



Annual Report 2021


The Arc[®]
Pikes Peak Region

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Vision

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

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.



2021 Staff

Wilfred Romero,
Executive Director

Connor Cassidy,
Advocacy Specialist

Christina Butero,
Guardianship Coordinator

Emily Price,
Training Specialist

Donna Butzin,
Finance Coordinator

Tonia Nifong,
Communications/Office Manager

Craig Severa,
Advocacy Specialist

Amber Spinks,
Guardianship Specialist

2021 Board of Directors

Daniel Barriera,
Advocacy Specialist

Cheryl Potman,
President

Karen Hazlehurst

Linda Golden

Connie McKenzie,
Advocacy Specialist

Mitch Routon,
Vice President

Cynthia Margiotta

Jon Eddy

Shelbi Lowery,
Advocacy Specialist

Patty Baer-Henson,
Treasurer

Blake Wilson

Jorden Smith

Amanda Blakely,
Office Support

Yolanda Garcia,
Secretary

Jonathan Montez

April O'Neil

Ashley Steinbach

Ellen Marshall

Heather Kluck

Greetings from the Executive Director



Wilfred Romero
Executive Director

After a rocky 2020 and a struggle to “Achieve Our Vision” during a time that had not been experienced by anyone alive, 2021 was a breath of fresh air. In 2021, The Arc Pikes Peak Region’s (The Arc PPR) staff continued to learn to work through the pandemic and to overcome the challenges of providing services in a still somewhat closed world.

2021 brought to life the realization that The Arc PPR could no longer operate as we did in years past. Leadership took a close look at our “sacred cows” (doing things the same way, because they’ve always been done a certain way) and looked for new ways to serve our participants, whose needs changed during the pandemic.

The impact of COVID-19 on students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) was enormous and is still felt today. The rapid shift to online learning, increased isolation, and limited access to therapies, placed students with IDD further behind their peers. In 2021, the shortage of paraprofessionals, combined with frustrated parents, increased the number

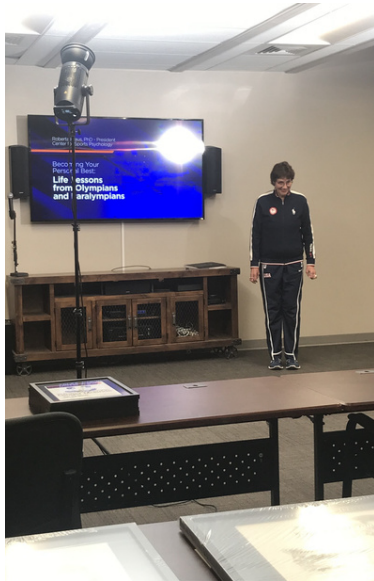
of families relying on the home school option as their school of choice. Many of these families’ frustrations are compounded by additional financial stressors, as one parent is needed to stay home with the homeschooled student. As the adult population looked for ways to be involved in the community, the effects of long-term isolation continued to be a challenge. People with disabilities were uniquely impacted by the pandemic, because they face a greater risk of poor health outcomes, reduced access to routine services and care, and adverse social outcomes. Individuals with disabilities were more likely to face unemployment during and after the pandemic, and those with IDD were six times as likely to die from COVID-19 than other people. And, due to lack of appropriate data collection, and accessibility barriers to receiving information, testing, and vaccination, people with disabilities experienced disparities in the public health response to COVID-19. Therefore, it was important in 2021 that the chapters of The Arc in Colorado remained the strong public policy voice for the IDD community. As we prepared for the challenges that lay ahead, the theme for 2021 was “Don’t Stop Believing” -- and The Arc PPR did not.

One major accomplishment in 2021 that I would like to point out, and that I am very proud of, is the operation of COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics. In partnership with the Colorado Public Health & Education department, The Arc PPR took the lead in offering vaccination clinics. On Monday, February 22, 2021, The Arc PPR hosted the first of many vaccination clinics targeting the disabled population and health care workers. More than 500 individuals received their first and second vaccinations at The Arc PPR, while more than 90 percent of the participants were from the disability community.

The Arc PPR did not stop there. On June 12, 2021, The Arc PPR was the first disability organization or Colorado chapter of The Arc to resume outdoor programming with our “Chillin’ with the Cool C.A.T.S. (Children of All Types Succeeding)” summer events. More than 150 families joined The Arc PPR and our other community partners in the fun. These are just a few of the many ways The Arc PPR made a difference in 2021. I am proud to be the executive director of this fine organization that puts our families and the individuals we serve first, and I was ready to “Ride the Wave” into 2022.

