

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**The Arc.**  
Ridge Area



4352 INDEPENDENCE ST  
AVON PARK, FL 33825  
863-452-1295  
[ridgeareaarc.org](http://ridgeareaarc.org)

SCAN TO DONATE



*At Ridge Area Arc we celebrate differences.  
We hire qualified individuals from a wide variety of  
backgrounds because diversity is our greatest strength.  
If you share our mission to help everyone  
find their place in the world, you will  
find a home at Ridge Area Arc.*

# A Message From The CEO

*"The greatest of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."*

*Coretta Scott King*



We cap 2021 with grateful hearts. We understand that while running a non-profit is challenging, we are blessed beyond measure to have the love and support of such a wonderful community that rallies around us in times of need and celebrates our victories with us. We know we need our community partners like the United Way of Central Florida and Spectrum, we need our dedicated members of the agency Board of Directors and Foundation Board of trustees, we need our consumers and their families and finally we need our loyal staff. We need all of these things and yet we gain so much from giving back to others.

This was the year of giving for us; the year of reaching into the community to give back in so many ways. Our staff and consumers volunteered dozens of hours to help fight food insecurity in our community in partnership with some fantastic organizations like Hands for Homeless, and the Heartland Food Bank. We cared for animals through the Humane Society and Heartland Horse and Equine Therapy. We gave out Bombas socks to families in need as well as diapers and school supplies. Ridge Area Arc consumers are the most giving group of people you will ever meet.

All of these things that filled our buckets and our hearts are the things that we remember most from 2021. We hope that you will either join our journey through social media or come visit through volunteering or maybe taking a tour because if you don't know the awesome family that is Ridge Area Arc, you are missing out!

Yours Always,

*Kathleen*

Kathleen Border, Ridge Area Arc CEO

# A Message From The Board Chair

As we look back on 2021, it is difficult to believe how much has taken place at the Ridge Area Arc as well as the world around us. We entered the year with mixed feelings of hope and fear. The pandemic that affected us so much in 2020 both ebbed and surged with a new variant seemingly being discovered weekly. But as we faced these daily challenges, our employees, volunteers, and donors all stepped up to meet the needs of our consumers.



Our year brought many highlights and further empowered our sense of hope. Spectrum provided a grant to fund digital education for both our ADT and Supported Employment consumers helping them to compete in our ever-evolving digital world. In addition to digital training for our consumers, the agency rolled out our new and improved digital outreach campaign, complete with a wonderful new website. We completed and furnished our Multi-Sensory Room allowing our consumers with Autism a new and positive space. This new room allows us not only to help our consumers but also provides for our continued partnerships with the Highlands County School Board and Champion for Children Foundation. Our immense fundraising efforts including Kokomo, Heels that Heal and the Sebring Derby, all enjoyed large crowds, providing further proof of our outstanding community in which we all live. The agency was honored to be awarded the Avon Park Chamber of Commerce Community Involvement Award. Lastly, Ridge Area Arc was named Finalist for The Best Non-Profit Organization by the readers of our local newspaper, The Highlands News-Sun.

Looking back on all the hardships and amazing highlights that defined 2021, we as an organization are incredibly humbled by the support we've received. The hardwork, perseverance and genuine love displayed by our employees, volunteers, donors and consumers alike are the true strength of the Ridge Area Arc.

We look forward to an amazing 2022 and feel blessed to have you all on the journey with us.

All my Best,

*Victor J. Divietro*

Victor J. Divietro, Board Chair

***Achieve with us.***<sup>®</sup>



# Community Awards

## **People First! Advocate Actions for Autism Carissa Marine and Anna Richard**

Actions for Autism is a community initiative through the Champion For Children Foundation of Highlands County. Actions for Autism focuses on awareness, acceptance, and assistance for families with children who have been diagnosed with Autism. The Actions for Autism team, lead by Carissa and Anna, assists families with support, resources, and referrals. Carrissa and Anna have made it their mission to put people with disabilities first. They are vocal and enthusiastic advocates of this community and find every opportunity for inclusion and resources. *Thank you and congratulations to Carissa and Anna!*



