



# End of Year Update

Maureen Westcott, Executive Director

Well, here we are at the end of 2023! Our program participants are having a great time connecting and learning. Check out the pictures on the insert!

- **Arc Angel gift program** started in September. It takes a lot of coordination to get the names and wants of the **528 individuals** receiving the gifts, getting their lists in a way that protects the recipient's personal information to the Angels buying the gifts, getting the gifts backed to us tagged so that we know which gifts go to whom and then contacting the Supports Coordinators to come get the gifts for the people on their caseloads. Whew!
- **IM4Q Independent Monitoring for Quality** is up and running! The purpose of IM4Q is to understand how people feel about their lives and the services they receive, allowing decision makers at state and county levels and service providers to engage in quality improvement. Data provided in the reports highlight areas of strength and where improvement is possible. The 2022 reports for Lancaster and Lebanon County showing comparisons between the state are found on page 4.
- **Advocacy and Trainings** are the core of what we do. Advocacy needs have increased and we are trying to meet the requests by offering recordings of our trainings on our YouTube page. The latest training uploaded was on IEPs given by Amy Fisher. Links to the recordings are found on our home page. Our Advocacy and Family Support helped over 200 people (many with multiple meetings) and over 25% of them reached out to us through our newly implemented online Advocacy Request form.
- Did you know **PA ABLE** families are able to do payroll deductions to go into their child's ABLE account? A great way to expand your child's resources. And don't forget the PA tax credit for contributions to PA ABLE accounts. See page 2.
- **Gala and Auction** planning has begun! This is our major fundraiser which gives us the ability to serve the folks through our Advocacy and Programs at no charge. We need your help! Please consider donating an item or gift certificate for the auction or introducing us to a potential sponsor. Perhaps you can attend the Gala held at the Bent Creek Country Club on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 6 to 9 pm. It is a fun evening with good food, fun, and sharing from program participants. Watch for more information coming soon!
- Can you help us to make connections? The Arc can present to your employer's **DEI Diversity committee** or HR managers about hiring people with disabilities or how to support families who have a child with a disability.

**Annual Report:** See page 5 for an overview of The Arc's 2023's overview of support and expenses. We appreciate all who believe in our work and contribute through memberships, donations, or participating in our Fundraisers.

Donate online at [thearcclancleeb.org/donate](https://thearcclancleeb.org/donate), or mail a check made payable to "The Arc Lancaster Lebanon."

On behalf of all the individuals and families we serve ... **THANK YOU!**

# Events



Thank you to the 100+ donors who gave during this year's ExtraGive event helping us to meet 70% of our goal!

We are grateful for your ongoing support, which enables us to provide services and programs for people with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism. Your generosity helps us to enhance their quality of life and promote their independence.

## PA Department of Health Report

The COVID-19 pandemic was devastating for people with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and the entire disability community. Solving health disparities faced by people with disabilities starts with their involvement in policy making and healthcare decisions, according to a new report from the COVID-19 Health Disparities Task Force facilitated by The Arc of PA. It includes 10 core solutions specific to the Department of Health, and 15 additional recommendations that require action from or cooperation between other/different state departments. Contributors to the report included people with lived experience of a disability, caretakers, and family members of those with a disability, and professionals in support fields. The Arc Lancaster Lebanon facilitated the regional workgroups for Lancaster, Lebanon, and Dauphin Counties.

You can order free COVID tests through [special.usps.com/testkits](https://special.usps.com/testkits).

For more information: [thearcpa.org/healthcare-initiatives](https://thearcpa.org/healthcare-initiatives)



Mark your calendars now for The Arc Lancaster Lebanon Gala & Auction on **Saturday, April 13, 2024!**

We have begun collecting auction items for our Online and In-Person Auction. Please contact us to ensure appropriateness before dropping items off at our office.

We appreciate your donations!



## Ask Your Employer to Offer PA ABLE Payroll Deduction to Enhance Their Employee's Lives

Individuals with disabilities can contribute to a PA ABLE account simply and easily every time they are paid.

