 3rd Annual Achieve With Us Film Festival. This free event brought in community members from Southern Colorado to watch short films by and about individuals with disabilities. Craig Severa, Advocacy Coordinator, continued to thread together a list of films from all over the world that keep the audience engaged and wowed by their quality. The 2015 film festival was our best attended yet, and it highlighted the many achievements of individuals with disabilities.

In 2015, The Arc Pikes Peak Region once again participated in the IndyGive! Campaign and generated \$13,480, designated to the building fund. This community fundraising campaign has proven to be a great success for us with staff, board, community members, and partners all coming together to support The Arc PPR. The Arc is excited about the traction we gained through the campaign, and we hope to continue this momentum as we move forward as an organization.

Looking into 2016 and beyond, The Arc PPR staff, board and community supports came together to create the strategic plan to launch the "Building for Change" Major Gift Campaign. The goals adopted by the board of directors are to become the premier intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) human rights organization for our participants, donors, volunteers, and the greater Pikes Peak Region, as well as to increase access to comprehensive healthcare and wellness through strategic education and legislative advocacy for people with I/DD, medical professionals, families and caregivers.

The Arc PPR Staff and Board of Directors thanks you, our donors, partners and friends of The Arc PPR for making these accomplishments possible. Together, we continue to create a community where all individuals with I/DD are embraced and respected.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilred Romero". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Wilred Romero, Executive Director

## What We Do

### Advocacy

The Advocacy Program safeguards the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, facilitates choices, and promotes independence and inclusion in community life. Advocacy takes place at both the individual and systematic levels. The Arc has highly qualified advocates who attend school IEP meetings, residential and/or day program staffings, and provide resources in times of crisis. Adult advocacy includes gathering information about local programs and monitoring them to ensure services meet identified needs and are consistent with laws, regulations, and standards of quality. System advocacy monitors public policy and legislation at local, state, and federal levels.



### Guardianship



and annual report to the probate courts. For people who are not capable of making informed decision, the Guardianship Program offers both protection and enhancement of individual rights.

The Arc Pikes Peak Region is guardian to 75 individuals. When the Probate Court appoints The Arc as legal guardian, staff members are named as agents to provide the guardianship services. Guardianship services include evaluation of the individual's needs and services, attendance at all staffings and individual plan meetings, at least one monthly visit, 24 hour emergency on call services, consent for medical treatment,

### Education

We provide workshops, speakers, educational materials, and a lending library on a wide range of issues that concern people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their friends and families.

A 19 year old young man with autism in transition services, met a girl who said she was of age, but in all actuality was 13 years old. Allegedly, they 'hooked up' but did not have sex; however, the girl's friends told the parents who subsequently told the authorities that they did. Now the young man is in trouble and BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) asked for our assistance. The Arc-PPR contacted Sean Collins, a member of our DRT (Disability Resource Team.) Sean is a Police Training Officer for the Colorado Springs Police Department and is also a member of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The Arc-PPR Judicial Advocate explained the situation and informed Sean that the young man has autism. Sean called Sex Crimes and informed them that the young man has a disability and was informed he had not been interviewed yet but would be in the near future. The Arc-PPR Judicial Advocate asked Sean to notify us when he is to be questioned because The Arc-PPR Judicial Advocate does not want him to be without representation or an advocate. Sean agreed and informed Sex Crimes as well. The Arc-PPR Judicial Advocate wanted to be certain an advocate would be there in order to prevent a confession to something that the young man may have not done. Overall, the quick coordination among just a few DRT members responding to a crisis situation will enable The Arc-PPR and any other agency to be involved early on in the criminal justice system with this young man, this early intervention will ensure that this young man will get proper due process and have the assistance he will most definitely need throughout every step of the way.

- Andrew Salazar, Advocacy Research/Outreach

## Social Events

The Arc PPR hosts a variety of social events for individuals of all abilities. These accessible events occur throughout the year and

include The Arc Ball, Halloween Dance, Sky Sox Tailgate Party, Sweetheart's Dance and Karaoke Party. The Arc also hosts smaller events throughout the year including socials and fundraisers.