## **Outstanding Community Partner Hands for Homeless - Jane Breylinger**

Jane Breylinger and her volunteers at Hands for Homeless in Avon Park have proven to be a wonderful partner, not only in volunteering in our community, but also in joining with Ridge Area Arc for the Martin Luther King Day of Service. MLK Day of Service encourages volunteers with intellectual and developmental disabilities to work alongside volunteers without disabilities to help children and adults in our community who experience challenges accessing food. Jane and her group of volunteers are patient and efficient and have welcomed Ridge Area Arc consumers into their well-organized food preparation and distribution process. Consumers also helped with creating hygiene packages for homeless individuals. This experience, under the guidance of Jane, has been a wonderful opportunity for inclusion and advocacy for our agency. *Thank you and congratulations, Jane!*



*Consumers, instructors and staff celebrate International Tai Chi Day in 2022.*

## **Volunteer of the Year Tai Chi Instructor: Susan Beson**

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) member Susan Beson has brought the art and movement to Ridge Area Arc consumers. Susan leads two Tai Chi classes once a week and focuses on breathing, movement and coordination. Her skill and training, along with her willingness to share her time with Ridge Area Arc consumers is a direct





result of a solid partnership with South Florida State College which facilitates The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. RSVP provides volunteers to qualified agencies and organizations for the dual purpose of engaging persons 55 and older in service to meet critical community needs and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of volunteers and organizations.

*Thank you and congratulations, Susan!*

## **Resale Volunteer of the Year**

**Cathy Kovacs**

Cathy is dedicated, hardworking and reliable. Her manager describes her as a team player who helps customers, runs the cash register, and hangs clothes. Cathy's volunteer efforts have contributed to the Arc Resale store in a positive way. Her efforts are greatly appreciated. Cathy understands the new direction that we are taking at Resale and is helping to make it a success.

*Congratulations, Cathy!*



## **Arc Hero of the Year**

**The Palms Foundation**

The Palms Foundation was established to serve the needs of older adults residing at the Palms of Sebring, a three levels of care retirement community and seniors in Highlands County that need assistance. The Palms Foundation have become “heroes” to Ridge Area Arc in recent years by enabling the agency to create and enhance its services to senior consumers. The Palms Foundation realizes and appreciates the programs our agency provides consumers with special emphasis on our seniors. Because of the generous help of The Palms Foundation, our senior consumers have a dedicated room that affords them comfort, space, education and a whole lot of fun.

*Thank you and congratulations to The Palms Foundation!*



*Some of our seniors enjoying The Senior Room, sponsored by The Palms Foundation.*

# Consumer Awards

## Residential Consumer of the Year

**Sarah Moore**



Sarah has been with Ridge Area Arc for many years. She participates in the Adult Day Training and Residential Services. Sarah is an individual who cares dearly for her mother and spending quality time with her. Sarah enjoys coming to ADT and socializing with her friends and boyfriend, Alex. Sarah is outspoken, observant and inquisitive. She has learned patience and continues to work on her goals with Ridge Area Arc staff. Sarah enjoys living with her roommates and takes pride in her home.

*Congratulations, Sarah!*

## Supported Living Consumer of the Year

**Terry Richardson**

Terry has been with Ridge Area Arc for over twenty years. Terry is a very shy, soft spoken gentleman who loves life. He is a sun-loving, outdoors man who loves fishing. He has overcome several obstacles in the past few years but has learned new coping skills to improve his mental health. Terry continues to make changes in his life that allow him to maintain stability and a positive outlook. Terry enjoys working with his support staff and has built a solid relationship with them. Terry has become a stronger self-advocate and expresses how he feels. Terry continues to smile and to get stronger as every day passes.

*Congratulations, Terry!*



## ADT Consumer of the Year

**Chad Harding**



Chad has attended the Ridge Area Arc Adult Day Training program since 2014. Chad is an extremely friendly and polite gentleman, always ready with a smile and a warm “hello.” Chad is able to express himself verbally in a slow and distinct manner. He is an excellent artist and enjoys drawing pictures and bringing them to life with color. His favorite character to draw and create stories about is “Mad Ball.” He enjoys listening to music, watching videos and assembling puzzles. 2021 brought new challenges for Chad and his housemates including a group home move and staff changes. These life changes would be a challenge for anyone, but he was able to come through with the familiar happy, smiling face in typical Chad fashion.

