



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Achieve with us.

A Message From The CEO



2019 was Ridge Area Arc's year of giving as well as getting.

Our Adult Day Training team of consumers and staff participated in multiple volunteer efforts across the county in 2019 including working at the Highlands County Humane Society and the Heartland Horses and Equine Therapy. They cleaned and sorted books at the Goodwill Book Works so that good, quality books could be donated to schools. The group participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service project where they volunteered to help decrease food insecurity in our community. They helped to stock shelves and distribute food at the Heartland Food Bank, The Southside Food Pantry and the veteran's food program at the Sebring Parkway Church of Christ. The group partnered with the Sebring and Avon Park Chambers of Commerce to collect food for these pantries. They used their new TRAP drumming skills to partner with the Heartland Harmonizers where they asked the audience to bring nonperishable food items. Donated items were then taken to local food pantries. The project culminated in a large barbecue on MLK Day in front of the Bountiful Blessings Church in Sebring where they gave out 100 snack packs.

Food continued to be the theme as the group worked to grow food at the Aktion Club Community Garden located right here on Arc's beautiful campus off of College Drive. Planting and harvesting continued in the planter beds at the Avon Park Housing Authority where what was grown, was then distributed.

If you are not currently part of the Arc family as a caregiver, volunteer, board member or advocate, I encourage you to become part of our crew in whatever way you can. This is the most caring, compassionate and giving group you will ever encounter. Our staff and consumers know that in a world where kindness matters, we get as much in our hearts as we give to our community. We gain purpose and perspective through our choice to give back to those who need us most and we believe we get back tenfold.

Be safe, be loved and be kind! We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Border

Achieve with us.®

FINANCIAL REPORT

The information contained in this annual report was taken from the 2018-2019 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 to 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, 4352 Independence St., Avon Park, FL 33825.



REVENUE	FY 2019	FY 2018
Public Contributions	496,303	338,157
Contract	250,687	278,115
Consumer Entitlements*	6,047	14,535
Medicaid Waiver	1,600,728	1,564,841
Screen Printing/Resale**	249,046	441,472
Private Pay	61,389	61,355
Other Revenue	188,764	272,305
TOTAL	2,852,964	2,970,780

EXPENSES	FY 2019	FY2018
Residential	1,378,038	1,295,365
Day Service	490,653	509,359
Community Employment	45,778	59,242
Community Services	163,426	138,189
Screen Printing/Resale**	272,231	427,688
Supporting Services	329,220	353,171
Loss of disposal of assets	37,322	--
TOTAL	2,716,668	2,783,014

*Food Stamps

**Screen Printing closed 2018

PROUD PARTNERS



Florida Department of
TRANSPORTATION



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

apd
agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

RIDGE AREA ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Victor Devietro
1st Vice Chair William Allbritton
2nd Vice Chair Jeff Roth
Treasurer Tom Nunnallee
Secretary Mary Brown
Advocate Liaison Ralph Meyers
 Melissa Blackman
 Dee Dee Harstine
 David Schumacher

FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair David Schumacher
Vice Chair Victor Devietro
Treasurer Mary Brown
Secretary Marcia Ward
 Tina Adams
 William Allbritton
 Dee Dee Harstine
 Rick Helms
 Christen Johnson
 Deb McCullough

Ridge Area Arc Foundation is 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 ensure that the foundation will grow. The foundation does not solicit money through local fundraising events.

Want to donate? Call 863-452-1295

Community Awards



People First! Advocate Award honors an individual or group or organization which consistently demonstrates a leadership role in the advocacy for people with developmental disabilities at a county, state and/or national level. The 2019 award goes to **Pam Lanier and the Highlands County School Board ESE Department** for their consistent advocacy of Arc programs and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The staff works with ADT, Resale and Supported Employment departments. They transition individuals appropriately from public school to Arc. The ESE staff goes above and beyond to make sure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the services they need to be independent. They continue to educate the community about what Arc does and how we can serve individuals with disabilities.

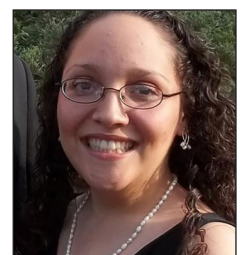
Outstanding Community Partner of the Year Award recognizes an organization for its commitment in nurturing a mutually beneficial relationship.

This year's award goes to **Tim Smolarick and The Highlands News-Sun staff** who have consistently provided support and increased resources to advocate for Ridge Area Arc. They are generous with their news space offering Ridge Area Arc the opportunity to promote events, announce special donations and share celebrations. Local media coverage is crucial in this market in order to inform the public. Highlands News-Sun's partnership with Ridge Area Arc enables Arc to reach a wide variety of people and delivers its message right into their homes.



Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has a desire to elevate the lives of people with developmental disabilities, an advocate who also displays actions and commitment to make change happen. This year's award goes to **Janet Puckett**. Janet volunteers in ADT. She was referred to Arc by a staff member. Janet has past experience with individuals with disabilities and enjoys volunteering in all areas of ADT but truly thrives in the art room. With a background in hospitals and nursing homes, Janet has compassion for people and heard of the need for volunteers at Arc. Janet donates her time on Tuesdays to Arc's consumers. She has gotten to know the consumers and has developed a relationship of respect and trust.

Arc Hero of the Year Award recognizes an individual or group who has provided on-going services and/or resources to promote Arc's mission. This year's award goes to **Rebeca Rivera, ARNP**. Rebeca is a great patient practitioner for our consumers. She is always willing to lend a helping hand. She volunteers and sponsors our fundraising events. Rebeca gives our consumers the ability to make their own choices.



Consumer Awards

Residential Consumer of the Year Award: John Smith



John resides at Queen Palm Group Home with five male peers that he calls family. He attends the Adult Day Training Center five days a week. John is friendly and has a smile that lights up a room. John was diagnosed with Dementia several years ago and has struggled with social and daily living activities. He has a fear of falling which can make entering and exiting the transport van a challenge. John has made great improvements in all areas of his daily life. The staff encourages John to help in the classroom and provides simple instructions and task assignments.

John delivers coffee and shows a willingness to do chores and respects his housemates privacy. John has become more active in all community inclusions such as Aktion Club, Special STARS and social activities at ADT. John was 2020's Valentine's Day king in February. Congratulations John!

Supported Living Consumer of the Year Award: Rodney Walker



Rodney has had some medical issues in 2019. He rebounded nicely and is very healthy. He listened to his doctor's advice and is now much better. He had a great attitude during the tough time that he had. Rodney is always outstanding at following directions. He has been friendly and very inviting to anyone who is around him. He is welcoming and socially outgoing.

Congratulations Rodney!

ADT Consumer of the Year Award: Alejandro "Alex" Lopez

Alex stays busy throughout his day by participating in rotating classes, doing volunteer work and spending more time with his girlfriend. Alex is participating in employment on the janitorial crew earning a paycheck at ADT.



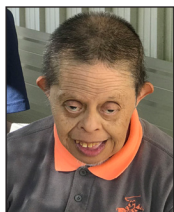
Alex is eager to work, only needing a task assignment with minimal prompting. In his leisure time, Alex enjoys interacting with his housemates, community activities or playing his handheld game device. Alex has proven to be a great asset to Arc with his willingness to help his peers and staff. He has a caring spirit and always wants to participate in activities. Way to go Alex!

ADT Intensive Consumer of the Year Award: Timothy Cypress

In 2019 Timothy has remained in stable health and participated in the Intensive classroom to minimize movement and maximize safety. He enjoys coming to ADT for socialization and being with his peers and staff. He enjoys working with his dominoes and learning different games on his iPad. Timothy is encouraged to use his

two-syllable words and his iPad to communicate his wants, needs and desires. At leisure, Timothy enjoys being with his group home family, community outings and collecting wrestling figurines. Timothy participated in Special STARS events in 2019 and even won some awards!

Timothy! Congratulations!



Community Employment Consumer of the Year: Mark Anderson

Mark currently lives in his own apartment in Avon Park. He is especially proud of the new decorations and updates that have taken place. He takes great pride in the privacy that he has living independently. Mark is a very respectful and considerate man and he makes friends easily with his upbeat personality within the community and at work. Mark continues to be employed at Taco Bell where he works Monday through Friday during the busy lunch hours. He is very enthusiastic about his job and has improved his ability to get along with his coworkers and supervisor. He also enjoys having appropriate conversations with Taco Bell customers. Mark's supervisor has stated that Mark is a respected and valued employee and is a joy to work with. Mark is not only an asset to Taco Bell, but also to the community he lives in. Congratulations Mark!



Special STARS

Special STARS started in Highlands County in 2004 and includes athletes from Hardee and southern Polk counties. There are approximately 400 children and adults with disabilities participating in the program. Special STARS hosted a Track & Field Day in Okeechobee.

Special STARS provided 14 sports and eight recreational activities last year in Highlands County. Sports included horseshoes, bocce, shuffleboard, track and field, cycling, softball, tennis, equestrian, swimming, bowling, basketball, volleyball and kickball. Recreational events included parties, dances, ball games, talent show and theater shows.

In Hardee County, 50 athletes enjoyed bowling and participating with Highlands County athletes in other sports and events. Although Highlands does not have a bowling alley, athletes enjoyed a Bowling Fun Day trip to Polk County to bowl.

