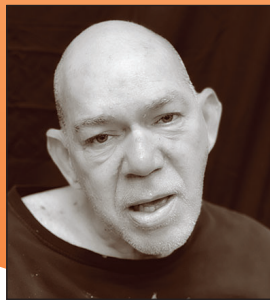
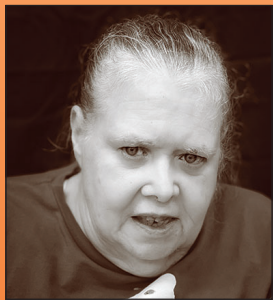
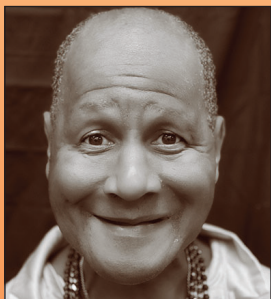


The Arc
Ridge Area



ANNUAL REPORT

4352 INDEPENDENCE ST
AVON PARK, FL 33825
863-452-1295
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 power of positivity!

Being positive does not mean that you don't have a negative experience or a negative thought, it means that you chose to see the lesson that creates the positive and the resilience in every situation. We at Ridge Area Arc have good days and bad days but we have a secret weapon to stave off the hard times and that is to hang out in activities with the people we serve. Our individuals are always ready with a smile, eager to help, treat all of the staff like heroes. It is quite a boost to your day.

I say all of this, not to make you jealous that you don't work in a place as fabulous as this but more to explain that Ridge Area Arc always has challenges; challenges in funding; challenges in regulations; challenges in the amount of work to be done versus the amount of time to do it. It is the nature of a non-profit to have obstacles but we lean into the challenges because in the end the people that we serve and fight for everyday are worth the hard work.

So if you sit there reading about the year in review for Ridge Area Arc, its consumers, staff and supporters and are thinking that you need to be part of this amazing organization, then we invite you to tour our facilities, volunteer in our teaching garden or just come spend some time with our people. I promise you will leave with a smile on your face.

Kathleen

Kathleen Border, Ridge Area Arc CEO

Community Awards

People First! Advocate

Frannie Gillilan

Highlands County Schools Special STARS Coordinator

Who can take hundreds of students, teachers, support and staff and organize them into a full day of fun, athletics and positive experiences along with transportation and logistics? Frannie Gillilan can! Thank you Frannie for your tireless efforts in putting People First! And being such an incredible advocate for students with disabilities. Congratulations!



Outstanding Community Partner

**Rev. George Miller, Emmanuel Church of Christ
Garden of Hope and MLK Day of Service Partner**



Who did we call when we needed a #MLKDay of Service partner? A man who continually offers encouragement and facilitates community partnership at every opportunity. Rev. George Miller spearheaded the Garden of Hope, a garden designed specifically for the disabled and offered Ridge Area Arc consumers the opportunity to grow their own produce and embraced Arc consumers as partners in our #MLKDay of Service projects. Thank you Rev. George! Congratulations!



Arc Hero of the Year

Heartland LakeSharks & Parrot Head Club

Who is usually the first phone call a few months before a major holiday? The Heartland LakeSharks Parrot Head Club. John and Amy Howard, along with their incredible group of friends who “Party with a Purpose” are our Heroes as they continually remember our group homes during the holidays. They hand-deliver well thought out diverse items for our consumers and do it with a smile. Thank you Heartland LakeSharks Parrot Head Club! Congratulations!



Volunteer of the Year

Bob Lipke, Resale

Who volunteers to sort and organize hundreds of donations at our Resale store with a smile on his face? Bob Lipke does!



Bob tests the donated appliances before they go into the store and is a pleasure to work with. Thank you, Bob. Congratulations!

Consumer Awards

Residential Consumer of the Year Kenneth Roberts



Kenny always lends a helping hand. He assists staff and his housemates with chores. He goes about and beyond on a daily basis and is the unofficial Ridge Area Arc campus greeter. Kenny enjoys spending time discovering



the Highlands County community with his housemates as well as working at The Garden of Hope. Thank you, Kenny for all of your hard work.

Congratulations, Kenny!

Supported Living Consumer of the Year Mark Anderson

Mark is a very enthusiastic young man that loves living on his own and having his own personal space. Mark is learning the importance of not using social media to divulge personal information as a way of meeting people of the opposite sex. Mark's coach is working hard with him and monitoring his social media page so that he's not a target for exploitation. Mark continues to be educated on identifying with ways that he can be exploited and safety while surfing the web and to prevent being taken advantage of. Mark has said that he would like to continue his support services so that he can achieve his independent living.