*Congratulations, Chad!*



## **ADT Intensive Consumer of the Year**

### **Raymond 'Mac' Smith**

Raymond prefers to be called “Mac” by his family and friends. Mac has participated in the Adult Day Training Program since 1980 and also lives in one of our group homes. Two years ago, Mac fractured his hip and was in rehabilitation for 6 months. Mac had to re-learn to stand and to walk on his own. For safety reasons and to prevent any more falls, Mac was moved to the Intensive Class to provide him with one-on-one assistance. At the beginning, Mac was reluctant about the move, but Mac now arrives every morning in a happy mood; he greets his staff and peers with a cheerful “hello!” Staff has expressed numerous times what a great classroom helper Mac is, and how his negativity has decreased, his outlook has also improved. Mac appreciates his staff and expresses his gratitude throughout the day. Ridge Area Arc staff continue to work as a team with Mac to ensure that he maintains a healthy and active lifestyle.

*Congratulations, Mac!*



## **Community Employment Consumer of the Year**

### **Mark Rieke**

Mark is an outstanding individual who not only excels at his job, but has overcome obstacles in 2021 with amazing resiliency. Mark’s mother passed away unexpectedly in November and he also had surgery in December, which resulted in Mark having to be off of work for some time. Mark’s main duties at Walmart are on the maintenance crew. He takes the maintenance cart and goes through the aisles of Walmart cleaning the floors. Mark also tends to the restrooms to make sure they are fully stocked and clean. While on the Walmart floor, Mark helps customers with finding specific items and he does it with patience and kindness. Mark’s personality shines through when he is actively involved in his job and in assisting customers. Wherever Mark goes, a smile and a laugh follows. Even though Mark has had difficulties, they have not diminished his spirit in any way and he continues to impress his employment coaches.

*Congratulations, Mark!*



*Leslie celebrated his 80th birthday with a special visit from the staff at Sebring Raceway in October, 2021.*





Special Sports Training and Recreational Services (STARS) is a community outreach program of Ridge Area Arc.

Special STARS was formed in 2004 by a group of special athletes, families, caregivers and volunteers. STARS offers different sports and recreational activities throughout the year to children (starting at age 6) and adults with mental and physical disabilities in Highlands and the surrounding counties. All levels of disabilities are encouraged to participate as sports are adapted to the in-



dividual. Athletes can start out on a skill level designed to help them learn to play better and then move into a more competitive environment once they are more comfortable. Awards are given to everyone who competes.

All sports are free of charge to people with disabilities but medical and release forms have to be complete, on-file, and updated every three years. Special STARS relies heavily on volunteers and community donations. Opportunities include organizing or coaching various sports. Vol-

unteer can also help hand out awards, food and drinks.

### Special STARS Recreation Club

There is a Special STARS Recreation Club that offers eight social events during the year including dances, theater shows, local ball games, parties, recreational games and picnics. Club members of all ages and disabilities are encouraged to join and pay a small \$5 fee in annual dues. The club helps to direct activities through their elected officers.



# Donations

A special thank you goes out to the following individuals and organizations who provided monetary support to the agency in fiscal year 2020-21.

## \$25,000 & up

Department of Transportation  
Ridge Area Arc Foundation  
United Way of Central Florida

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

Avon Park Bingo Inc.  
Charter Communications  
Thakkar Foundation

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

Arc of U.S.  
Ms. Nancy Carr  
Duke Energy Foundation  
Highlands County Board of  
County Commissioners  
Swaine & Harris, P.A.

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

Mr. Stephen R. Aldrich  
Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Knights of Columbus #5441

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

Annett Bus Lines  
Bare Wood Market  
Colleen Chambliss  
Chris M. Campbell Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Mrs. Donna Downey  
Florida Humanities Council  
Grace and Heart OBGYN, LLC  
Dr. Steven Guelff  
Heacock Insurance  
Heartland National Bank  
Highlands Post 69 - Sons Account  
Mrs. Rebeca Rivera Jennings  
Johnson-Stivender  
Mason G Smoak Foundation  
Mrs. Debra W. McCullough  
Melwood Horticultural Training Center,  
Mid Florida Credit Union - Lake Placid  
Paul Horton DMD P.A.  
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farmer  
Schumacher Foundation Inc.  
Mr. Michael J. Sharkey  
Mr. David Singha  
Tom Perry Family Foundation  
Mrs. Marcia Ward

Waypoints Financial  
Windmill Farms Nurseries, Inc.

## \$500 to \$999

Advent Health - Sebring  
Bagwell Lumber  
Ms. Deborah Barber  
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.  
Ms. Lois Brown  
Budget Bi-Rite Insurance  
Florida Debris Management LLC  
Griffin's Carpet Mart  
William Handley  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McCullough  
Network For Good / Facebook  
Sebring Lion's Breakfast Club, Inc.  
Sevigny & Associates Eye Care  
Wheeler Farms, Inc.