In the same way your employer can deposit part of your paycheck into a savings, checking, or investment account, employers can contribute employee's pay into PA ABLE.

An ABLE account can receive contributions up to \$18,000 per year in 2024, or even more for those employed and who haven't contributed to certain types of investments.

Learn more at [PAABLE.gov](https://PAABLE.gov) or call 855-529-ABLE (2253) to request more information or free brochure.



# Program Update

## The Arc Academy



## Arc Angel



## SibTalk



## Winter Party



**Thank You** to everyone who joined us at our first Winter Party! From cookies to Santa and The Grinch to the indoor snowball fight... The party was a huge success!

From all of us at The Arc Lancaster Lebanon



# 2022 IM4Q Report

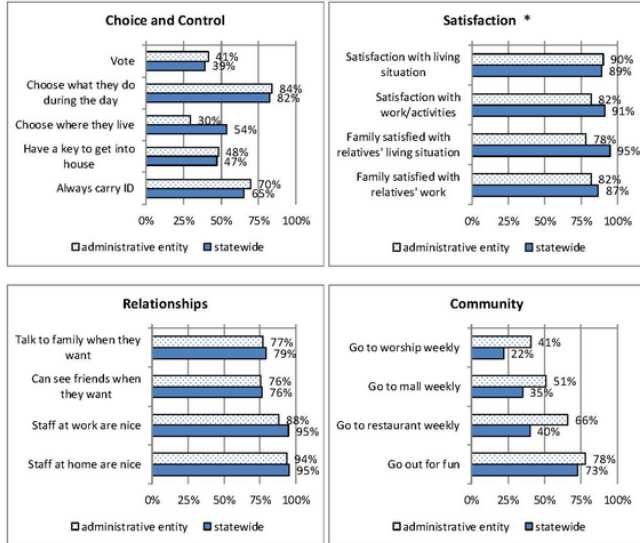
## Independent Monitoring for Quality Lancaster AE Summary 2022



Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) visits with adults and children age three and over who are supported by the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP).

IM4Q sends interviewers to talk to people who live in licensed community homes. Interviews are also conducted with people who live with their family, life-sharing families, independently, in intermediate care facilities (ICFs/MR), nursing facilities and personal care homes.

Reports created from Independent Monitoring for Quality interviews are shared with provider agencies, administrative entities/counties, and the Planning Advisory Committee for the Office of Developmental Programs for purposes of improving peoples' quality of life. This information presents some of the findings from the 2021-22 report that compare administrative entity and statewide results. For a full report please contact your administrative entity/county or go to the Office of Developmental Programs website at [MyODP.org](http://MyODP.org).



\*Satisfaction research demonstrates that people report high levels of satisfaction with whatever they have.

