



***Achieve with us.***

## 2017 Annual Report

Dear Members and Friends of The Arc Michigan:

I am pleased and honored to serve as The Arc Michigan's Board President. This year continued to be a year of persistent public policy advocacy. This will likely continue as we fight the "profitization" and privatization of the public mental health system here in Michigan as pilots are planned. One small victory is noted, as the date for implementation has been delayed until October 2019.

As with every year it seems the state of Michigan and the federal government continue to look for ways to save money and to cut services to Michigan's most vulnerable populations. We again must not forget that Michigan's constitution provides that the services and public health of people with disabilities will "always be fostered and supported." The Arc intends to make sure that everyone remembers this fact.

The Arc continues to create a more inclusive and independent life for individuals with disabilities through public policy and systems advocacy. The Arc Michigan remains diligent in the transition plan to implement the Home and Community Based Services rules. We will continue The Arc Michigan's education efforts through training and support that provide relevant information which increases awareness and understanding of the varied facets of disabilities and their impact on persons and their families. Finally, we will continue to fight for increased direct care wages and for general fund dollars to be put back in the mental health system.

The Arc Michigan knows our strength lies in the partnerships we have with our 30 local chapters and our many advocacy partners across the state. Together we can continue to accomplish great things. And continue to "fight the good fight" as they say. To keep the energy, direction and efforts going, we will continue to need your help.

Thank you very much for all you do.

*Ron Kimball*

Ron Kimball  
President

*SBoyd*

Sherri Boyd  
Executive Director



**Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)** provides information, education and support for families with students (from birth to age 26) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education or early intervention services.

The work of MAF is done by Regional Parent Mentors (RPMs) and supported by central Information and Referral staff, all of whom are family members of individuals with disabilities. Regional Parent Mentors can connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children's educations and mentor them in becoming a more active participant in their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). Mentors had 3,463 meetings with parents to review/prepare for IFSPs or IEPs or help problem solve an issue a parent was facing. MAF helps facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. ***No matter where you are in Michigan, you can connect with a Regional Parent Mentor in your part of the state.***

Regional Parent Mentors host learning opportunities for parents and the professionals working with them. MAF trainers, along with our state partners and RPMs offered 129 in-person Learning Opportunities last year. We had a total of 1,931 participants, of whom 894 were parents, 992 were professionals, and 21 were students with a disability. 24% self-identified as a minority.

Topics include:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Transition: Leaving *Early On*
- Preparing for High School and Beyond
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Parent and Educational Partnerships: Building Collaborative Communication Skills Together
- Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy
- Serving on Local Special Education Committees
- Rethinking Guardianship

MAF offers online learning as well. Families can watch 40+ different webinar presentations at home, at their own pace at [www.youtube.com/michiganalliance](http://www.youtube.com/michiganalliance)

Almost all of our webinar presentations have been closed-captioned through a partnership with Michigan Department of Education's Center for Educational Networking (CEN).

Families can access many resources at [www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org), by calling 1.800.552.4821 or by emailing [info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

Michigan Alliance for Families keeps in touch with Families via a monthly e-newsletter and a regional event notification system. Not signed up? Go to: [www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/newsletter](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/newsletter)

MAF is funded by grants from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs as our state's Parent Training and Information Center.

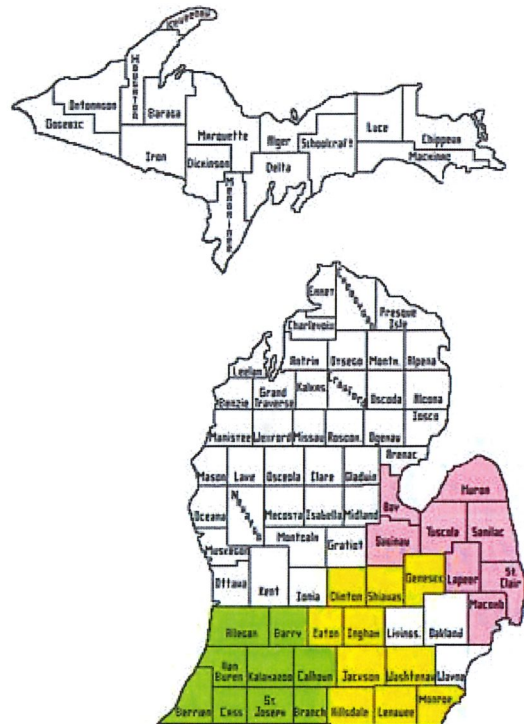


A project to assist people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

- to understand and use work incentives in beginning or returning to work,
- to correctly report wages, including those from self-employment, and expenses that may reduce countable income,
- to understand the impact of work on Medicaid and Medicare coverage,
- to understand the relationship of work to disability benefits, other state and federal benefits, such as food and housing assistance, Veteran’s Administration benefits or Unemployment Insurance, and
- to improve individual financial outcomes.