## \$250 to \$499

Dr. Tina Y. Adams  
Alan Jay Automotive Management  
Dawn & Chris Dell-Gillilan  
Edward Jones Financial  
Jahna Concrete, Inc.  
Lockwood Aviation Supply  
Maritza O'Donnell  
Marian Ramsey  
Red Hats of Adelaide  
Stephenson Nelson Funeral Home

## \$100 to \$249

Mr. William C. Allbritton  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Victoria Barnard  
Mrs. Melissa Blackman  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Brown  
Bugs Bee-Ware Exterminating, Inc.  
CTO Realty Growth, Inc.  
Mr. Victor Divietro  
Mrs. Nancy Fassler  
Mrs. Fidelia J. Harstine  
Heartland Periodontics P.A.  
Mr. Richard Hebert  
Mr. Rick Helms  
Mr. George Hensley  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Horton  
Island View Restaurant & Pub

Mrs. Christen Johnson  
Just Like Home ECO-Lodge

& Resort LLC  
Mr. George Kullberg  
Julian N. Langston  
Mr. Harry R. Lentz, Jr.  
Mr. John K. McClure, P.A.  
Mid State Equipment  
Panera, LLC  
Ms. Janice Polston  
Robbins Nursery, Inc.  
Rotary Club of Avon Park - Noon #1813  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Roth  
SeedMoney  
Mrs. Johanna Seralde  
Mr & Mrs. James Snively  
Walker Memorial Academy  
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 2021 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.

Highlands Radio Group  
AdventHealth  
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.



# IN THE NEWS

## SFSC adjunct instructors at Ridge Area Arc retire

AVON PARK — Debbe Roberts and Patty Sheehan, adjunct instructors for South Florida State College's Adult Education Department, officially retired on Monday, Aug. 2.

Roberts and Sheehan provided instruction in literacy and numeracy skills through SFSC's Adult Basic Education program. SFSC has partnered with Ridge Area Arc, a local non-profit that provides services to disabled individuals, for over 30 years.

"Debbe is never without a smile on her face and is such a positive, compassionate individual," said Courtney Green, director of adult education and technical dual enrollment. "What a blessing she has been for the students she has helped over these years and she will be greatly missed. Patty has earned her retirement. Because of COVID-19, she had to learn new ways of instruction which included the Zoom virtual classroom."

Sheehan, originally from Miami, graduated from Spring Hill Jesuit College in Mobile, Alabama with a bachelor's degree in Education and Psychology in 1974. After graduation, she and her husband traveled the country by van. While on the road, Sheehan's husband received a phone call from his brother, Kevin Roberts, informing him of a job opening in Sebring, which Sheehan's husband later accepted. (Roberts currently serves on the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners.) Sheehan, later, met Arc's director, who offered her a position teaching Adult Basic Education.

After teaching at Arc for several years, Sheehan moved to Ohio, where she earned her master's degree from Kent State University. She returned to Highlands County and Arc as an ad-



junct instructor in 2018.

Roberts began teaching at Arc in 1992. Born in Nashville, Tennessee to a family of teachers, her family relocated back to their hometown of Sebring when Roberts was 2 years old. She graduated from SFSC with her Associate in Arts and earned her bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University in 1973. Roberts was asked to fill in for Sheehan when she left for Ohio in 1992.

When asked what they liked most about their jobs, Roberts said, "I, immensely, enjoy working with the students. They are just full of personality. A lot of times, you want to take them home with you. I've looked forward to going to work at this job for years and years."

Sheehan added, "Most of what we'll miss are the students. They know that we love them. We laugh and have fun and learn together. It's a wonderful way to teach."

Roberts has a long list of plans for

her retirement. With her husband in his position, she'd like to be able to attend County Commission meetings. She plans to visit their daughter, Holly, in Jacksonville more often, spend time with her mother and two other daughters who live in Sebring, take gardening classes with the local Master Gardener, and continue working on her watercolor paintings. She does sign language for a praise and worship team at Bible Fellowship Church and the music program. She hand wrote a book about an artist that traveled out West in the 1880s to make a new life for herself. Roberts is anxious to type the manuscript.

"I want to spend time with Patty, as well," she said. "She's been a friend (and a relative at one time). We love each other and we have so many things in common."

Sheehan plans to spend more time with her children and grandchildren. "I'm in the process of changing one of my rooms in my house into 'Nana's Playroom and Library,' because I have books on top of books for children. So, I want to spend time reading with my grandchildren."

