



## Then and Now and Someday

Maureen Westcott, Executive Director

I have been going through our Archives (thanks to Michele Stiefel for taking time to organize and catalog them for us). Past news articles from the 1960's and onward show a glimpse into a world where people with disabilities were not considered part of our communities, but rather a segment of the population that we should nicely make room for and help to, perhaps someday, become participating members of society. Phrases used such as (I am including the original language):

- *teaching trainable youngsters who do not have the capacity to attend regular school classes*
- *because of their limited mental ability, they have benefited as much as they ever will*
- *legally and morally, there's an obligation to treat, train, and even employ these people*
- *Mental Subnormality is now the correct term; Imbecile and Idiot are being replaced*

Reading the articles made me realize the changes that have been made through the advocacy of families and supporters. The Arc families have been central to some of these changes (see historical documents on The Arc PA's website <https://thearcpa.org/resources/historical-documents/>).

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### Diverse Abilities Training (DAT) Feedback:

"A student spoke up in class about his autism. He related his personal journey to our presentation. We were able to have an open dialog after the presentation about people in their lives with disabilities. It was great to hear students sharing!"

Program costs are underwritten by memberships, donations, and grants and supported by Lancaster County BHDS and Lebanon County MH/ID/EI, allowing us to offer our services at no charge. To stay fiscally sound, we make sure our support is diversified. The annual Gala and Auction is budgeted to bring in \$30,000 and **we cannot do that without your help**. Please take time to sign up to bid on items and share the auction site with your colleagues, friends and family. There are still seats available for the Gala which is a fun evening of food and fellowship, allowing us to share our mission and work. If you cannot come, perhaps you can purchase a ticket for someone else. Would your place of business be interested in becoming a sponsor or an advertiser in our program? People need The Arc to be here **but we cannot do that without your donations and memberships**. Thank you for the support given over the last 60+ years. Let's make sure we can go another six decades!

## OUR MISSION

Empowering people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Autism and their families to lead full, satisfying, independent lives of their choice.

# Save the Date!

## THE ARC LANCASTER LEBANON'S ANNUAL SPRING Gala & Auction

Saturday, May 6, 2023

BENT CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

Sign up to bid or purchase tickets at [bidpal.net/arcgala](https://bidpal.net/arcgala)



### Auction Sign-up Instruction with Link:

<https://one.bidpal.net/arcgala/welcome>

1. Select **SIGN IN** on the upper right corner
2. On the Sign In screen, select **SIGN IN WITH EMAIL**
3. Enter Email address
4. Create a password
5. Enter information:
  - a. Mobile number
  - b. Name
  - c. Address
6. Select **NEXT**
7. Select **ADD A CREDIT CARD**

**NOTE:** If a credit card is not added when creating an account, it can be added to the profile under **CREDIT CARDS**

## Your voice is needed!

From The Arc PA: The Intellectual Disabilities and Autism ID/A system is in crisis. Nearly 60,000 Pennsylvanians with ID/A are at risk of losing or experiencing a reduction of essential services because there are not enough Direct Support Professionals DSPs to care for them. The investment of \$430 million in 2023-2024 state budget will relieve the tremendous strain being placed on individuals and families who can't get the services they need and will enable ID/A providers to offer competitive wages to retain and attract DSPs.

We need you to share your story with local legislators! The Arc Lancaster Lebanon is here to help you make the connection and will go with you or set up a virtual link. If we want the state to invest in our families, then it is important that they know what your life looks like when you cannot get the support needed. Contact Maureen [maureen@thearcclancleeb.org](mailto:maureen@thearcclancleeb.org) to be involved.

## Member Highlight

We would like to thank our outgoing board members this year for their dedicated support to the mission of The Arc: **Yvonne Tejada**, **Lucy Dowd**, and **Lorita Valente**. THANK YOU!



Yvonne Tejada



Lucy Dowd



Lorita Valente

The Arc Lancaster Lebanon staff and board are such passionate champions of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. Serving alongside them has been humbling and deeply gratifying. I'm proud of the work we do at The Arc to protect the civil rights of self-advocates and to support their families. I am also greatly appreciative of all I have learned. Thanks to my work with The Arc, I am a more effective ally of the ID/D and Autism community and I look forward to continuing our efforts to empower members of the ID/D and Autism community to lead full, satisfying lives of their choosing. - Yvonne Tejada

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Today, people with disabilities are defining their lives in a way that suits them. We know employment with competitive wage, independent living, and inclusion in regular education classes are not only for the select few but for everyone. Secondary education is no longer a novelty and terms have become more respectful.

It saddens my heart to see after 60 years we are still fighting some of the same fights, and we still have the same needs. I was told when I started in statewide advocacy that changes are made in decades not days. After six decades shouldn't we be further along? The current staffing crisis (do you know about that?) has led to a waiting list within a waiting list meaning someone might be able to get a Waiver for funding but then must wait until a Provider has enough staff to serve them. A person might choose to live in their own apartment, but can they find affordable housing?

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LUCY DOWD LAW



To end on a positive note, this headline from **March 1962: Parents Form Group to Aid Retarded Children**. An association to deal with the problems of the mentally retarded in Lancaster County was formed. Forty parents attended the opening session. The group will be titled, "Lancaster Association for Retarded Children LARC". This is the first mention of The Arc Lancaster Lebanon being formed! The agency has pivoted over the years in the supports and services we provide, but we have always been a chapter to provide Advocacy, helping people connect to the services and supports they need and helping empower generation after generation.

We have never charged for our services but instead found support through memberships, donations, and fundraisers. Are you a member? If not, please join! Have you signed up for our Auction or registered to come to our Gala on May 6? Such a fun night and all donations will support our programs and allows us to be here another 60 years!



## Lancaster Lebanon

116 W. Airport Road, Suite A  
Lititz, PA 17543

Return Receipt Requested

## Ways to Support The Arc

### Become a Member

Your membership supports our programs for Lancaster and Lebanon residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism and their families.

Learn more at:

[thearcclancleb.org/membership](http://thearcclancleb.org/membership)

### Make a Donation

Donate online at [thearcclancleb.org/support](http://thearcclancleb.org/support) or mail a check made payable to "The Arc Lancaster Lebanon".

## Your Team at The Arc

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## We're Here for You!

"We are very grateful for all the support you've given my brother this year."

## Our Board

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James Podgorney, Morcom Law  
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\*Has a family member or is a person with a disability