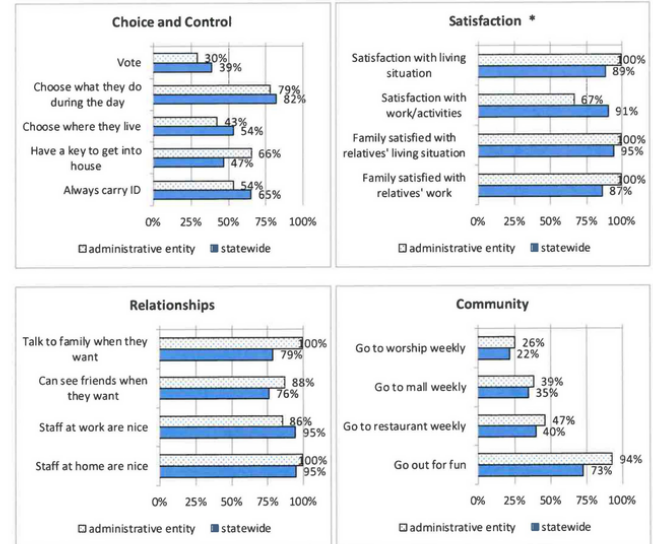
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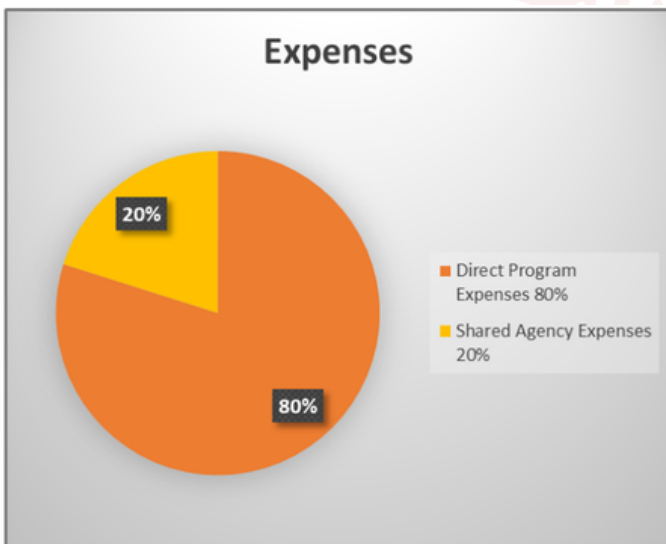
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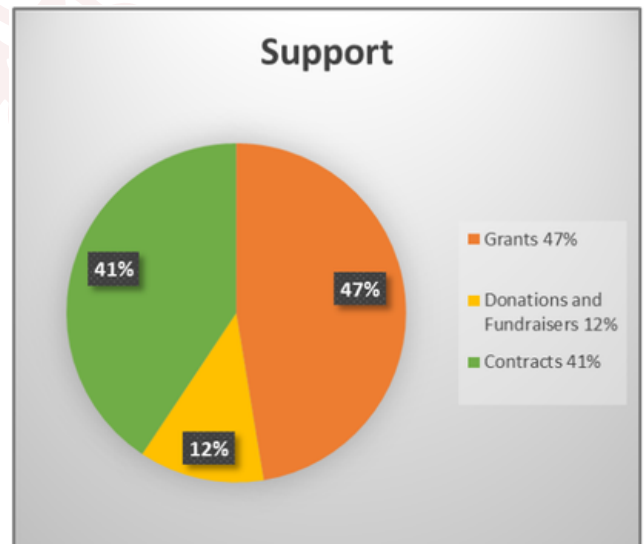
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# 2023 Annual Financial Overview

## Expenses



## Support



The Arc Lancaster Lebanon served over 250 people in 2023.





On Wednesday, November 15th, Maureen Westcott was presented with the Executive Excellence Award.

Maureen has been The Arc Lancaster Lebanon's Executive Director since 2013. As a timeless and committed advocate, when she sees a need, she works to meet it. She engages and collaborates with local community and business leaders to ensure the needs of individuals with disabilities are considered in important decisions in both Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

The steadfast dedication to empowering people with IDD to live the life of their choosing that Maureen shares with those she works with in the community and beyond is respected, appreciated, and admired.

Congratulations, Maureen!

## Our Mission

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

We are so proud of Self-Advocate Hannah and her mom Rowena who testified at a hearing with Senator Bob Casey about the importance of Social Security. Hannah and Rowena shared their experiences with Social Security over the past 10 years and how it helps support Hannah living independently in her community. Hannah shared that Social Security helps her with rent, transportation, and getting the things she needs.

Amy Fisher, in her role as Chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) had an opportunity to meet with PA's Secretary of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin. She joined Dr. Carole Clancy, Director of the Bureau of Special Education and members of the SEAP Executive Committee to present Secretary Mumin with SEAP's 2022-23 Annual Report. The report details the panels work to advise on the needs of students receiving special education across Pennsylvania.





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- \$1000 Organization Affiliation



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## YOUR TEAM AT THE ARC

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## The Arc Testimonials

### Community Education

"One of the biggest obstacles regarding having a child with special needs is the lack of information. It is nice to know that when I have questions, I can ask The Arc and they will help me find an answer or direct me to where I can look for one."

### DAT Program

"I loved that our presenters mentioned that people with disabilities CAN do things, but they do it in a different way." -2nd Grade Teacher