February 2023 NEWSLETTER

9th Annual Bullying Prevention Poster Contest Winners!

Greeley-Evans School District 6 winners came from all over the district! Winners attend D6 Online Academy, Billie Martinez Elementary and Ann K Heiman Elementary!

Weld RE-4 School District continued to have an enormous number of talented submissions from Windsor Middle School! Congratulations to all of the 2022 winners!

You are invited!

SOAR

What is SOAR? SOAR is a class that provides individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn about healthy relationships and prevent sexual violence through engaging activities, discussions, and presentations.

Class Topics May Include:
- Boundaries & communication
- Touching rules & safety steps
- Consent
- Public vs. private
- Safe, unsafe, & unwanted touching
- Online safety & much more!

Join us for an Open House on February 16th from 3:30-5pm at The Arc of Weld County office to learn more about SOAR classes facilitated by SAVA, that will be offered Spring 2023. If you cannot make it in person, a virtual Open House will be held February 21st from 6-6:30pm. RSVP or get the link by contacting Leticia Arguello at leticia@arcweldcounty.org or 970-353-5219 ext. 1.

Co-hosted by:

The Arc of Weld County

SAVA Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center
The Arc of Weld County

Adult Self-Advocate Group

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2023

February 16th, 2023  3:30-5pm  5312 West 9th Street Drive, Suite 150, Greeley, CO 80634
February 21st, 2023  6:30-8pm  Via virtual platform, please RSVP to receive the link

Join us to learn about SOAR as facilitated by SAVA, classes anticipated this Spring. What is SOAR? SOAR provides individuals with IDD the opportunity to learn about healthy relationships and prevent sexual violence via activities, discussions, and presentations.

March 2023-12th Annual Achieve with Us Film Festival
March 29th, 2023, with in person and virtual showings.

In person showings at 10am and 1pm Greeley Central High School Auditorium: 1515 14th Ave, Greeley. Parking and entrance info: park in either of the West parking lots and enter through West auditorium door between the parking lots.

Virtual showing at 6pm (must RSVP to receive link). Virtual viewers gathering in groups of 5 or more will receive party packs to enjoy together! RSVP by March 1st to receive party packs.

April 2023- Virtual Planning Meeting
April 25th, 2023  6-7pm  Via virtual platform, please RSVP to receive the link

We will gather virtually to plan activities for both in person and virtual activities for the upcoming months. Be sure to be there so your voice and preferences are heard!

To RSVP for any of the events or receive additional information please contact Leticia Arguello at 970-353-5219 ext 1 or leticia@arcweldcounty.org

The Arc of Weld County

12th Annual Achieve with Us Film Festival

In celebration of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
Sponsored by Walt Ford
In honor of Greeley High School’s final class of 1965

There is still time to create & submit a film
We are seeking local film submissions to be featured for our in person and virtual film festival to be hosted on March 29th, 2023. Submission deadline March 1st, 2023

Top two film submissions win a $500 prize!

Surprise name change will be revealed
You won't want to miss being part of this historic event as we honor our community!

Join us at the film festival on March 29th, 2023 with in person and virtual options available

In person showings at 10am and 1pm
Greeley Central High School Auditorium: 1515 14th Ave, Greeley
Parking & entrance info: park in employee parking lot & enter through West auditorium door between the parking lots.

Virtual showing at 6pm (must RSVP to receive Zoom link)
Virtual viewers gathering in groups of 5 or more will receive party packs to enjoy while watching the virtual film festival! Must RSVP by March 1st, 2023 to receive party pack.

Hosted by:

The Arc of Weld County

Find Your Purpose

Volunteer for the 2023 Families in Action Weekend

Families in Action is a weekend retreat to support families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The weekend is filled with opportunities for families to come together to learn, laugh, and share in the experiences of others. It’s a weekend that will feature a variety of activities, including workshops, games, and more. The event is open to all families, and there is no cost to attend. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the event, please contact us at 970-353-5219 ext 1 or leticia@arcweldcounty.org.
I got to volunteer for the first time at 2020 FIA. It was such a good time and felt good to help the student I was partnered with. When I first signed up I was concerned about getting up there and having certain ideas for the 'away-like experience.' Lettie and Debbie made sure I got everything I needed and got there and back home. The Arc really cares for both the families and the volunteers that participate at FIA.

Mary C.

For more information contact Debbie Fatomiloye at debbie@arcweldcounty.org or (970) 353-5219 x 5.

Family Volunteer Spotlight
The Moos Family

Melissa Moos is a Colorado native, born and raised on the Front Range and attending college at CSU. Moving to Sterling after graduation for a job opportunity, she married Darren and had two beautiful daughters, Claire and Bridget. Not long after, they were able to purchase a farm of their own.