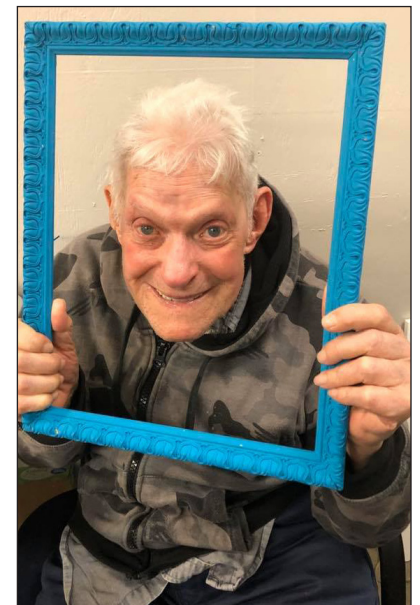
Congratulations, Mark!



ADT Consumer of the Year Lee Hughes

Lee has persevered throughout his lifetime. He has been with the ADT program for over 40 years. He is also the older consumer in our program, but you would never know it. His enthusiasm for life is unmatched. He continues to work on keeping himself healthy by exercising regularly and he also does Tai-Chi twice a week. Lee will still get up and do some hip shaking when he hears his favorite singer, Elvis Presley. He remains very independent. Lee possesses this warm and giving side, he enjoys giving to everyone. Lee has the ability to light up a room with his smile.

Congratulations, Lee!





ADT Intensive Consumer of the Year Aaron Poller

Aaron has return to the Ridge Area ADT 2020 after been gone for 8 years. Aaron has adjusted to his return to the Day Program and remembering familiar friends and faces. He enjoys walks around the track, going on outings to the Highlands Hammock, utilizing the Sensory room, and many more fun activities. Staff has voiced countless times “what a great helper he is, “how his negative behaviors have decreased”. He shares with his friends and assists staff with whatever is asked of him. Aaron’s favorite thing is helping staff with going to the snack machine selecting his personal choice and assisting with getting snack for his peers in the mornings. Ridge Area staff continue to work as team with Aaron that he maintains a healthy and active lifestyle.

Congratulations, Aaron!

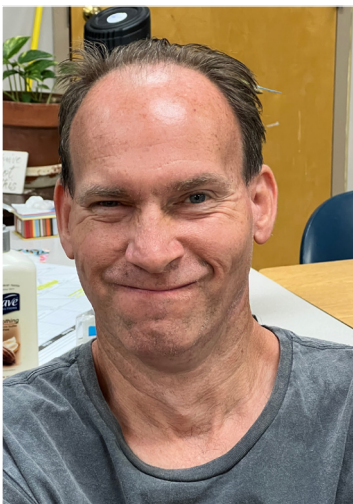


Community Employment Consumer of the Year Justin Brown



Justin is a very personable young man who loves to fish and hog hunt. He has been employed by Walmart since 2014 as a parking lot attendant. His supervisor describes him as a team player, liked by his co-workers, focused and detail oriented with his assigned tasks. He works outdoors during the hottest and rainiest Florida days and does so without complaining. Justin has a drivers license and owns his own truck which allows him the freedom he desires

and the ability to work without relying on others. Justin currently lives at home with his mother and would like to continue working at Walmart for years to come. *Congratulations, Justin!*



Resale Consumer of the Year James Jensen

During his years at Resale, Jim has always put in 100% of his time and effort. He is always smiling, respectful and willing to do what is asked of him. He is an asset to our Resale store.

Congratulations, Jim!



Donations

A special thank you goes out to the following individuals and organizations who provided monetary support to the agency in fiscal year 2021-22.

\$25,000 & up

Department of Transportation
Total Truist
United Way of Central Florida

Alan Jay Automotive Management
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McCullough
Benevity

Mr. David Schumacher
Mr. Erik Parker
Ms. Fidelia J. Harstine
AmazonSmile Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Arc of United States
Ms. Nancy Carr
Highlands County Health Facilities
Palms of Sebring Foundation

Paradise Real Estate International
Annett Bus Lines
Griffin's Carpet Mart

Ms. Linda I Connolly
Mr. Tom Nunnallee
Horseshoe Club

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Ridge Area Arc Foundation
Avon Park Bingo Inc
Highlands County Board of County
Commissioners

Nucor Steel Florida Inc
Influence Marketing Studio, LLC
Mr. William C. Allbritton
Sebring Lion's Breakfast Club, Inc
Ms. Johanna Seralde

Mr. Charles R. Schumacher
Mr. Peter McDevitt
Ms. Margaret Rhoades
Mr. William O'Donnell

Bagwell Lumber
Highlands Sertoma Club, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Bryant & Vicki Musselman
Mr. John K. McClure P.A.

Ms. Ashley Tinker
Wheeler Farms, Inc.

