

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

#ddawareness18



March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month!

The goal for this month is to create awareness about developmental disabilities, teach the importance of inclusion within every aspect of life, and to share the stories of individuals with a disability to show that a successful life is possible! This year's theme is *"See Me for Me!"* Looking beyond any disability to see everyone for who they are as a person, and not just as a person with a disability. Encourage constituents to post on their social media using the hashtag **#DDawareness18!**

Ways to celebrate this month:

- Join our organization and help us advocate
- Consider a membership donation to a consumer, parent or interested individual or organization. Several people have honored others by buying them a year's membership in our organization.
- Use the hashtag **#DDawareness18**
- Facebook & Twitter
 - Post photos, videos or stories about your life side by side
 - Share posts from other people and pages
 - Use the hashtag **#DDawareness18**
- Send us your resources so we can share them with everyone else! Resources can include blog posts; studies; information about education, community living, families, health/healthcare; or anything else that you think can be a helpful resource to others for living side by side!

Here to serve you ...

Staff Members: Sondra Nocella-Thorn, *Executive Director*
Wanda McCann, *Rep Payee*
Jennette Williams, Jim Imhoff, *Office Assistants*

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Closed on Friday

Located at: 6021 Parkside Drive, Monroe, MI

Phone: 734.241.5881

Fax: 734.241.3694

E-mail: arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.monarcofmonroe.org

**MON-ARC
Board Members**
Maureen Dempsey
President

Michael Brown
Vice President

Connie Janus
Secretary

Jeffrey Stoll
Treasurer

Kyrsten Niemiec
Member-at-Large

Roxie Boll
Member-at-Large

Susan Pickens
Member-at-Large

Bonnie Swatek
Member-at-Large

Marge Burnett
Past President

Board meetings are held on
the 2nd Tuesday of every month
at 6 p.m. at the MON-ARC office.

Have you seen our website lately?

We had to change our website name due to an error from our hosting site. Our new website address is:

www.monarcofmonroe.org

The team has worked very hard to update our website. Please check it out. There is information about our upcoming events and meeting dates. You can also view photos from our latest dances and other events.



Social Media Updates Keep Us Connected!

FACEBOOK: Check out our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information from Mon-Arc. You can see which events are taking place around our area and the latest local, state and national news. We highlight local people, groups, businesses, etc. and celebrate their accomplishments.

E-MAIL: We are in the process of collecting your e-mail address so that we can send out last-minute notices, cancellations, and our newsletter on-line, if you would like. We will NOT share your e-mail address with anyone else.

CANCELLATION NOTICES: To find out if an event has been cancelled due to weather, please check our Facebook page, check our website, or call the office during office hours. As soon as a decision is made to cancel an event or activity for any reason, the cancellation will be posted on Facebook and our website.

SUGGESTIONS: If you have any suggestions for our website, Facebook page, or newsletter, please send an e-mail with your ideas to: arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net We are always looking for pictures from any of our events or our consumers.

Our Mission: The **MON-ARC of Monroe, Inc.**, promotes the general welfare of all persons with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, counseling, education and community/program services.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The days are longer, the nights are warmer, and we can finally put our heavy coats and gloves in the back of the closet. Winter is almost gone and that means it's time for warmer weather and all the joys that it brings. It seems like we had a very long winter here at Mon-Arc, but we are looking forward to the warmer weather. Our social calendar is filling up with events held by us and our United Way partner agencies.

On March 7th, I attended the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties *Everyday Heroes* banquet. It was an honor to hear about the men, women and even dogs that are part of our community and their selfless acts.

Please consider attending some of these community events:

March 24: Family Counseling and Shelter Services is holding the *6th Annual Murder Mystery Dinner*

March 27: We have been invited to speak briefly at ProMedica about our services at 10:00 a.m.

March 31: I will be joining our AARP office staff Jim Imhoff along with some various agencies such as Fairview, Center for Independent Living, and MCMHA as well as other agencies in Monroe County at the Salvation Army (815 East First St.) to cook and serve dinner to those in need in our community.

April 12: The Dundee Senior Center will hold the *Spring Bingo Extravaganza*

April 21: The Boy Scouts of America in Monroe County (Running Waters District) is having the annual *Fundraising Breakfast*

April 23: The Transition Council is holding *Autism Awareness Night* that is heavily attended by parents from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the M.C.I.S.D.

April 27: Paula's House is holding the *Spring Fling* at the Monroe Golf & Country Club

Mon-Arc Dances:

April 27: April Dance at the Community College from 6 - 8 p.m.