*"The dances are awesome. The snacks are good and the music."*  
- Charles, individual with I/DD and social event participant

## arc Thrift Connection




All of the 13 chapters of The Arc in Colorado are funded by arc Thrift Stores. The thrift stores were created in 1963 as a way to support the work done by the chapters. Over the years, the thrift stores have grown to be wildly successful. Their sales continue to support The Arc

chapters and programs supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This special relationship between arc Thrift and The Arc PPR allows us to advocate for the rights and responsibilities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## Criminal Justice and Disability

### IN 2012 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES EXPERIENCED

	<b>233,000 ROBBERIES</b>
	<b>195,200 AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS</b>
	<b>838,600 SIMPLE ASSAULTS</b>
	<b>80,100 RAPES OR OTHER SEXUAL ASSAULTS</b>

Harrell, Erika (2014). "Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Against Persons With Disabilities, 2009-2012 – Statistical Tables." Crime Against People with Disabilities Series.

The Arc Pikes Peak Region has long advocated for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system. The Arc PPR works within the court system to ensure that the rights of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are upheld. In 2014, The Arc Pikes Peak Region was selected to be a part of The Arc's National Center on

Criminal Justice and Disability. The Arc PPR increased its scope of research to look at the history of false confessions and disability, and it works to bring awareness to these issues, while building a library of resources. The Arc PPR works with lawyers, police officers, judges, and law professors to form disability resource teams. These teams work to increase knowledge of disabilities with law professionals.

#### Joe Arridy (1915-1939)

Joe Arridy was a young man with an intellectual disability from Pueblo, CO, who was wrongly convicted and executed for a crime he did not commit. After multiple stays, Arridy was executed on January 6, 1939. With the help of The Friends of Joe Arridy including Bob Perske, Craig Severa, and David Martinez, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter posthumously pardoned Joe Arridy in 2011. This was the first pardon for an executed man in Colorado history. The Arc Pikes Peak Region continues to honor the life of Joe Arridy. The Arc-PPR region is dedicated to criminal justice advocacy. In September 2015, The Arc PPR hosted the first National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability training in Colorado Springs.

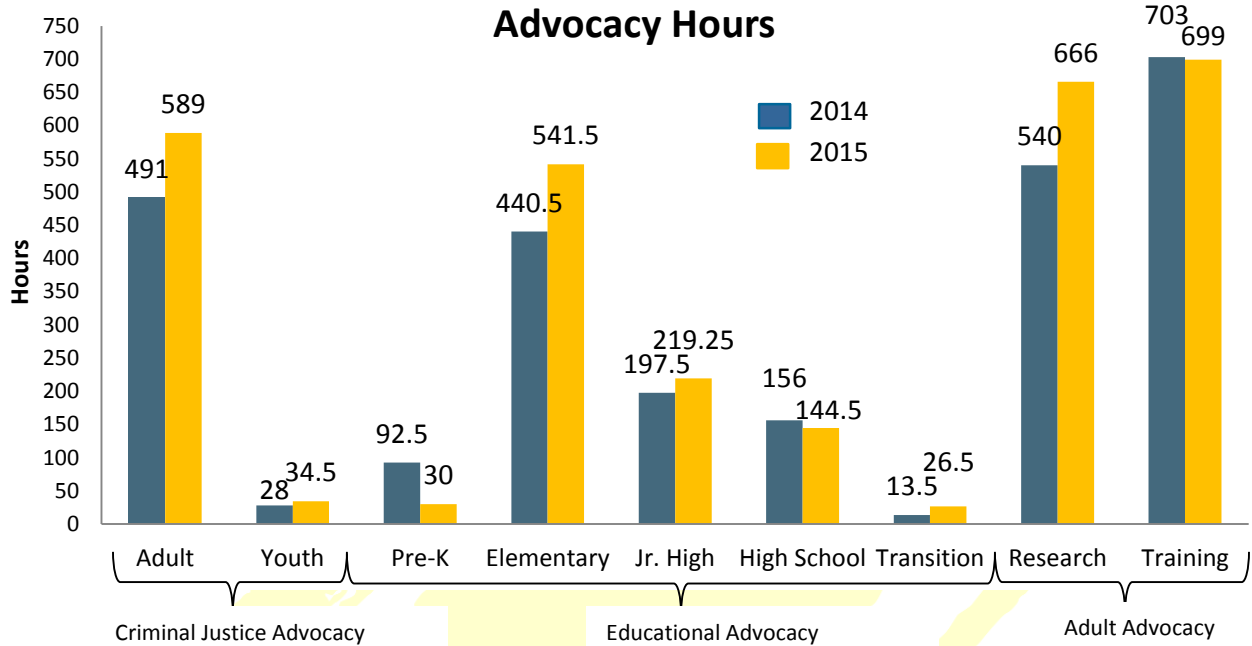
*Among adults who are developmentally disabled, as many as 83% of females and 32% of males are victims of sexual assault.*

Johnson, I., Sigler R. (2000). "Forced Sexual Intercourse Among Intimates," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 15 (1).



