The Arc
Ridge Area

Annual Report 2013
WELCOME!

Our annual report can highlight only a few of the individuals receiving services, community partners and Arc employees. However, I would like to thank everyone — Arc Board of Directors, Arc Foundation Trustees, employees, volunteers, SFSC instructors, donors, family and friends — who helped make it possible for many consumers to achieve their goals.

2013 was a year of highs and lows, ups and downs....
The highs included the growth experienced in our Community Services program when several individuals, previously served by another provider, joined the Arc.

The highs also included Gov. Rick Scott’s signing of Senate Bill 142, the Intellectual Disabilities Bill. The bill, which was passed unanimously by the Florida Legislature earlier, removed the phrase “mental retardation” from state statutes and replaced it with “intellectual disabilities.” Self-advocates in Highlands County along with others across the state had campaigned to “End the R-word”.

In 2013 the residents of the Valencia Group Home moved to the former Lotela Group Home which had been remodeled and refurbished. The Valencia home was then sold.

The lows included the closing of our Adult Day Training program and Resale Store in Wauchula. We did not receive enough referrals to cost effectively operate an ADT program and did not have enough sales to support the store. Each of the individuals served were referred to other local providers.

This year we look forward to the expansion of our new Psychosocial Rehabilitation program which serves individuals with a dual diagnosis.

We will also be watching and advocating for The Arc of Florida’s 2014 Legislative Priorities. The Arc of Florida’s “Invest in Florida’s Communities Plan” asks the state to: Invest in Medicaid Waiver Waitlist Funding, Increase Rates for Providers, Invest in Community Based Services so people are not institutionalized and Invest in Alternative Family Homes for children who are medically fragile so they do not have to live in nursing homes.

Thank you for being a part of Ridge Area Arc!

Rhonda Beckman, CEO
Board of Directors
Victor Divietro - Chair
Phil May - 1st Vice Chair
Donna Doubleday - 2nd Vice Chair
Donna Vinson - Secretary
Tom Nunnalee - Treasurer
Mary Basso
Dee Dee Harstine
Ralph Meyers
Jeannie Snively
Sylvia Turner

Ridge Area Arc Foundation Board of Trustees
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Kimberly Batty-Herbert - Vice Chair
Donna Vinson - Treasurer
Phil May - Secretary
Hoz Compton
Victor Divietro
Dee Dee Harstine
John McClure
Marcia Ward

Staff Years of Service Recognition

Twenty Year Employment Anniversary
Fannie Hoppes - Resale Area Supervisor
Lisa Williams - Group Home Manager

Fifteen Year Employment Anniversary
Maria Rivera - Director of Health and Safety

Ten Year Employment Anniversary
Tyeise Caldwell - Resale Assistant/Vocational
Gussie Coleman - Residential Assistant
Emma Hadnot - Group Home Manager
Nicole Stephens - ADT Program Specialist
Ruby Young - Case Manager

Five Year Employment Anniversary
Danita Lewis - Behavioral Health Technician
Susan Rodriguez - Janitorial Supervisor
Ruby Thomas - Residential Assistant
Community Partner Award

Acknowledges an organization for its commitment in nurturing a mutually beneficial relationship.

Career Source Heartland

CareerSource Heartland (formally known as Heartland Workforce) is a valued community partner to the Arc’s supported employment program and staff. CareerSource Heartland offers a variety of programs and services to assist individuals looking to get back into the work force. CareerSource Heartland has provided The Arc with office space and the resources for supported employment staff to assist those served through The Arc’s SE program.

Their staff of professionals is there to provide unlimited supports and technical assistance so that our staff can have achievable results for those served under The Arc. There are numerous resources available through CareerSource Heartland’s website and we utilize these resources to individualize what works for those served with different levels of skills and abilities.

With such a tremendous community partnership, together we can educate all of our citizens on how to better their lives and become self-sufficient. The truly talented and dedicated professionals at CareerSource Heartland realize that education and knowledge leads to successful outcomes.
People First! Advocate

Honors an individual, group, or organization which consistently demonstrates a leadership role in the advocacy of people with developmental disabilities.