Sheehan recently purchased a new bicycle that she enjoys riding. "It's a cheater's bike," she said. "It's electric. So, when I get tired, I press a button and it takes over for me. Riding to a big park, I don't last long."

Sheehan's sister is a travel agent. "If the world would straighten up, I'd love to go back to Europe. My sister and I always have a great time."

A special recognition for Roberts' and Sheehan's service was held at Ridge Area Arc on July 28.



# Grant funds TACT training for Ridge Area Arc

AVON PARK — The subject of mental health has come to the forefront of today's current events and emerging research on COVID-19 shows that the coronavirus pandemic has increased psychological distress both in the general population and among high-risk groups. Behaviors such as physical distancing, as well as their social and economic impacts, are worsening mental health consequences. There are unique stressors and challenges that could worsen mental health for people with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis.

In response to this growing challenge, Ridge Area Arc applied for and received a grant from The Highlands County Hospital District Board of Commissioners. The grant is exclusively for health services in Highlands County and funds non-profit health related programs that provide early medical intervention to avoid more serious later health costs to the county.



"Ridge Area Arc continues to partner with agencies in the community who care about the well-being of the people we serve and the Highlands County Hospital District Board is very supportive of health initiatives for local people with disabilities," said Kathleen Border, Arc CEO. "Our agency continues to arm ourselves with training that offers solutions for individuals and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

Ridge Area Arc will use these funds to provide for a TACT certified trainer and the necessary "Train the Trainer" curriculum resources. Ruby Harris, Ridge Area Arc case manag-

er and Tiffany Perry, ADT program specialist, have been selected as trainers. Classes will be provided for Arc staff, family members and any health-care community members who desire training at the agency's Adult Day Training Center.

What is TACT?

Therapeutic Alternatives in Crisis Training (TACT) provides skills to appropriately deal with behaviors and mental health issues in individuals with intellectual disabilities, such as Autism, and developmental disabilities, such as Down Syndrome, as well as others that are served by Ridge Area Arc. TACT training also provides reactive strategy skills for staff and caregivers. The skills, knowledge, and professional judgment of staff in responding to crises are critical factors in helping individuals learn constructive and adaptive ways to deal with frustration, failure, anger, rejection, hurt, fear and depression.

## Ridge Area Arc receives \$15,000 Spectrum grant

AVON PARK — Ridge Area Arc was awarded \$15,000 in February 2021 from Charter Communications and the Spectrum brand to boost communications technology to better serve the Arc clients.

Charter Spectrum representatives, Ridge Area Arc leadership and clients, elected official and members of the community were on hand for the formal presentation of the \$15,000 check from Charter/Spectrum to Ridge Area Arc.

Charter Communications Director of Communications Joe Durkin said Spectrum awards digital education grants within its 41-state footprint.

"We look to work with groups that

are making a difference in our communities," he said.

Ridge Area Arc is one of those making a difference and touching a lot of lives as a non-profit, Durkin said. Ridge Arc is bringing education and digital education and broad-band access to those who need it the most, those who are developmentally disabled and others with challenges.

"We are proud to support that part of the community that is making a difference for its members," he said.

Ridge Area Arc CEO Kathleen Boarder said recently they identified a lack of access to broadband and technology in education so Spectrum has stepped up to not only give to

the larger non-profits, but also to non-profits here in this community.

When everything pivoted to virtual during the pandemic they didn't have the capacity to do it so the grant will allow them to do that, she said. "This has made a big impact for us."

Highlands County Commissioner Kevin Roberts thanked Spectrum and noted that Arc is always on his mind because his wife has been with Arc for 30 years working with these special consumers.

"This is a fabulous non-profit organization that does great work to make a great difference in the lives of so many people," he said.

## Before You Donate

### Common Sense Tips

Before you donate to Ridge Area Arc Resale Store, use this guide to determine whether your items can be put to good use.