Claire was born with Down syndrome, but that is the least amazing thing about her. She is a thriving middle school student who loves the variety of teachers and subjects. She is an athlete, enjoying volleyball and basketball, and loves to cook. She is a dedicated rule follower, however, life doesn’t always feel the rules apply to her, earning her a reputation for being a future tax collector. Nevertheless, she envisions her future surrounded by babies, perhaps as a pediatrician, nurse, or daycare provider. In fact, if you happen to meet Claire, she will likely introduce you to her baby “Henry,” whom she is rarely without unless she is presenting her lambs for 4-H at the Logan County Fair, then she must get a sitter!

Bridget is two years younger than Claire and with similar interests and hobbies, except cooking! Instead, she would rather channel her creative abilities into theater, most recently by joining a local children’s musical production. Those who knew her describe her as dramatic and being very imaginative with science experiments and concoctions. She is a budding actress with a love for the outdoors and bugs, which she frequently brings home and keeps alive in her bedroom.

Melissa and her family first became involved with The AWC in 2015. Taking a leap of faith, when they attended our 2nd annual Families in Action (FIA) retreat in Estes Park, Colorado. At the time, the family knew very little about The AWC and even less about FIA. Although they love travel and road trips, they never do so in the summer months; ranchers have much more pressing matters to attend to on the farm. However, FIA was meant to be! The whole family attended, and the rest is more than just history.

The entire family became members following the retreat, with Melissa joining the board in 2016. Since then, Melissa has become our agency’s board treasurer and supports the finance committee and the northeast region planning committee.

With roots so deeply planted in Colorado, Melissa and her family understand the unique value and opportunity for families caring for someone with disabilities and how the support of a close-knit community can make all the difference. When thinking about the future, the Moos family is very focused on the community becoming more disability focused, beyond just parental engagement. As their girls grow into adulthood, the family has adult focused goals for both girls including jobs which in turn creates opportunities for independent living, home ownership, and community connections. As people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the highest unemployment rate of anyone, across not only our service region but our nation, the Moos family understands the challenges ahead for their young children. However, with community allies, such as The AWC, they are confident the future is bright for everyone to participate fully in their community as they self-determine.

As the family would say, “Be brave, be strong, but most importantly be kind” and “The Arc of Weld County couldn’t agree more!”

Thank you, Moos family, for being such a vital part of our organization and community.
Happy 9-year work anniversary to you, Mr. Ryan Akers!

If you know Ryan, you know him as a caring, compassionate professional, which makes him such an amazing Community Ambassador and Office Assistant for The Arc of Weld County. Ryan’s favorite part of his job is helping The AWC spread the word on who we are and what we do, and he also loves building relationships throughout the 7 counties we serve. Another big part to Ryan’s job is keeping our office organized and he does a great job!

Did you also know that Ryan owns his own business called “Plants Alive”? If you didn’t, we recommend you ask him about it, your green thumb just might improve with some of his great advice.

Ryan, thank you for your big heart, positive attitude, and for doing your part to help The AWC grow and flourish like you do with your plants.

The AWC is proud of you and the work you do!

Leticia Arguello

Celebrating 9 years with The Arc of Weld County, supporting the mission and making our world a better place for people with IDD, their families, and the community. Leticia knows it takes a village, or maybe a family, to make lasting impactful change.

Amelia Benavidez

Leticia’s passion for people with IDD extends to her daughter, a volunteer of 9 years too! Leticia understands the best way to make long-term meaningful change, is to groom future community advocates, just like Amelia!
Debbie Fatomiloye

Time sure fly's when you are having fun!

Debbie has been part of The Arc of Weld County for one
marvelous year now! During this time it has been a pleasure for
the staff to get to know her. She is incredibly creative and
compassionate about serving her community in a variety of ways
and it does not stop with her job duties.
as she is an active volunteer outside of The Arc as well!

Debbie is a busy mom who encourages imagination and
philanthropy, we have had the opportunity to benefit from one of
her wonderful daughters assisting us with volunteerism.

Debbie’s favorite thing about this last year has been the people!
“Amazing co-workers, supervisors, the Board members, self-
advocates and community! Really getting to be part of a group
of people who speak up and advocate for those with IDD.”

-Debbie

Volunteerism has opened the doors for me to see where I could use my gifts, talents and
abilities. I get to see a broader perspective on life and it gives me more compassion, bigger
ears to listen, experiences, knowledge and wisdom in my career and personal life. AND
hopefully to pass along to my kids and others!” -Debbie

Happy One-Year
Anniversary!

CONNECT WITH US!!!

Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and
LinkedIn to stay up to date about what is going on at
The Arc of Weld County!!

[970.353.5219] [www.arcweldcounty.org]

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Greeley, CO 80634
(970) 353-5219

We also serve the following Northeastern County Locations:
( Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Yuma, Washington & Sedgwick counties)
please call (970) 353-5219 ext 1 to set an appointment.