Jenny Sykes

Jenny Sykes, Employment Liaison with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, has held the predominant role of advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve gainful employment throughout Hardee, Highlands, and Polk counties. Jenny coordinates multiple activities of many different agencies, service organizations, businesses, and providers to champion, educate, and to promote hiring practices that target potential candidates with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Jenny works very closely with Ridge Area Arc’s supported employment staff to identify barriers and various misconceptions that employers may have with hiring individuals with disabilities. Together we strategize on solutions focused on promoting employment opportunities within these businesses.

Thank you Jenny for all you do to advocate for diversity in the workplace and especially the employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Arc Hero of The Year

Recognizes an individual or group who has provided on-going services and/or resources to promote Arc’s mission.

Heartland Horses & Handicapped

Heartland Horses & Handicapped, which has been in operation since 1998, provides services to children and adults with a mental, physical, or developmental disability. In 2003 Ridge Area Arc licensed the use of 17 acres of uncleared property for the purpose of operating their program. HHH volunteers cleared the property and raised the funds to build a facility.

Since that time, individuals served by The Arc’s Adult Day Training Program have consistently participated in the riding program that is just a short walk away. Not only is it an invaluable program to those served by The Arc, many other adults and children benefit from the services provided completely free of charge.

HHH’s goal is to assist each individual so that they may improve their motor skills, posture, balance, coordination, and strength. They help the participants to stretch tight muscles and expand their minds. By grooming, stroking, and riding the wonderful horses, they reach, pull, turn, push, bend, and lift. Interaction with the horses gives participants increased confidence, dignity, mobility, and self-esteem.

The quality of the Heartland Horses & Handicapped program convinced the Highlands County School Board to partner with them so that services could be provided to students during the school day.
Volunteer of the Year Award

Acknowledges a person who has the desire to elevate the lives of people with developmental disabilities and has actions and commitment to make change happen.

John McClure

John McClure served on the Ridge Area Arc Foundation Board of Trustees from September 1998 to May 2014. During that time John served on the Foundation’s Investment Committee overseeing the financial advisors entrusted with the donated funds. He helped donors arrange gifts through their estates. He made revisions to the Foundation’s Trust Agreement when needed and gave countless hours of donated legal support and advice.

Thank you for 16 years of dedicated service to help promote, guide, and advise the Ridge Area Arc Foundation. You will greatly be missed.
Barbara, who has cerebral palsy, has consistently shown improvement on her goal to do physical exercise to keep her body limber. She used to do no physical exercise and spent hours at a time sitting in a chair. Now she likes to work with others in her classroom by engaging in exercises. Her main goal was to walk from the outside classroom door to the fence which is about 40 feet. She has accomplished that goal and now does it on a daily basis without any prompting.

Games and activities, such as bean bag toss, which focus on developing arm and leg strength, are enjoyed on a daily basis. Barbara's self-care skills have greatly improved during the past year as the strength in her arms and legs have increased from exercise. She is no longer dependent on staff assistance for many tasks and takes pride in her appearance.
Kristina Bocanegra

Kristina has been employed at Winn Dixie in Wauchula since June 27, 2012. Over the past year, Kristina has worked on her social and communication skills with all her customers, co-workers, and management team.

Kristina is very shy, soft spoken, and by nature does not initiate conversation unless she is spoken to first. She knows part of Winn Dixie’s “Signature Customer Service” is to greet, smile, and have some interaction with all those she comes in contact with both inside the store and while she is outside retrieving the shopping carts. Throughout the year, Kristina has made strides to greet and engage in conversation with her customers and coworkers with a friendly smile and pleasant demeanor.

Kristina contacts her job coach faithfully each Wednesday morning to update her on her weekly work schedule and to share any new information, concerns, or just a discussion on current events. This helps Kristina to open herself up on topics of interest, things going on in her community, the weather, or around the world in general. Kristina is very knowledgeable and can hold a conversation with her job coach on just about any topic. This builds Kristina’s confidence in her abilities to have conversations with others including her customers and coworkers.
When Sue entered Ridge Area Arc's Supported Living program, she had diabetes and was overweight. Sue ate a lot of fast food (she loves Burger King) and when she did eat at home her meals were frozen dinners which were high in sodium and fat. This unhealthy eating caused digestive problems as well.

Sue, with the help of her supported living coach, began to work on portion control and preparing healthy meals. Since Sue does not independently cook on the stove, her coach helps her prepare nutritional meals that she can reheat in the microwave. She still likes to eat at Burger King but she makes healthier choices when ordering.