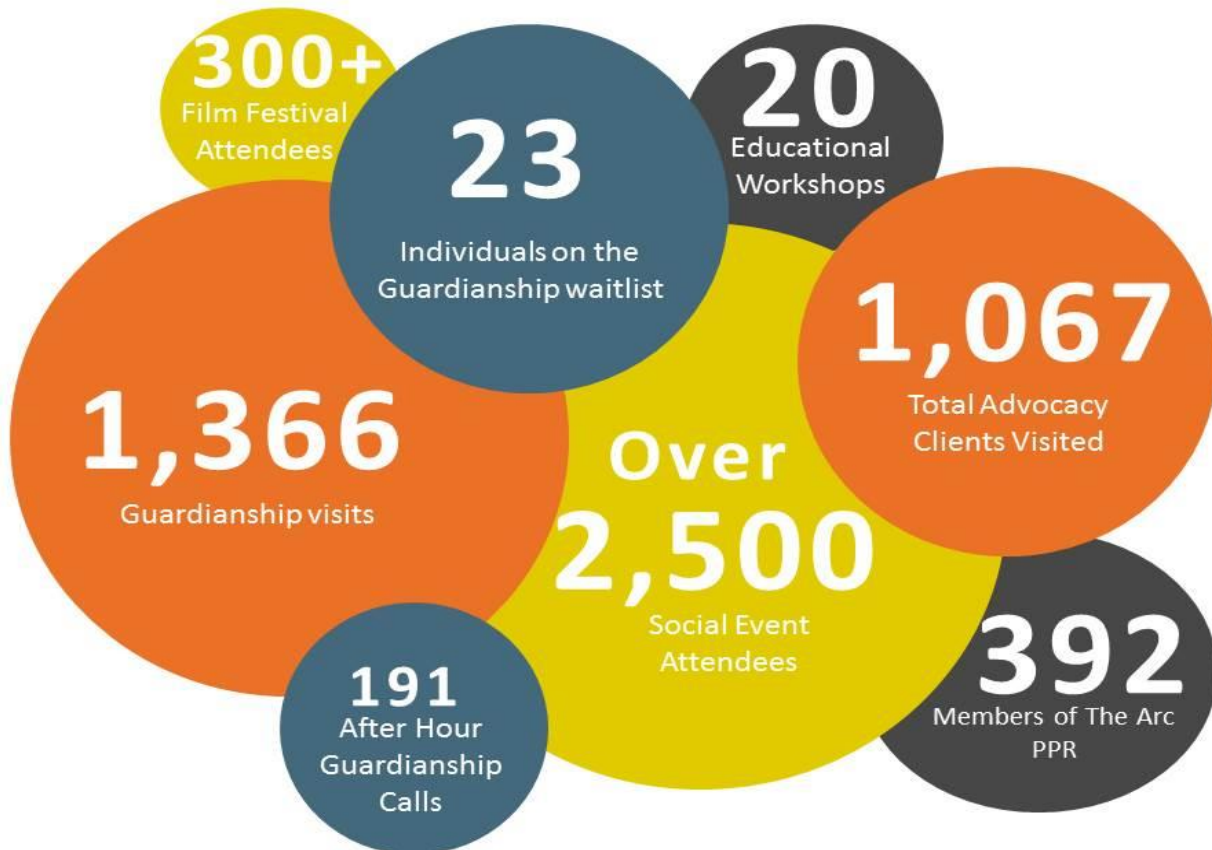


## Program Impacts



## The Arc Pikes Peak Region-2015

# BY THE NUMBERS



## Year in Review

### Indy Give! Campaign



In 2015, The Arc Pikes Peak Region participated in Indy Give!, a community giving campaign. Together with a \$6,000 matching grant from American Overhead Door, Cascade Investments, IT Specialists, arc Thrift Stores and The Arc PPR Board of Directors, The Arc PPR raised \$13,480. This success was a result of fundraising efforts from the entire staff, the Board of Directors, and the friends of The Arc PPR.



