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**Legislative Breakfast held
September 29, 2008**

**Looking for
experience as a
Board member?**

**Do you have some
time to spend
advocating for
those with
disabilities?**

**Call the Arc office
at 773-8765, for
opportunities to
become a member
of the Arc of
Central Michigan!
We currently have
openings on our
Board. We would
love to have you!**



The Arc of Central Michigan, in conjunction with the Central Michigan RICC and the Isabella County Human Rights Committee, held a Legislative Awareness breakfast at the new Isabella County Commission on Aging building. The breakfast was designed to provide individuals with disabilities in our community the opportunity to hear legislators discuss their stand on issues. Senator Bill Caul, a representative from Senator Debbie Stabenow's office, as well as the opponent for Senator Caul's position, Nancy White, discussed issues such as transportation in our community, health care accessibility, and questions about Medicare.

The breakfast attendees included representatives from CMH, MMI, Listening Ear, RICC, Arc of Central Michigan, and individuals living in our communities. We appreciated the opportunity provided to us by the Central Michigan RICC to provide this forum for people in our communities. We also thank the Isabella County Commission on Aging, for graciously allowing us the opportunity to use their spacious facilities!

Recent Arc of Central Michigan Events

Arc of Central Michigan holds Harvest Dance

The Arc of Central Michigan's fourth annual Harvest Dance was held on Sunday, November 9th 2008 at the VFW in Clare. We rocked the house, with more than 80 attendees! There were individuals that came from both Isabella and Clare County, and even though it was snowing, we had a blast! This was our best attendance for this event. A big thank you goes out to our Community Living and Outreach subcommittee for coordinating this event! We also thank the Access to Recreation staff, who graciously took pictures during the Dance. Arc Board members who attended included: Ellen Fuller, Chris Mikulin, Lis Cogbill, Sarah Geisert, and Anne Ramirez. Thank you to Chris Tait for all of your help in setting up and cleaning up!



CONGRATULATIONS TO KIM BROWN
ON BEING THE FIRST PERSON FROM
MICHIGAN TO BE ELECTED AS ARC
U.S. TREASURER!



Other News

The Arc of Central Michigan held a hot dog stand fundraiser at the Glen's Market in Clare on September 20th, 2008, after our previous date was rained out. We were able to raise \$120 from our efforts, and this money was donated to the Clare county Moose lodge to assist them in their annual Christmas party. This event is provided for individuals with disabilities in Clare County.

Independent Facilitation training was held on Monday November 17th from 9-12:30pm at the MidMichigan Industries building in Mt. Pleasant. This training discusses person centered planning and tools used during meetings. Individuals who were interested in serving Isabella and Mecosta counties attended this training. Nancy Hartshorne, former Arc Board member and current instructor at Central Michigan University, was the featured speaker.

Autistic Self Advocacy Network starts online group for teens with Autism

A new yahoo group has just been created to be open exclusively for adolescents and teens on the autism spectrum, offering an opportunity for autistic adolescents and teens to interact in a supportive, autistic-friendly Internet environment. It is sponsored by the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, an international non-profit organization run by and for autistic adults and youth, working to advance neurodiversity, disability rights and autistic culture.

Group Rules:

1. To join you must be on the autism spectrum (self-diagnosed individuals are welcome) and at least 13 years of age.
2. Be respectful of your fellow list members.
3. Do not re-post messages outside of the list.
4. If you have a question, feel free to ask.
5. Do not engage in personal attacks against other list members.

The list will be closely moderated by adults from the Autistic Self Advocacy Network to ensure that all list content remains legal, age-appropriate, free of spam and solicitation, and in compliance with the group rules.

To join the group, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASANTeens> , click the "Join this group" button, and follow the instructions.

For more information, contact list moderator Dora Raymaker at dora@aaspireproject.org.

New Medicaid Clinic opens in Mecosta County

A new dental clinic has opened in Big Rapids! Their target population is Medicaid, MI Child, and individuals with income less than 200% of poverty. It is located at the Michigan Community Dental Clinics at 14435 Northland Drive, Big Rapids. Their phone number is toll free at 1-866-796-3677, or 231-796-3617. This new clinic offers additional choice for individuals with Medicaid coverage that must travel for dental care.

We would like to say thank you to those members who have renewed their membership with the Arc of Central Michigan, in addition to welcoming new members!

Ellen Fuller
Dennis Fox and Susie Brown
Rich Young
George Rouman
Bob Gustin
Chris Mikulin
Lis Cogbill
Scott Roberson

Marilyn Zerbe
Nancy and Tim Hartshorne
Kim Brown
Michele Chapman
Yulanda Bellingar
Lacey Coulson
Elaine Leis
Anne Ramirez

Jane Zientek
David Stow
Sue Poindexter
Sarah Giesert
Dennis Rhoads
Sheryle Dixon
carol Moody

**Arc of Central Michigan
Board of Directors 2008-2009**

Executive Committee

President: Ellen Fuller
Vice President: Rich Young

Secretary: Michele Chapman
Treasurer: Chris Mikulin

Directors

Kim Brown
Michele Chapman
Dennis Fox
Ellen Fuller
Dennis Rhoads
Chris Mikulin
Sharon Quinlan
Rich Young

Susie Brown
Lis Cogbill
Elaine Leis
Sarah Geisert
Cindy Seger
Susan Poindexter
Anne Ramirez

Executive Director:

Anne Marie Koelbel, M.S.

Corporate Memberships:

Isabella County Transportation Corp.

The Arc Of Central Michigan

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The Arc of Central Michigan exists to assure that citizens with disabilities are valued and that they and their families can participate fully in and contribute to the life of their community.