On August 1, 2015, the Arc Michigan began a new five year WIPA project, granted by the Social Security Administration and serving 27 counties through three regional hubs. Between January 1, and December 31, 2017, we provided services to 450 individuals, 217

of whom were referred to full WIPA services, and over 150 received in-depth Benefits Summary and Analysis reports to assist in achieving their goals.



2015-2020 Regional Hubs

The site is located at: <http://miwipa.org>  
Cathy McRae, the project coordinator, can be reached at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or [cathy.mcrae@arcmi.org](mailto:cathy.mcrae@arcmi.org)

## Dignified Lifestyles Program

In FY 2017, participating chapters interviewed 92 individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members or guardians about their experience with the person-centered planning process as part of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Site Review Process. Staff from participating chapters also provided training in their communities to help improve person-centered planning. This was the final year of the project.

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## **SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP GRANT ENDS AFTER FIVE YEARS**



**Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA)** was a leadership development project, which commenced January 1, 2013 and concluded September 30, 2017. It was funded by a grant from the MI Developmental Disabilities Council awarded to The Arc Michigan with the goal of creating and supporting the next generation of disability rights leaders and activists. Utilizing a curriculum that

accommodated diverse learning styles, intensive training was provided to adults with developmental disabilities and parents of minor children with developmental disabilities. Students in each of the nine (9) LIPA cohorts participated in monthly classroom-style sessions for six (6) months, during which they gained knowledge and skills that prepared them to assume leadership roles in shaping disability policy at the local, state and federal levels. They also increased their abilities to obtain needed supports and services for themselves and/or family members. These gains were documented in pre- and post-training surveys.

The Arc Michigan organized face-to-face training sessions and contracted with top experts from disability-related fields to share state-of-the art information about the topics listed below.

<b>Disability History</b>	<b>Inclusive Education</b>
<b>Independent Living</b>	<b>Systems of Care</b>
<b>Assistive Technology</b>	<b>Structures and Functions of Government</b>
<b>Customized Employment</b>	<b>Public Speaking</b>
<b>Self-determination</b>	<b>Supported Decision-making</b>
<b>Person-Centered Planning</b>	<b>Systems Change</b>

The monthly sessions were held on Fridays and Saturdays and included 15 hours of scheduled presentations, group work, role-play and discussion each weekend. All the training weekends were held in hotels with accessible rooms and meeting space. Homework assignments were given each month, with the tasks geared toward building communication and research skills.

A total of 108 people successfully completed the training, including 70 parents of minor children with DD and 38 adults with DD. It was notable that seven parent-graduates had a developmental disability themselves and were therefore dually-eligible to participate in the training. They shared the wisdom of their unique perspectives and experiences and added greatly to the quality of the training.

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The full systemic impact of the grant will likely not be fully known for some time, however, LIPA graduates are already serving as agents of systems change, by engaging in local, state and national politics and policy discussions, organizing and/or participating in advocacy campaigns, running for school board and legislative positions, and supporting the goals and strategies of a variety of disability rights organizations.

At least two graduates have joined boards of directors of non-profit organizations. One graduate is now the executive director of Special Ministries of Livingston County. Six LIPA graduates have served, or are currently serving, on the DD Council, including four who were appointed after they completed the training. Several parent participants have joined Parent Advisory Committees (PACs), which are required in Michigan school districts. Two parent graduates have been named to Michigan’s Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Nine other graduates have joined Michigan Family Voices in either advocacy or advisory roles. Three have assumed leadership roles in the Self-Advocates of Michigan group. One pursued a seat on her local school board and is currently running for a state representative office in District 40, as a Republican. Another participant is running for a state representative seat as an Independent in District 14.



Harvalee Saunto, Sherri Boyd, Sybil Spencer, Courtney, Trunk, Diane McGraw, Salli Christenson, Lisa Hertzner and Cathy McRae



Our Facebook page, located at <https://www.facebook.com/TheArcMichigan/> had 1,352 “Likes” and 1,333 “Followers” as of December 2017.



Our Twitter account is located at <https://twitter.com/ArcMichigan> and has 393 “Followers.”

## The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust

The Arc Michigan opened its Pooled Amenities Trust three years ago. A pooled trust offers a way to protect and manage resources for people with disabilities, without risking their public benefits. The assets in this type of trust are “pooled” together for purposes of investment, but each person is assigned a sub-account to track their individual funds. Pooling makes it possible to join the trust with less money than is generally needed to create a traditional special needs trust, making it an excellent option for families of modest means and individuals who find themselves with an inheritance, insurance payout, or legal settlement that could threaten their benefits. Assets in a pooled trust may be used to procure those items and experiences that are not specifically meant to be purchased with public benefits, but which can enhance the person’s quality of life. Participation in a pooled trust begins with the signing of a Joinder Agreement - a document that dictates the terms of the trust. The Joinder Agreement may be signed by the individual, a family member or third-party for someone else’s benefit, or the court.