Special STARS coordinated an equestrian program in May with Heartland Horses & Equine Activities and Learning Inc. They trained on horseback before being judged during a horse show to win awards.

The Special STARS Softball Classic raised money for the program and provided an opportunity for special athletes to play softball along with partners in the community. This was the 21st annual softball tourney for Special STARS.

School students participated in the Highlands County School District Track & Field event in the spring. There are approximately 180 students competing in Special STARS. Some children also participated in the other sports and recreational programs offered throughout the year.

Donations

A special thank out goes out to the following individuals and organizations who provided monetary support to the agency in fiscal year 2018-2019.

\$25,000 & up

Department of Transportation
Florida Housing Finance Corp.
Highlands County Board
of County Commission
Ridge Area Arc Foundation
United Way of Central Florida

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Highlands County
Health Facilities Authority

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Mr. Stephen R. Aldrich
Avon Park Bingo, Inc.
Ms. Nancy Carr

\$3,000 to \$4,999

Viktor Hirschmann

\$1,000 to \$2,999

64 West Collision Repair, Inc.
Advent Health - Sebring
Ms. Lois Brown
Ms. Colleen Chambliss
Heacock Insurance
Heartland National Bank
Jersey Mike's Subs
Johnson-Stivender
Knights of Columbus #5441
Lake Placid Health Care Center
Mr. Victor M. Lozano
Mr. & Mrs. David Magowan
Mid Florida Credit Union - LP
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Ms. Angela Ruckman
Mr. David Singha
Southwood Garage Doors
TD Charitable Foundation
Tom Perry Family Foundation
Trilogy Home Health
Ms. Marcia Ward
Waypoints Financial

\$500 to \$999

Alan Jay Automotive Management
Annett Bus Lines
Ms. Deborah Barber
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.

CenterState Bank - S

Dee's Place

Mr. Richard Farmer

Germaine Surveying Inc.

Hendrix Lawn Care, LLC

Highlands Sertoma Club, Inc.

ITW Corporate

Mason G Smoak Foundation

Network For Good / Facebook

Palms of Sebring

Publix Supermarket

Sebring Elks, Inc.

SHAPE America / Tommy Wilson Award

Shine On With Tonya, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. John Shoop

Mr. & Mrs. James Snively

Stephenson Nelson Funeral Home

Mr. Ross Vickers

Wheeler Farms, Inc.

\$250 to \$499

Budget Bi-Rite Insurance
Citrus Animal Hospital
Clark Air, LLC
Duke Energy Foundation
Edward Jones - Harshman, Heather
Edward Jones Financial - AP
Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Heartland Association of Realtors, Inc.
Ken Thomas Painting, Inc.
Lampe & Kiefer Hearing Aid Center
Marmer Construction, Inc
John K. McClure, P.A.
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McCullough
Mr. & Mrs. C. Raymond McIntyre
Mr. William O'Donnell
Red Hats of Adelaide
Sebring Lion's Breakfast Club, Inc .
South Florida State College
Stewart Construction
Wicks, Brown, Williams and Co

\$100 to \$249

Mr. William Allbritton
Arc of Florida
Mrs. Rhonda Beckman
Raymond & Clanel Cameron
Mr. Mike Clark
Ms. Linda I. Connelly

Ms. Linda Deluca

Mrs. Donna Doubleday

Ms. M. Linda Ebrite

Mrs. Nancy Fassler

Mrs. Jennifer Gravelle

Ms. Jo Ann Sutton, PA

Ms. Carla Jones

Lockwood Aviation Supply

Ms. Debra W. McCullough

Ms. Monica Meier

Morris Funeral Home

Ms. Kathleen K. Nelson

Pi Phi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi

Ms. Dale Ramsey

Ms. Laura Rankin

Mr. & Mrs. William Rosenberger

Juan Sanchez & Marangeline Hernandez

Sandy's Circle Cafe LLC

Mr. Charles R. Schumacher

Mr. Paul Von Merveldt

Ms. Rita Whitlatch

Woman's Club of Sebring, Inc.

Mr. Mike Zimmerman

Major In-Kind

Non-Cash Donations (\$500+)

In addition to the donors below, Ridge Area Arc received many non-cash gifts in 2019 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.

Bluegreen Vacations Corp.

Cohan Radio Group

AdventHealth

Homestead Miami Speedway

Highlands News-Sun

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 ensure that the foundation will grow. The foundation does not solicit money through local fundraising events.

STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Five Year Employment Anniversary:

Justin Moore - Residential Assistant

David Spinks - Resale Donation Associate

Fifteen Year Employment Anniversary:

Cheryl Longabaugh - Director of Human Resources

Cindy Marshall - Community Outreach Coordinator



4352 INDEPENDENCE ST

AVON PARK, FL 33825

863-452-1295

ridgeareaarc.org