Regards,
Wilfred Romero
Executive Director
The Arc Pikes Peak Region

A Year-in-Pictures



A Year-in-Pictures



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 systemic levels. The Arc's highly qualified advocates 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.



“You gave us a voice against a tough bureaucracy, providing the confidence to speak up at the appropriate moments. With your advocacy, our son is having a successful transition to his new school, under the oversight of a new team and case manager. You played the most critical part in this success.”

– Parent of a child on the autism spectrum”

What We Do

In 2019, as many as 25.9% of people with disabilities lived in poverty, compared with 11.4% of people without disabilities (Statista)

GUARDIANSHIP

The Arc Pikes Peak Region serves as the legal guardian to adults with an intellectual and/or developmental disability, with a growing waiting list. 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, and annual report to the probate courts. For people who are not capable of making informed decisions, the Guardianship Program offers both protection and enhancement of individual rights.



What We Do

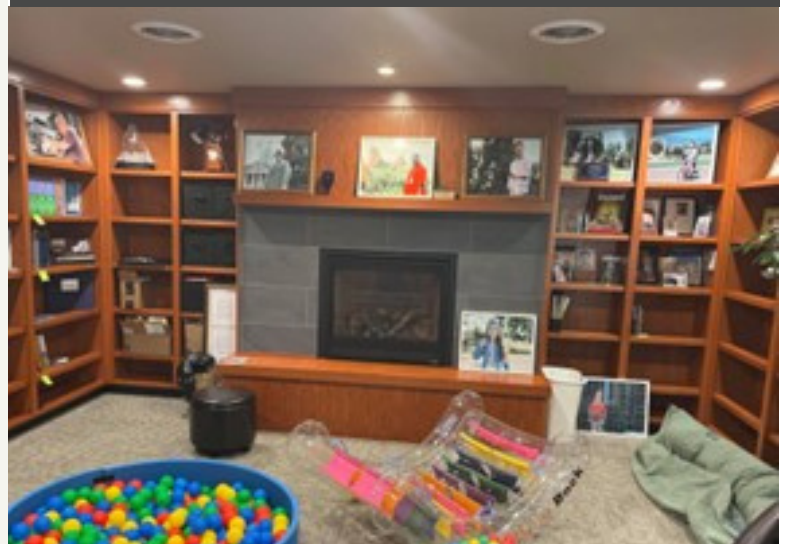


40%

of high school students with an intellectual and/or developmental disability who leave their transition programs fail to successfully integrate into their communities, ending up in jail or day programs that do not meet their needs.

EDUCATION

Additionally, The Arc Pikes Peak Region provides 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. With the opening of the Building for Change Inclusive Personal Development Center and the Disability Resources Library (pictured below), the community will also have access to helpful resources on a wide variety of disability-related topics.



What We Do



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, Sweetheart's Dance, Cool C.A.T.S (Children of All Types Succeeding) Club events, Sisterhood of Empowered Women, Guys' Night Out, and others.

arc THRIFT CONNECTION

All 15 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.

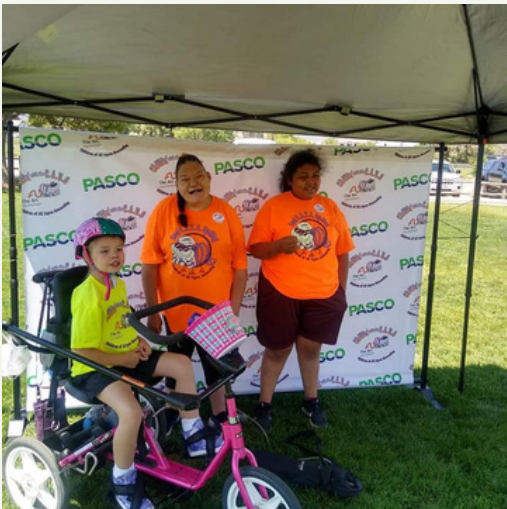


Year-in-Review



Indy Give! Campaign

In 2021, The Arc Pikes Peak Region participated in Indy Give!, a year-end giving campaign. Together with an \$11,750 matching grant from: arc Thrift Stores, Blake and Kathleen Wilson, IT Specialists, John P. Nelson Associates, Rocky Mountain Insurance Advisors, Colorado Fun Guide, The Arc PPR Pooled Income Trust, Cascade Investment Group, Erickson, Brown & Kloster, Michelle Enciso, and Yolanda Garcia Insurance Agency, The Arc PPR raised \$18,774.94. This success was a result of fundraising efforts from the entire staff, the Board of Directors, and the friends of The Arc Pikes Peak Region.