Sue also started to exercise. She started out with very short walks and instead of riding in a car to take her trash to the dumpster, she now carries her trash to the dumpster while on her walk.

A decision to lead a healthier life, less fast food, portion control, healthier choices, and exercise have made it possible for Sue to lose weight and improve her health!
Outcome Measurement Report
2013 Annual Summary

AGENCY OVERVIEW:

The following charts reflect the 2013 Agency Overview for Ridge Area Arc.

Agency Growth:

[Bar chart showing agency growth from 2004 to 2012 with data points for each year]

Gender:

[Pie chart showing gender distribution with 54% male and 46% female]
In 2013, Ridge Area Arc served 201 individuals, which is an increase of 21 over 2012.

The Medicaid Waiver system continues to utilize the ibudget system that was implemented in 2012. The ibudget replaced the tier system for all of the individuals receiving Medicaid Waiver services. The ibudget allows the service recipient the ability to move their service funds around to meet their needs – as long as they stay within their budget. Each person’s budget is determined by an algorithm set by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
Ridge Area Arc hired 21 new employees in 2013 and had 26 employment separations. One employee was terminated within the 90 day probationary period. The remaining employees leaving employment left for either retirement – 1, other employment – 2, just cause – 6, relocated – 1, resigned without notice – 10, and resigned with notice, but no reason given – 5. In comparison to 2012, Ridge Area Arc had 30 new employees with 27 separations.

The cumulative agency report revealed that the consumers were 99% satisfied with the services offered by Ridge Area Arc. Stakeholders, predominately the funding provider, were 99% satisfied. The persons served achieved 80% of the goals on their support plans.

### COMPARISON OF CUMULATIVE AGENCY OUTCOMES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Persons achieve goals on their support plan during the year.</td>
<td></td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Persons served are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed.</td>
<td></td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Stakeholders are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed.</td>
<td></td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
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### ADULT DAY TRAINING (ADT)

141 individuals were served in the ADT program for 2013 (up from 128 in 2012) which is a combination of Wauchula ADT/Resale, Ridge Industries, Avon Park Resale and the Intensive Program.

On October 31, 2013, the Wauchula ADT/Resale site was closed due to continued budget deficits. All of the consumers involved at the Wauchula site were able to find alternative ADT placement with other service providers in the area.
The consumers participated in several activities and events during the year. Parties included Valentine’s Day, Independence Day, Cinco De Mayo Celebration, and Christmas. There were a few volunteers from the community to teach new skills to the consumers including piano sing-alongs, one stroke painting, skin care presentation, and sign language classes. Additional activities included a health and nutrition program, driving training, and dental care. There were also community events such as an art class tour of downtown Lake Placid, senior meal site tour, and SFSC Art Museum.

In 2013, Ridge Area Arc developed a plan to limit the number of consumers earning wages in the ADT programs. This was based on an agency decision to decrease the employer liability for sheltered work which considers paid training as employment. Liabilities include worker’s compensation, health insurance, retirement, regulations on sub-minimum wages, to name a few. The Resale site will become a Transitional Vocational Program for those individuals with a goal of community employment. The ADT program on main campus will need to develop new and strengthen current activities.

**Projected Service Outcomes**

Persons served are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 100% (no change from 2012).

Stakeholders are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey are addressed – 100% (no change).

As per the services requested on the support plan, persons served are provided with necessary supports to achieve the support plan goal(s) – 91% (up from 89%).

Annually, persons served who have a stated support plan goal to be employed in the community, have been provided with specific information, opportunities for exploration, and the necessary support to make progress toward this goal on supported employment, competitive employment opportunities, or volunteer opportunities – 100% (no change).

Persons are assisted in being healthy and free from injury, abuse, or neglect – 100% (no change).

**Quality Improvement Plan:**

No Quality Improvement Plan needed. All of the Adult Day Training goals were achieved.

**RESIDENTIAL HABILITATION TRAINING:**

Arc closed the Valencia Group Home in late 2012 and finished moving the residents into the Lotela Group Home in early 2013. During this process, two consumers who lived in the Valencia group home were given options to move to another provider and chose to change providers. One woman’s family did not realize that she had been placed in a non-Arc group home. The family later called to ask that she be allowed to return to Arc. She then returned to the Lotela Group Home with her previous housemates.
Many referrals were received for residential placement at our Lotela and Sunset Group Homes. Three of these referrals toured a group home and chose Ridge Area Arc’s residential program to provide their services. One consumer was accepted into the Lotela Group Home while the other two were accepted into the Sunset Group Home.