### Third Annual "Achieve With Us" Colorado Film Festival

In March 2015, The Arc Pikes Peak Region hosted the second annual "Achieve with Us" Film Festival. This event was a great success featuring films created by, and about people with disabilities. We showed a collection of short films from all over the world.

# Include USA

## Unique Self Advocates

Include USA is a self-advocacy group sponsored by The Arc PPR and advised by educational advocates Hannah Widmer and Connie McKenzie. This group meets once a month and focuses on how to be one's own advocate. Include USA was started in 2013 and has grown to

a membership of 20. Include USA has fundraised, worked on transportation issues, and volunteered around the community.

### 2016 Iconic Photo Calendar

The Arc PPR blends creativity with advocacy in its 2016 'Portraits and Masterpieces' calendar, a collaborative project featuring models of all abilities. Created with the hope of continuing to change public perception of individuals with disabilities for the better, the models in each 'portrait or masterpiece' are people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as professionals in the disability field. Each month's image recreates masterpieces including the *Mona Lisa* and *Girl with the Pearl Earring*, while showcasing classic figures like Pop Artist Andy Warhol.



## The Arc Pikes Peak Region Staff



2015 was a year of implementation for The Arc Pikes Peak Region. Tonia Nifong was hired in May as Social Media Manager. Tonia used her expertise on The Arc PPR's new website and also boosted The Arc PPR's presence on social media. The Arc PPR also continued its partnership with Colorado College. In June, The Arc PPR added Stefani Messick as a 2015 Summer Fellow through the Public Interest Fellowship Program - a program that provides the CC students and graduates the opportunity to pursue meaningful work with public interest nonprofit organizations. Rebecca Lavelly was also hired in June as a summer intern. Both Stefani and Rebecca, along with Hannah Widmer, Advocacy Specialist, implemented a summer calendar of events, packed full of social activities and learning experiences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A garden club, yoga classes, movie nights, a "sports week," a fishing expedition, "friendraisers," and information sessions on animal assistance, self-defense and more were offered to anyone who wanted to participate. This was an experiment designed to figure out the needs and wants of new programs to be implemented in the future new inclusive campus in the planning stages for The Arc PPR's property located at 10 and 12 North Meade Avenue.

## Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015
Total Revenue	\$1,212,706	\$1,191,869	\$1,240,590
Total Expenses	\$933,233	\$1,058,045	\$1,249,105

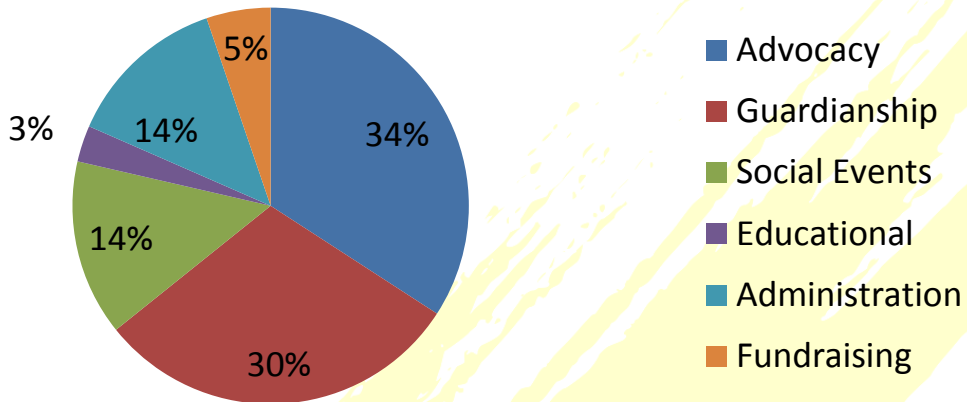
### Revenue By Source

Contributions (Foundations, Corporations, Dues)	\$931,119	\$1,069,497	\$1,219,623
Interest and Dividend Income	\$206,819	\$62,743	(\$44,539)
Special Events/Other	\$74,768	\$59,629	\$65,506