May 18: Dance at the Community College from 6- 8 p.m.

June 15: Second Annual Summer Parking Lot Dance at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Ida

Sue Pickens, our wonderful Social Recreation coordinator, is working on offering Art Therapy sessions soon. Please look for the sign-up sheets at our dances or on our website.

As the seasons and time change, so must we here at the Mon-Arc. We advocate daily for people with developmental and intellectual delays in our community. We face the struggle up of ever-changing requirements and at times confusing laws. We continue to appreciate the community support that we receive, but — in this ever-changing political environment — we are seeing an increase in advocate support. Every donation given is appreciated and we ask that you continue to remember us throughout the year. Thank you one and all for your support.

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Sincerely,
Sondra Thorn
Executive Director
Mon-Arc Monroe, Inc.

Upcoming Dances

■ **April 27th at M.C.C.C.**

■ **May 18th at M.C.C.C.**

Dances will be held at the usual time:
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

■ **Tentatively: June 15th**

at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
parking lot for our summer picnic



MICHIGAN ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Ever wish you could attend one of the learning opportunities or events offered by the Michigan Alliance for Families offered across the state? You can watch a webinar of many of the events at no cost by going to:

<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar/>

Michigan Alliance for Families offers a helpful webinar series. A webinar is an on-line presentation you can attend without having to leave your home or office. It's an opportunity to hear an expert speak for about an hour on a topic that interests you. There are not any live webinars currently scheduled.

The Alliance has an archive of recorded webinars available for when you need access to learn, understand, and manage topics related to special education. The webinars (like all of the learning opportunities offered) are free for parents, caregivers, and educators. These webinars can be viewed anytime on the *Michigan Alliance for Families YouTube Channel*.

E-mail info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org to request the handouts for a recorded webinar.



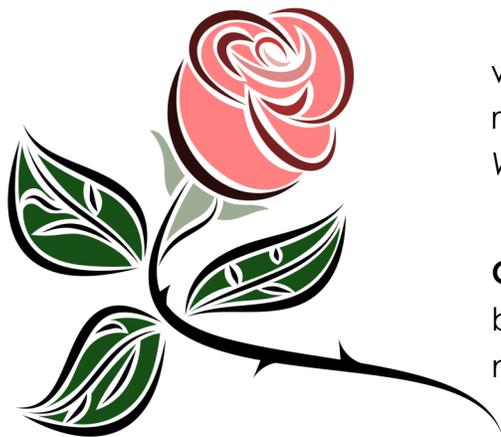
Social Recreation Update

The January dance was held at Monroe County Community College, which is a better location and more handicapped-friendly. There are regular tables and chairs rather than the picnic-style tables at the Middle School. There is plenty of room for everyone.

Sue Pickens, chairperson of the Social Recreation Committee, is exploring other social opportunities within our community. She is in discussions with an Art Therapist who could possibly offer art classes to small groups of our consumers. There are many details that need to be worked out and she will keep us posted with the details in the near future. Sue has also contacted the local movie theater to see if they will offer sensory-friendly movies from time to time.

Please check our website: www.monarcofmonroe.org and our Facebook page: **The Mon-Arc of Monroe** for regular updates regarding the Social Recreation programs.

Pickens Honored at Celebration of Women



Sue Pickens, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of people with developmental disabilities throughout her life and career, was recognized during the 23rd annual *Celebration of Women*, held at the Monroe Golf & Country Club.

The event is hosted by **Soroptimist International of Monroe County** each spring. It is an inspiring evening that celebrates the accomplishments of local women who have made a difference through their remarkable efforts.

Women from all walks of life, various backgrounds and different career paths have been honored throughout the years. ***Congratulations, Sue!***

Special Series: Abused and Betrayed

In January, disability reporter and author Joe Shapiro presented an important series on the topic of sexual assault and abuse of people with disabilities in America:

- *"NPR Investigation Finds Hidden Epidemic of Sexual Assault"*
- *"For Some with Intellectual Disabilities, Ending Abuse Starts with Sex Ed"*
- *"She Can't Tell Us What's Wrong"*



The entire series is archived and you may listen at:

<https://www.npr.org/series/575502633/abusedandbetrayed>





**IN MEMORY OF
Andre Denis II
(1962 - 2018)**

Andre "George" Leon Denis II, 55, of Petersburg, died Feb. 11, 2018, in his residence.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, at Douglas Road Wesleyan Church, Toledo, Ohio. Pastor Steve Bentley officiated.