Over 20% of our group home residents are over the age of 65. The aging of the residents continues to be an issue with increased medical care and needs of the residents.

Hiring qualified staff in the residential program was difficult during 2012 and became even more difficult in 2013. Several of the group homes were not fully staffed which resulted in many staff covering multiple shifts.

Residential services participated in many outings throughout the 2013 year. Some of these outings were based on family vacations while others enjoyed summer camps. Special STARS events were a major highlight of activities for residential services including: softball, tennis, basketball, swimming, bowling, billiards, volleyball, and track & field. Additional STARS activities included plays at Highlands Little Theatre, parties and dances, and attending local sporting events. Additionally, the group homes have paired up to provide theme based parties throughout the year with each home taking turns to host the party.

**Projected Service Outcomes**

Persons served are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 99% (up from 98% in 2012).

Stakeholders are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 99% (no change).

As per the services requested on the support plan, persons served are provided with necessary supports to achieve the support plan goal(s). Goal: 80%; Outcome: 74% - Goal not achieved.

Persons are allowed maximum freedom of choice, including being informed about rights, service options, and making all possible decisions with regard to the conduct of their lives – 96% (down from 99%).

Persons are assisted in being healthy and free from injury, abuse, or neglect – 98% (up from 94%).

**Quality Improvement Plan:**

Several of the group home residents did not achieve or show improvement due to declining health conditions. As stated earlier, over 20% of the individuals in our group homes are over age 65. Many consumers are unable to accomplish the goals due to continued decline in their health. Goals were implemented to maintain their current health status, however, many have
declining health status – resulting in their support plan goals not being achieved. Arc staff will continue to advocate for the residents and request that support coordinators develop more age and health appropriate goals.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Community Services provided services to 16 individuals (up from 12 in 2012). In April 2013, another supported living provider was being closed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Ridge Area Arc was interviewed by the consumers being affected by the closing and five individuals chose the Arc as their service provider. One of those individuals, due to the poorly managed funds by the other service provider, was unable to continue in supported living. Services began in May even though we did not fully know the new consumers or their needs. It was a bumpy road in the beginning due to poorly managed funds and unidentified service needs. In order to meet the needs of the additional new consumers, an additional full-time supported living coach was hired.

Additionally, some of the new intakes also required personal support services. We had chosen to eliminate personal support a few years ago due to insufficient funding from APD. However, since many of the new supported living consumers had personal supports also included in their cost plan, we decided to provide those services for them. Staffing personal supports has been an issue. The part-time position for personal supports was posted in April and we continue to have the position vacant due to no interest in the position. Currently, group home managers and staff are assisting with the coverage until the right staff person is located and hired.

Ridge Area Arc did lose some consumers in the supported living program. One individual, who had been in supported living since 1998, had to be involuntarily moved from supported living to a group home due to serious medical complications. Another individual who was referred by the other company that closed chose to leave the Arc. Medical problems continue to be a major contributing factor for moving from the supported living program back into residential services. Many of the consumers in supported living are diagnosed with diabetes and have poor meal management skills.

Projected Service Outcomes
Persons served are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 100% (no change).

Stakeholders are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 100% (no change).

Persons are supported to live in their own homes – 90% (down from 97%).

Persons demonstrate freedom of choice in the areas of their lives as evidenced by being fully informed about service options - 100% (no change).
As per the services requested on the support plan, persons served are provided with necessary supports to achieve the support plan goal(s). Goal: 80%; Outcome: 76% - Goal not met.

**Quality Improvement Plan:**
Health decline including numerous hospitalizations and/or higher medical care for several consumers receiving supported living services was the contributing factor for this goal not being met. One consumer was involuntarily moved to a group home setting which impacted this goal. Goal will remain as written.

**COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT:**

Employment Services added 24 new referrals into their employment program. Of those 24 referrals; 23 were referrals through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and one was through the APD’s general revenues grant.