**Questions? Call 863-453-6072**

### ✓ **DONATE**

Clothing & shoes  
in resellable condition  
Gloves, Hats & Scarves  
Jewelry  
Handbags  
Housewares  
Pots & Pans  
Dishes, China & Silverware  
Complete  
Board Games & Toys  
DVDs & CDs  
Furniture  
Antiques

  
**The Arc**  
Ridge Area  
Resale Store  
899 W Main St  
Avon Park, FL 33825

### ✗ **DO NOT DONATE**

Broken, Malfunctioning,  
Molding items  
Stained Clothes  
Furniture with Pet Stains  
Weapons (including hunting  
knives or ammunition)  
Hazardous Chemicals - Like  
paint or household cleaners  
Expired or crashed car  
seats and helmets  
Any recalled products  
Tires or Car Batteries  
Cribs or Broken baby items  
Computer components  
Sleeper sofas  
Large exercise equipment  
Medical supplies  
and medications  
Some heavy electronics

## Resale Store

The Resale Store is located at  
899 West Main Street, Avon Park, (863) 453-6072.

Volunteer opportunities include cashier,  
sorting donations, decorating, and/or  
arranging floor displays.



## Our Mission

Serving and advocating for individuals with developmental and other disabilities so they may have the opportunity to choose and realize their goals. Ridge Area Arc in Avon Park, Florida is a private, not for profit 501(c)3 organization, which was founded in 1957 by Franklyn and Mary Ellen Ward. At the time their son, Rob, was born there were very few places to work with disabled children.

Many families sent their child away to a distant institution. The Wards did not want to send their son away and sought a way to provide the needed educational resources and training. They also realized other families in the area needed these services. Thus, the Ridge Area Arc Day School began in 1957, and served 17 children ages seven and older from Highlands county.

Arc now provides 10 services to hundreds of individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families from Highlands county.

Ridge Area Arc is a member of The Arc of the United States and The Arc of Florida. Arc is supported through private contributions and Ridge Area Arc Foundation.

## Ridge Area Arc Foundation History

A special group of investors rallied around Ridge Area Arc in 1994 making large gifts to create the Ridge Area Arc Foundation.

The mission of the Foundation is to secure funds through estate planning and other measures and invest funds specifically for endowing the programs and services of Ridge Area Arc.

The Foundation is steadfast in its belief that with the help of caring members of our community, the Ridge Area Arc will continue to provide necessary programs for people with developmental, intellectual, and other disabilities for generations to come.

## How you can help

Make a Gift to the Foundation! The following gifts are accepted: Cash; Securities—Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds; Real Estate; Life Insurance Beneficiary Designations; Charitable Remainder Trusts; Charitable Lead Trusts; Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designations; Bequests—Wills, Trusts

We appreciate your considering investing in a partnership with the Ridge Area Arc Foundation.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The information contained in this annual report was taken from the 2020-21 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 2021	FY 2020
Public Contributions	721,304	693,586
Contract	295,583	245,465
Consumer Entitlements*	43,510	31,524
Medicaid Waiver	1,639,132	1,598,270
Resale Store	193,821	187,933
Private Pay	76,518	63,615
Other Revenue	205,316	223,466
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,175,184</b>	<b>3,043,859</b>

EXPENSES	FY 2021	FY 2020
Residential	1,317,749	1,337,417
Day Service	475,171	485,852
Community Employment	66,100	51,203
Community Services	167,210	169,139
Resale	255,730	264,630
Supporting Services	389,098	360,173
Loss of disposal of assets	540	5,269
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,671,598</b>	<b>2,673,683</b>

\*Food Stamps

## PROUD PARTNERS



## RIDGE AREA ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair** Victor Divietro  
**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  
 Karla Horton  
 David Schumacher

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chair** David Schumacher  
**Vice Chair** Victor Divietro  
**Treasurer** Mary Brown  
**Secretary** Marcia Ward  
 Tina Adams  
 William Allbritton  
 Dee Dee Harstine  
 Rick Helms  
 Christen Johnson  
 Debbie McCullough  
 Joann Seralde

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**



# Thank You Highlands County!

## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE SINCE 1957



We are a non-profit charitable organization that has demonstrated excellence in providing a continuum of services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



### **Ridge Area Arc**

Best Non-Profit  
Organization (finalist)  
4352 Independence St  
Avon Park (863) 452-1295



### **Resale Store**

Best Thrift Store  
Best Antiques  
(finalist)  
899 West Main Street  
Avon Park  
(863) 453-6072

# STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION



**Thirty Years**

**Susie Hart-Bolton**

Director of  
Adult Day Training  
Services

**Twenty-Five Years**

**Debra Stratman**

Lead ADT Program  
Specialist



**Twenty Years**

Henry Lewis - Residential Assistant at Queen Palm

Heather Hull - Residential Assistant at Lotela



**2021 Avon Park Chamber of Commerce Community Involvement Award**

RIDGE AREA ARC  
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