As of December 31, 2017, The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust held assets totaling \$688,773 with 18 sub-account holders, and had paid \$40,849 to The Arc Michigan for the administration of the trust over the last year.

More information is available at: <https://arcmi.org/projects/the-arc-michigan-pooled-amenities-trust/> or contact Cathy McRae, the project coordinator at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or [PooledTrust@arcmi.org](mailto:PooledTrust@arcmi.org).

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### The Arc Michigan Newsletters, Action Alerts, Appeal Campaigns and Governmental Affairs

The Arc Michigan sent an average of four notices per month to **2800** subscribers. Don’t miss out on what’s happening, sign up at <https://arcmi.org/newsletter-signup/>. Past e-Newsletters can be found on our website under **Newsletter Archives**, or by visiting <https://arcmi.org/resource-center/newsletter-archive/>



## Committees & Boards

### Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- Community Living Supports Work Group
- Developmental Disabilities Practice Improvement Team
- HCBS Implementation Advisory Group
- MDDC Individual, Family, Support, Education & Advocacy Work Group (IFSEA)
- MDDC Public Policy Work Group
- MDDC Quarterly Meetings
- MDHHS Quarterly Stakeholder Group
- NCI Advisory Council
- Quality Improvement Committee

### Michigan Department of Education

- *Early On* Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council Standing Committees
- Parent Involvement Committee
- Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board
- Special Education Advisory Committee

### Board and Advocacy Groups

- American with Disabilities for Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT)
- Center for Advancing Community Health Family Voices Michigan
- Citizens Advisory Council for the Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University
- Employment First Workgroup
- Michigan ADA Steering Committee
- Michigan Adult Foster Care Advisory Council
- Michigan Consumers for Healthcare
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan WIPA Coalition
- Partnership for Fair Caregiver Wages
- Protected Income Level Workgroup
- The Howell Group

## The Arc Michigan Board

### Executive Committee

<b>Ron Kimball</b> President	<b>Andrea Lane</b> Treasurer
<b>Robert White</b> Vice President	<b>Shari Fitzpatrick</b> Past President
<b>Tom Lerchen</b> Secretary	<b>Lisa Lepine</b> MCE Representative

### Directors at Large

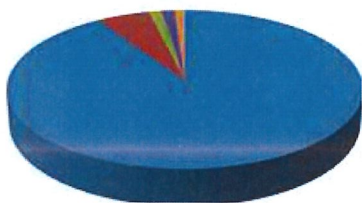
<b>Arville Carroll</b> Holland	<b>Mick Musial</b> West Bloomfield
<b>Maureen Dempsey</b> Tecumseh	<b>Patti Nowak</b> Mt. Pleasant
<b>Margaret Martin</b> Westland	<b>Rosemary Rangi</b> Clarkston
<b>Maria Messina</b> Southfield	<b>Steve Waters</b> Holland

# The Arc Michigan 2017 Financial Summary

# The Arc Michigan Chapters

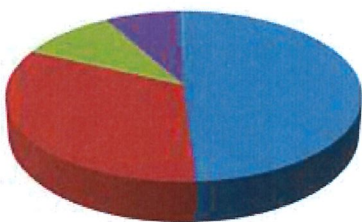
## Revenues

**\$3,529,864**



- **Grants \$3,210,771**
- **Other Operational \$188,233**
- **Membership \$46,450**
- **Development \$44,366**
- **United Way \$5,931**
- **Interest \$28,215**
- **Conference \$5,898**

## Expenses \$3,427,603



- **Salaries/Benefits \$1,680,732**
- **Contracted Services \$1,128,508**
- **Other Program Expenses \$337,690**
- **Office Expense/Overhead \$271,973**
- **Payment to Arc US \$8,700**

The Arc Michigan is a United Way Agency  
1325 S. Washington Avenue,  
Lansing, Michigan 48910



517.487.5426 or  
800.292.7851  
[www.arcmi.org](http://www.arcmi.org)



- ARC/Allegan County
- The Arc Arenac Area
- The Arc Bay County
- The Arc of Calhoun County
- The Arc of Delta County
- ARC/Gogebic Chapter
- The Arc of Central Michigan
- The Arc Community Advocates
- The Arc Kent County
- The Arc of Livingston County
- The Arc of Macomb County
- ARC/Manistee
- The Arc of Midland
- The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.
- The Arc Muskegon
- The Arc/Newaygo County
- The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.
- ARC Ogemaw/Roscommon Counties
- ARC Advocacy & Resource Center  
(Ottawa County)
- The Arc Shiawassee County
- The Arc of St. Clair County
- Van Buren ARC
- Washtenaw Association for  
Community Advocacy
- Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods
- The Arc Dearborn
- The Arc Detroit
- Arc Downriver, Inc.
- The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
- The Arc of Western Wayne County