Born April 5, 1962, in San Antonio, Texas, Andre was the son of Andre and Bonnie (Patten) Denis. He graduated from CSDD Life Enrichment Academy in 1986. He was a member of Douglas Road Wesleyan Church. He loved to eat and watching the movie "Mrs. Doubtfire."

Survivors include his mother, Bonnie; brothers, Daniel Denis and Jeffrey Jones, and sisters, Julie (Patrick) Schmitz and Linda Mcleod. He was preceded in death by his father, Andre, and his stepfather, Ermil "Jack" Hartman.

Memorial contributions for Mr. Denis can be made to Douglas Road Wesleyan Church, Toledo, OH. To send the family condolences, please go online to: www.capaulfuneralhome.com.



Please let us know ...

If you hear of the passing of an Arc member, please let us know. Help us honor the memories of our members and support one another through difficult times.

Call the office at **734.241.5881** or send an e-mail to:

arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM!

A **special thank you** to our newsletter team that assembled our last newsletter.

Kendra L., Becky K., Janice K., and Nick A. met at the Arc office and prepared the newsletters for mailing. They had to fold, affix the mailing tabs, mailing labels, and stamps on each of the 100 newsletters that we mail out.

The team was very efficient and pleasant to work with. We look forward to their help with future newsletters.



**Please consider
a membership
donation to
a consumer,
parent or
interested
individual or
organization.**

■ ■ ■
**SEVERAL PEOPLE
HAVE HONORED
OTHERS
BY BUYING THEM
A YEAR'S
MEMBERSHIP
IN OUR
ORGANIZATION!**

Thank You!



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

A Very Special Thank You to ...

■ **Monroe County Community College**

for hosting our monthly dances!

■ **East Ida Immanuel Lutheran Church**

East Ida Immanuel Lutheran Church on W. Albain Road,
obtained a grant from *Thrivent for Lutherans*
to purchase cookies, water, and paper products
for our January dance at the College.

Vicki, Sheri and Joyce, members of the women's
Bible study group, were our hostesses for the evening!



Join our e-mail list and be first to hear about:

- Presentations/events
- Press releases
- Changes or cancellations of events
- Newsletter, if you sign up
- Fundraisers
- Local, state and national current events

Call the office at **734.241.5881** or e-mail us at
arcmonroe@sbcglobal.net to add your name to our e-mail list.

2018 Income Tax Guide Now Available

The **2018 Income Tax Guide** was written for The Arc Michigan and is copyrighted, and it is now **FREE**. This authoritative income tax guide will prove to be invaluable for tax preparers, parents and others concerned with tax deductions stemming from the care and support of a minor child, an adult, or other persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

You can find the Tax Guide at:

<http://thearcoakland.org/informationalresources/income-tax-guide>



**We appreciate our new
and renewal members!**

NEW MEMBERS:

Carol Lenox
Becky Klawitter
- Gift from Connie Janus
Beverly Gerber
- Gift from Roxie Boll
Cheryl & Jerry Woelmer

**RENEWED
MEMBERSHIPS:**

Bill Dashner
Robert Franciscy
Donna & James Gerber
Connie Janus
Sue & Chuck Leibenguth
Cora & Tim Loga
John Moskwa
Anne Murphy
Kaye Shepard
Kathy & Rusty Shorter
- Birthday gift from
Richard & Finola Hewitt
Lynde & Dale Woolace

Thank you to
Judy Grounds
for her \$50 donation.



For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.
6021 Parkside Drive
Monroe, MI 48161

Affiliated with:
The ARC U.S.
The ARC Michigan

Proud to be a United Way agency.



Community Partner

MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: Address:
City: State: Zip:
Phone (Home): Phone (Cell):
E-mail:

- Please check all the apply:
Parent/Guardian
Developmentally Challenged Person
Sibling/Family
Community Member
Education/Professional Staff
Friend
Business/Organization
ARC Staff/Board Member

Membership in the MON-ARC for one year:

- Individual/Family Membership \$ 25.00
Person with Developmental Challenges \$ 10.00
Silver Membership \$ 50.00
Additional Contribution to MON-ARC \$
Gold Membership \$ 100.00
Patron \$ 200.00
My total gift to MON-ARC (Tax Deductible) \$

Send to MON-ARC; 6021 Parkside Drive: Monroe, MI 48161.

For Office Use Only:

Date Rec: Amt. Rec: Ck. # Recorded by: Mem. Comm.