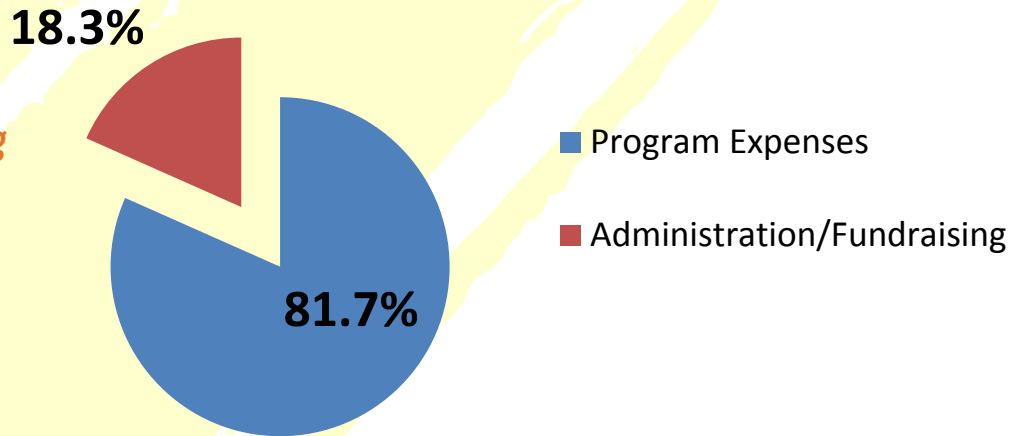
### Expenses by Type

Programs			
Advocacy	\$344,042	\$368,894	\$424,763
Guardianship	\$301,745	\$333,652	\$374,173
Social Events	\$123,254	\$157,022	\$178,613
Educational	\$32,292	\$32,056	\$36,849
Administration	\$106,357	\$138,301	\$164,084
Fundraising	\$21,850	\$24,531	\$65,162
Pooled Income Trust/Other	\$3,693	\$3,589	\$5,461
Program Expenses/Total Expenses Percentage	84%	85%	82%
Total Net Assets	\$3,068,431	\$3,202,255	\$3,193,740

## 2015 Expenses and Program Spending



81% of The Arc's funding supports programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



## Our Corporate and Community Partners

The following logos represent the corporate and community partners of The Arc Pikes Peak Region:

- The Gazette (gazette.com)
- American Overhead Door
- SpringCopy (Digital Printing Experts)
- arc Thrift Stores (arcthrift.org)
- Integrity Bank & Trust (Member FDIC)
- The Arc (For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities)
- Cascade Investment Group, Inc.
- Woodford
- Murphy
- Special Kids Special Families
- United Way (Pikes Peak United Way Partner Agency)
- In memory of Olivia M. Walker
- American Lifestyle Furniture (Furniture Warehouse www.AFWonline.com)
- Intersections (Where People and Opportunities Meet)
- Independent (Colorado Springs the smart alternative)
- Men's Wearhouse
- KRCC
- Cheyenne Village (Serving Adults with Developmental Disabilities)
- TRE (The Resource Exchange)

## Support The Arc Pikes Peak Region Today

The Arc Pikes Peak Region supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through advocacy, education, guardianship, and social opportunities. Your support of The Arc Pikes Peak Region today goes directly to helping our programs and services for individuals with I/DD.

### Volunteer and In-Kind Needs

Board members  
Fundraising volunteers  
Special event volunteers (planning and set-up)  
Photography and video services  
Entertainment  
Event food and supplies

### Membership Opportunities

**Do you believe in the rights of all people regardless of intellectual ability?** If you said yes then add your voice to thousands of people across the nation by becoming a member of The Arc Pikes Peak Region. Membership with our local chapter also affords you membership with The Arc of Colorado and The Arc of the United States. Together we can make our voices heard.

### Membership Benefits

Membership in The Arc US and The Arc of Colorado  
15% discount card for purchases at arc Thrift Stores  
Notice and invitations to all events sponsored by The Arc  
Updates on issues impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities  
Discounts to some local events sponsored by The Arc  
**Growing the voice on a local, state and national level**

### Membership Options

- \$20 Individual Membership     \$35 Family Membership  
 \$5 Consumer Membership     \$250 Corporate Membership  
 Gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list all family members for Family Membership)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to The Arc Pikes Peak Region or pay with cash or credit card.*

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSION

To promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the communities of the Pikes Peak Region throughout their lifetimes.



## VISION

A community where all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are embraced and respected.