2021 Events

After a long hiatus from in-person events due to COVID-19, The Arc PPR teamed up with the Cool C.A.T.S (Children of All Types Succeeding) adaptive cycling team for the Chillin' with the Cool C.A.T.S outdoor summer events series. Throughout the summer, community partners and other disability organizations gathered to sponsor fun activities, a picnic lunch, and adaptive cycling rides for participants.

Events that continued virtually included: the Achieve with Us Colorado Film Festival, Annual Awards Celebration, "Our Music, Our Voice," led by multi-instrumentalist Jorden Smith, The Arc Ball, Halloween Dance, Karaoke Parties, and Sisterhood of Empowered Women.



Include U.S.A

Include USA is a self-advocacy group sponsored by The Arc PPR and advised by advocacy specialists Connor Cassidy and Connie McKenzie. Throughout 2021, the group continued to meet virtually, while maintaining an active participation in Speaking for Ourselves Colorado (SFO CO). SFO CO is a statewide, grassroots organization of people with disabilities who want to speak for themselves on issues that involve and effect them. Chapters across Colorado meet by conference call once per month, and they also meet quarterly in various places around the state. The group learns about their rights and how to advocate for themselves so that their rights are not overlooked. Include USA has fundraised, worked on transportation issues, and volunteered around the community.

Program Impacts: By the Numbers

12



29
Individuals on the
Guardianship Program
Wait-List



373
Guardianship Visits



443
Members of The Arc
Pikes Peak Region



732+
In-Person & Virtual Social
Event Attendees
**Many events were still
virtual post COVID-19.*