Smoak AG Serv
Mr. & Mrs. Gabe Clogston

Mrs. Lois Brown

Blinds ASAP of Sebring

Ms. Charlotte Stone
Ms. Katherine Swaine

\$250 to \$499

Mr. David Magowan,
American Legion - Highlands Post 69

Mr. Thomas Whitehouse
Ms. Marian Ramsey
Red Hats of Adelaide
Network For Good / Facebook

Ms. Rhonda Beckman
Mr. Harold Allbritton

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Edward Jones Financial - AP
Waypoints Financial
Ms. Marcia Ward
Mr. David Singha
Mid Florida Credit Union - LP
Mr. Stephen R. Aldrich
Mason G Smoak Foundation
Johnson-Stivender
Advent Health - Sebring
Grace and Heart OBGYN, LLC
Southwood Garage Doors
Ms. Carla Jones
Heartland National Bank
Ms. Rebeca Rivera Jennings
Brown & Brown
Tom Perry Family Foundation
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.
Caddyshack Bar & Grill
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Horton DMD P.A.

Sebring Elks, Inc.
CTO Realty Growth, Inc.
Mr. Lance Duvall
Mr. Raymond C. McIntyre
Sevigny & Assoc Eye Care
Mr. John Barben
Budget Bi-Rite Insurance
Wicks, Brown, Williams and Co.
Lockwood Aviation Supply
Mr. Gary L. Bagwell
Stephenson Nelson Funeral Home
Mr. William Handley

**Major In-Kind
Non-Cash Donations (\$500+)**
In addition to the donors below, Ridge Area Arc received many non-cash gifts in 2021-22 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.

Bernie Little Distributors
Highlands Radio Group
Highlands News-Sun
J&J Taylor Distributing
Lani's Rentals
Sealed with a X, LLC

\$100 to \$249

Ms. Tina Y. Adams
Melwood Horticultural Training Ctr, Inc.
Ms. Christen Johnson
Ms. Melissa Blackman
Heartland Periodontics P.A.
Ms. Roberta Nichols
Mr. George Hensley
Mr. Richard Farmer
Mr. James Snively
Mr. Mike Zimmerman
A. F. Alentado & Associates, Co.
Mr. Victor Divietro

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The information contained in this annual report was taken from the 2021-22 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 2022	FY 2021
Public Contributions	1,416,152	721,304
Contract	324,328	295,583
Consumer Entitlements*	6,971	43,510
Medicaid Waiver	1,604,873	1,639,132
Resale Store	200,862	193,821
Private Pay	81,100	76,518
Other Revenue	331,340	205,316
TOTAL	3,965,626	3,175,184

EXPENSES	FY 2022	FY 2021
Residential	1,458,006	1,317,749
Day Service	482,614	475,171
Community Employment	115,316	66,100
Community Services	153,496	167,210
Resale	308,228	255,730
Supporting Services	421,214	389,098
Loss of disposal of assets	0	540
TOTAL	2,938,874	2,671,598

*Food Stamps

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

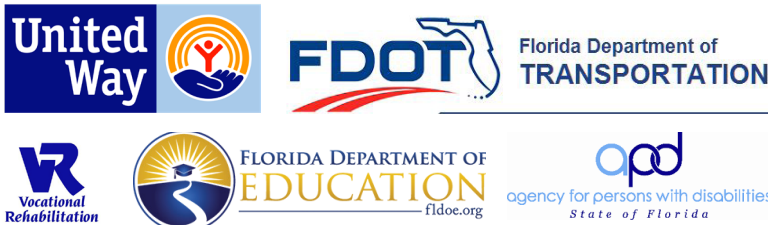
FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- 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

PROUD PARTNERS



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.

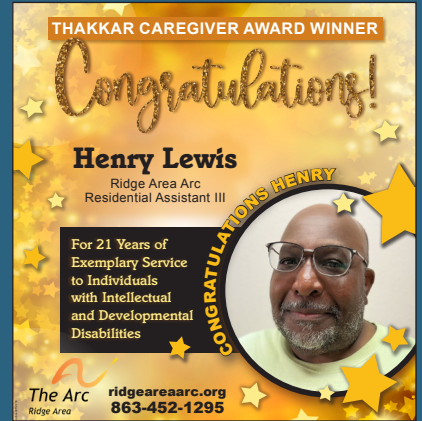
The mission of the Foundation is to secure funds through estate planning and other measures and invest funds specifically for endowing the programs and services of Ridge Area Arc.

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.



2022 STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

25 Years

Tonja Weed, Office & Facilities Manager

20 Years

Tiffany Perry, ADT Program Specialist
 Raimunda Johnson, Residential Assistant III

15 Years

Laverne Walker, Sunset Group Home Manager
 Betty Rowland, ADT Program Specialist

10 Years

Ronnie Chavis, Maintenance

5 Years

Emma Hadnot, Pleasant Group Home Manager
 Shawna Carter, Director of Residential Services & Case Management Manager

RIDGE AREA ARC
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