Of these 24 referrals, 16 were placed in jobs – 7 in Polk County and 9 in Highlands County. The coaches did a tremendous amount of promoting hiring those with disabilities, which resulted in several new employers for our consumers. Panera Bread, Marshalls, Sears, Olive Garden, and Sunny Hills Assisted Living Facility were new employers. Walmart and Lowes continue their practice of hiring those with disabilities.

The Job Coaches continue to educate and provide hands on training with the consumers when completing their online applications. Many of the employment sites now utilize an assessment survey which allows the employer to determine the attitudes, strengths, character and various other personality traits of their applicants. The average assessment will ask 75 up to 250 questions. The coaches work with the applicants as to the nature of the question from their perspective. The goal in all of the training is to be noticed by the employer to secure an interview.

**Projected Service Outcomes**
Persons served are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed - 100% (no change).

Stakeholders are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 100% (no change).

As per the services requested on the support plan, persons served are provided with necessary supports to achieve the support plan goal(s) – 83% (up from 80%).

Assistance is provided in securing employment according to desired outcomes, including type of work environment, activities, hours of work, level of pay and supports needed – 100% (no change).
Persons in the individual model, during follow along (phase 2) do not need paid job coaching in excess of an average of 20% of the person’s average work hours – 100% (no change).

**Quality Improvement Plan:**
No Quality Improvement Plan needed. All of the Community Employment goals were achieved.

**RESPITE:**
Ridge Area Arc has received very few respite referrals since implementation of the ibudget. Most individuals do not have extra funds in their individualized budget to cover respite services. Respite services were utilized this year by only one consumer (down from three last year). This consumer returned back home to their family home.

**Projected Service Outcomes**
Persons served are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 100% (no change).

Stakeholders are satisfied with the services based on the results of the annual satisfaction survey, or are satisfied that their concerns raised during the survey have been addressed – 100% (no change).

Percent of referrals met – 100% (no change).

**Quality Improvement Plan:**
No Quality Improvement Plan needed. All Respite goals were achieved.
The information contained in this annual report was taken from the 2012-2013 financial report prepared by Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. As indicated below, Ridge Area Arc requires a substantial amount of revenue to provide essential services and training for persons with developmental disabilities. We use our resources to assist individuals become as productive and independent as possible. All contributions from companies and individuals in the community are essential in assisting the agency in offering a better quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. A copy of the agency's most recent audit can be obtained by contacting Ridge Area Arc, 120 West College Drive, Avon Park, Florida 33825.

Revenue

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Contributions</td>
<td>$497,216</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>$341,597</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer Entitlements*</td>
<td>$9,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid Waiver</td>
<td>$1,705,776</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Screen Printing/Resale</td>
<td>$606,053</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Pay</td>
<td>$103,968</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$26,147</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
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**Grand Total:** $3,289,937

*Food Stamps

Expenses

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>$1,395,936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Service</td>
<td>$748,692</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Employment</td>
<td>$100,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>$118,060</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Printing/Resale</td>
<td>$704,746</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>$391,924</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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**Grand Total:** $3,459,554
## Donations

*A special thank you goes out to the following individuals and organizations who provided monetary support to the agency in fiscal year 2012/2013*

### $25,000 and up

- The Arc Foundation
- Florida Department of Transportation
- United Way of Central Florida

### $5,000 to $9,999

- Anonymous
- Ms. Nancy Carr
- Highlands County Health Facilities Authority
- Highlands County Hospital District
- Highlands County Commissioners
- Peace River Electric Coop, Inc.

### $2,500 to $4,999

- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Aldrich
- Avon Park Bingo, Inc.
- Highlands Sertoma Club, Inc.
- Knights of Columbus #14717
- Mid Florida Federal Credit Union
- Tom Perry Family Foundation