1631
Hours of Advocacy
Service Provided



390*
Advocacy Cases

**Please note that each person was served an average of four times through the year, but counted only once.*



63
After-Hours
Guardianship Calls

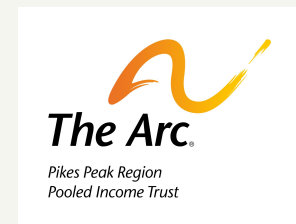

The Arc
Pikes Peak Region



Community & Corporate Partners



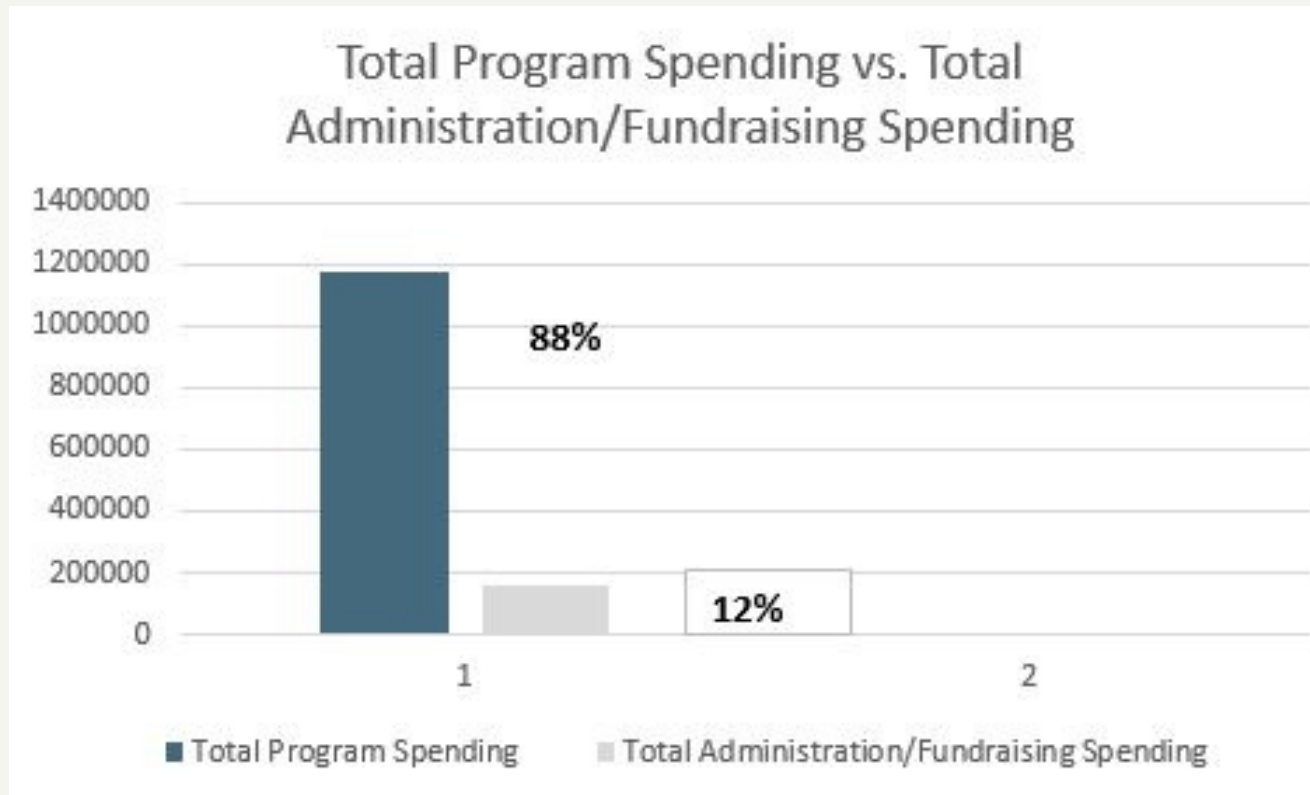
Michelle Enciso
Blake & Kathy Wilson



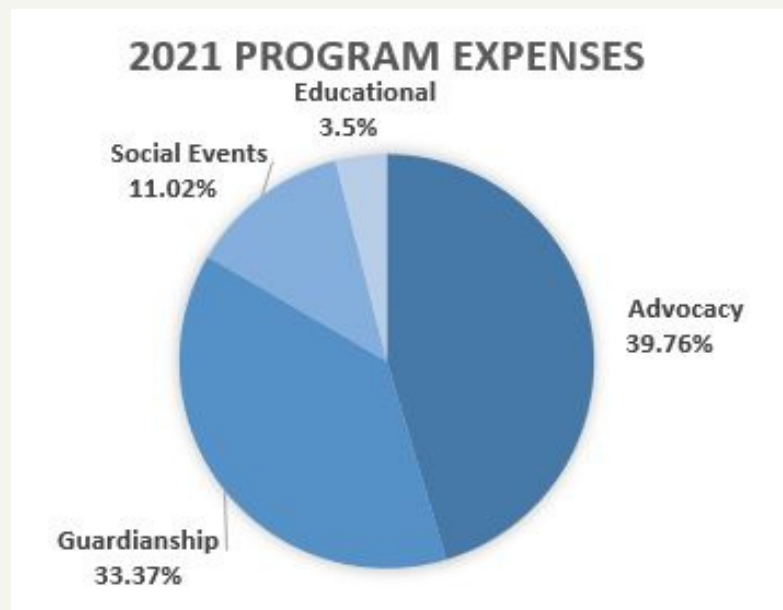
Statement of Activities

Statement of Activities			
Fiscal Year	2019	2020	2021
Total Revenue	1,840,918	2,063,035	1,975,781
Total Expenses	1,505,671	1,255,976	1,337,273
Revenue by Source			
Contributions (Foundations, Corporatins, Dues)	1,698,797	1,827,198	1,684,802
Interest and Dividend Income	45,619	147,750	178,381
Special Events/Others	96,502	88,087	112,598
Expense by Type			
Programs			
Advocacy	554,867	496,037	531,707
Guardianship	471,918	427,931	446,201
Social Events	198,847	142,748	147,363
Educational	49,727	45,617	46,796
Administration	175,872	84,780	125,561
Fundraising	54,140	44,532	35,059
Pooled Income Trust/Other	10,300	14,331	4,586
Program Expenses/Total Expenses Percentage	85%	83%	88%
Total Net Assets	4,345,409	5,144,276	5,782,784

Statement of Activities



88% of The Arc's funding supports programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



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 IDD.

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

Instructors for various life-skills classes to be offered in the Building for Change Inclusive Campus

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: _____

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: _____

Signature: _____


The Arc.
Pikes Peak Region

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