



The Arc.ives

December 20015 edition

Help Save Arc Programs Designed to Improve the Quality of Life for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by Making a Holiday Donation Today!

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We're Angry & We'll Show It Self Advocates March in 2 Protests

Arc clients participated in two demonstrations pressing state leaders to keep the promise of the Lanterman Act and fully fund programs for people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). After a decade of rate cuts, many programs are financially "under water." In fact, one had to shut its doors.

The first demonstration was a "Silent Vigil" marking the demise of the Lynn Center, a children's program operated by Contra Costa Arc.

"Our neighboring Arc asked us to join their vigil staged in front of the of the district offices of Assembly members Rob Bonta and Tony Thurmond in Oakland," said Arc of Alameda County CEO Ron Luter. "We agreed because Bonta and Thurmond are our representatives, too, and because they hold key committee memberships in Sacramento."



Some 30 Arc of Alameda County clients attended event on November 30th carrying electric candles and a cardboard coffin to symbolize the "death" of a very important children's early-intervention program in Brentwood. At the end of the vigil, Barbara Maize, CEO of Contra Costa ARC, visited both Legislators' offices delivering a letter urging Bonta and Thurmond to take leadership on the issue - "too late to save the Lynn Center," it read, but maybe not too late to save other programs."



Arc CEOs Ron Luter and Barbara Maize light a candle in memory of The Lynn Center which closed because of underfunding.

After 10 years of budget cuts and with the State boasting a huge budget surplus, a united I/DD community asked for a 10% across-the-board increase during the last legislative session to help make up the shortfall. Our warning that the system was collapsing fell on deaf ears, however, as the Governor and the Legislature failed to take any action.

The Lynn Center served some 3,000 children with special needs and their families over the course of 61 years. Maize described the closure as a tragic loss and said the center was an "irreplaceable community resource."

Second Protest

Then on December 10th - Some 20 Arc clients and staff joined a thousand other people from around the state in Sacramento for what was the biggest protest rally our community of I/DD advocates has ever staged. After all the cuts and then being ignored by the Governor and Legislature - well, the I/DD community was angry.

Organized by Carol McKinney of Harmony Home Associated and the California Supported Living Network, the protesters marched from the Tower Bridge to the steps of the Capitol. Another rally was staged in front of the Governor's home. As McKinney says, "The Governor needs to include us in his budget and he needs to hear from us!"

Assemblyman Thurman has now promised to introduce a bill that contains the 10% across-the-board increase. Senators Beall and Neilsen has promised the same on the Senate side. If that happens, we'll work like made to make sure those bills pass and are signed by the Governor. We'll need your help.

The day also called for local demonstrations. One was at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley where Arc clients and staff gathered to "Speak Out for Justice" much like the demonstrators in Sacramento.



Arc presses for a 10% Increase in rates locally

KTVU and KGO Television stations covered the event for their evening news shows. The Ed Roberts Campus is named after Ed Roberts who was an early leader in the independent living movement of people with disabilities.

Arc Donates Bikes

Davis Street Family Resource Center to Refurbish



The Arc's recycling program asks for used clothing but every so often we get other items - like bicycles.

Some 27 of them - most in pretty good shape - were piling up in the back corner of our Vocational Development Center in San Leandro so we called Davis Street and the folks there wanted

them. Thirteen clients got involved either helping to load them up for the trip across town or helping to off load the bikes at DSFRC.



The Arc and Davis Street have partnered several times over the years. Most recently Arc clients got hands-on job experience by volunteering to stock the shelves for its food distribution program.

In With the New - Out With the Old

Where Ya Gonna Store Your Gay Apparel Before Ya Don It?



(L-R) Emmanuel, Brandon and Serigo, Job Coach Frank Alvarado in back
later. (The door hangers are what the folks in the photo are holding up.)

It won't be long before you open gifts and see what kind of sweater Aunt Tillie is giving you this year. But what do you with with the one from last year? And the year before that?

You can make room for those new holiday presents by giving the "gently used" items to The Arc! We need your tired clothing and small household items!

We sell the merchandise and use the money to operate our programs here in Alameda County but there's another huge benefit to this program. We have created 12 minimum wage jobs for people with disabilities!

Donors often take the used clothing to one of our bins or barrels located around the community but we also travel into local neighborhoods putting hangers on doors asking for donations that we promise to pick up a few days



So, its a win for clients and a win for The Arc. Go check your closet NOW and PURGE!

Partying Holiday Style at The Arc

Photos taken at The Arc Campus in San Leandro During the Holiday Season



Angela sings "The 12 Days of Christmas" to a client and a fan!



SCOPE Center Manager Angela Booker sings "I'll be Home for Christmas" and other holiday favorites for clients.



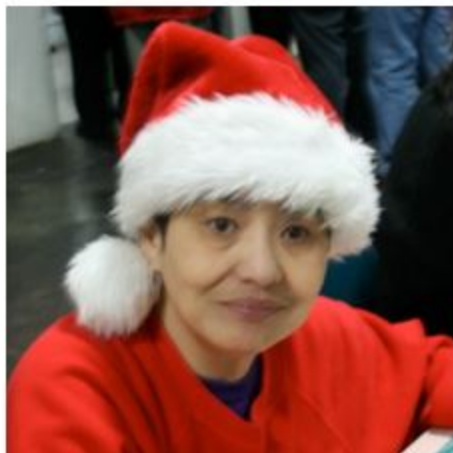
Now, This is the Holiday Spirit!



Hello and Happy Holiday's from San Leandro



Serving-up Some Turkey for the Client Party!



Double Checking That List

Three Dot Quickies

Bogey Bash golf fundraiser is May 9, 2016 - Castlewood Country Club Pleasanton. Mark your calendar today...LifeLinks-Golf in Livermore resumes January 13 at Las Positas Golf Club...*March* is developmental disabilities awareness month, we have lots planned...one event in March is the Community Challenge where clients in **our** Livermore and San Leandro LifeLinks golf program compete in a best ball tournament. We'll tell you **about** it here... Arc's new *Website* should be up and running by end of January...We plan an open house at the Union City Campus in March to form Family Advisory Council - similar plans at all the campuses for 2016

Click [here](#) to contribute on line by credit card or PayPal
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The Arc of Alameda County
14700 Doolittle Dr.
San Leandro, CA 94577
Attention: Judy Vierra