### $1,000 to $2,499

- Anonymous
- 64 West Collision Repair, Inc.
- Bill Jarrett Ford, Inc.
- Florida Hospital - Heartland Division
- Heacock Financial
- Heartland National Bank
- Knights of Columbus #541
- Mr. & Mrs. David Magowan
- Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
- Raymond James Financial Services
- Rotary Club, Sebring Sunrise
- Sebring Lakeside Golf Resort
- Mr. David Singha
- Waypoints Financial
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<tr>
<td>Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.</td>
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<td>Mr. Joe L. Davis, Sr.</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Richard Farmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William Handley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlands Independent Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiwanis Club of Sebring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeside Air Conditioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musselmans Appliance &amp; TV, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathology Assoc. of Sebring, PA</td>
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<th>$250 to $499</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agero Administrative Service Corp.</td>
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<td>American Legion Auxiliary #69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avon Park Youth Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef O'Brady's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lois E. Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Patricia Burt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee News of Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Candace Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dee's Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Victor Divietro</td>
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Avon Park Breakfast Club
Mr. & Mrs. John Barben
Mr. & Mrs. Allyn Barker
Beta Sigma Phi - Pi Phi Chapter
Big T Tire
Dr. & Mrs. John Brown
Century Link
Citrus Animal Clinic
Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius
Mr. & Mrs. John Crews
Mr. & Mrs. George Devore
Ms. Linda Ebrite
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Germaine
Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Groezinger
Mr. & Mrs. John Harrison
Ms. Betty S. Horn
Ms. Sherri Lynn Hunt
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond D. Kircher
Mr. & Mrs. J. Norman Langston
Mr. & Mrs. Phil May
McClure & Lobozzo
Mr. & Mrs. John K. McClure
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McCullough
Mr. Pete McDevitt

Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Miller
Morris Funeral Chapel
Nu Hope Elder Care Services, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. James Phipps
Presbyterian Women of Spring Lake
Mr. Dale Ramsey
Mr. Gabriel Read
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Reith
Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Roberts
Saxon Groves, Inc.
Mrs. Ethel Slone
Dr. & Mrs. Norm Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. G.B. Stephenson
Ms. Barbara Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Vinson
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Vogel
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Von Merveldt
Wabasso Road Dairy, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. James P. Waller
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Weiss
Wheeler Farms, Inc.
Ms. Laurena Williams

Major In-Kind, Non-Cash Donations ($500+)

In addition to the donors below, Ridge Area Arc received many non-cash gifts in 2013 valued at less than $500 which are not listed here. This list also does not include gifts made to the Resale Store. The value of the gifts below are established by the donor.

Musselman's TV & Appliance
Michelle Poole

Ted and Beverly Glarner
Cohan Radio Group

Ridge Area Arc Foundation

The foundation, governed by a board of trustees, is responsible for building an endowment fund, the interest from which will support the Arc for years to come.

The goal of the foundation is to cultivate contributions through wills, estate plans, and major gifts to insure that the foundation will grow. The foundation does not solicit money through local fundraising events.

The Arc Foundation’s assets continued to grow realizing a net increase of $412,152 in 2013.
John Smith reaches for the noodle at the finish line in his swimming competition.

Special STARS is celebrating its 10 year anniversary in 2014. It was organized in Highlands County in 2004 under the direction of Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Marshall. Special STARS offers 12 different sports and six recreational activities for approximately 400 children and adults with mental and physical disabilities in Highlands, Hardee and Okeechobee counties.

Membership continues to grow in Highlands in sports and the Special STARS Recreation Club. This club offers six different parties a year for approximately 150 people with disabilities. Club members extended their camping trip to Highlands Hammock State Park in Sebring in November to be two nights this past year instead of one. In addition to camping, the club enjoys watching volleyball and baseball games at South Florida State College, movies at Fairmount Cinema 6, shows at Highlands Little Theatre, dancing at the luau at the Highlands Social Center and singing Christmas carols to nursing homes.

Sport events include bocce, horseshoes, shuffleboard, cycling, track and field, volleyball, basketball, softball, golf, tennis, swimming and bowling. During this past Special STARS Softball Classic, the winning team won tickets and a ride to watch the Tampa Bay Rays play one of their opening season games. During a special Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce fundraiser last fall, special athletes got to meet a pro bowler and bowl with people in the community to raise funds for Special STARS.

School students participate in the Highlands County School District Track & Field event held in the fall. There are approximately 150 students competing in Special STARS. Some children also participate in the other sports and recreational programs offered throughout the year. Frannie Gillilan is the liaison for the school district.

Hardee County started its program in 2012 to offer bowling and track and field competitions. This past spring, they organized their first coed unified softball team to compete in the Special STARS Softball Classic in Highlands County. There are approximately 50 athletes in Hardee competing. Hardee and Okeechobee athletes compete in a district-wide bowling competition with Highlands County athletes in June.
The Arc
Ridge Area

Achieve with us.

The Arc is supported by:

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