

The Arc Montgomery County is a private nonprofit which provides daily direct support services to nearly 1,000 children, youth, adults, and seniors, *with and without disabilities*, and their families. A local chapter of The Arc, the largest organization in the world for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), we have proudly supported our community for over 60 years.

Our mission is to connect people of all ages and abilities with their communities to build inclusive and fulfilling lives by providing a continuum of services to best meet each person's needs.

- *Fully-inclusive child care with embedded preschool, special education, and nursing support*
- *Youth after-school and summer programming*
- *Work skills training and other employment services for adults with I/DD*
- *Community living support in the family home or at 30+ residential locations for adults with I/DD*
- *Family workshops, resource sharing and disability benefits counseling*
- *Coordination of respite care for unpaid, live-in caregivers of children/adults with disabilities and frail senior citizens*



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COMMUNITY, STAFF & VOLUNTEER AWARDS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Self-Advocate of the Year

Katie O'Connell

Presented to an individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities who resides in Montgomery County who has attained a personal achievement or demonstrated a contribution to his/her community.

When Katie O'Connell sets her mind to make something happen, she is relentless. She is not afraid to ask questions, press through obstacles, and stand up for herself and others, asking for assistance when needed. Katie knows what she wants and pursues it, soliciting input to ensure her performance is at a high standard. She is solution-orientation, and all about improving herself and her opportunities—the definition of a self-advocate.

Community Partner of the Year

**Mask Makers & Helpers
Greenbelt & Surrounding Areas**

Presented to a community partner in either the public or private sector who has made a significant contribution to supporting The Arc Montgomery County's mission.

At the outset of the pandemic, organizations were desperate for PPE. Sisters Sarah Liska and Jenny Meetre created a system to provide handmade masks by coordinating volunteers to solicit supplies and sew, which benefited The Arc several times. The group even made masks with vinyl fronts so people with hearing impairments could lip read. Mask Makers & Helpers has distributed over 6,000 masks—a true community partner.

Public Service Award

Dr. Kenneth Feder

Presented to an individual, business, or organization in recognition of outstanding public service on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

On the same day Dr. Kenneth Feder presented a webinar about COVID-19 to DDA providers, The Arc experienced its first outbreak. Although an unfortunate coincidence, it tied together practical guidance on testing, staff training, and minimizing spread with the personal touch of Dr. Feder. He not only understands the science behind this virus—he also understands the human toll, and works tirelessly to support Maryland's provider community.

PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The President's Volunteer Service Award is a national honor administered by the Points of Light Foundation which recognizes individuals who have achieved certain hours of volunteer service over a 12-month period (calendar year 2019). The level of award is based upon the age of the recipient and the total number of hours served.

Bronze Level

Evan Daneker
Calla Doh
Irene Figueroa
Isoko Motoma
Harrison Nchinda
Shelsey Vasquez
Natalie Wermers
Donald Wertz
Alex Yang

Silver Level

Harold Wertz

Gold Level

Robert Tievsky
Merlin Vasquez



PANDEMIC CHAMPION

Loida Prophet

Presented to an individual, business or community group which has clearly demonstrated extraordinary support for the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. Support must be impactful and meaningful, with no expectation of personal/professional gain.

It's challenging to secure supplies for 37 locations, 119 people supported, and 500+ employees during a pandemic. Loida Prophet was tasked with ordering PPE, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, non-perishable items, and food for the entire organization, and when regular sources were closed or out of stock, she had to find creative solutions. She wasn't always able to secure exactly what people wanted, but Loida never failed to meet their needs.

FY2021 Board of Directors

Stephanie Katz—President, Raymond Davidson—Vice President, Mark Rittenberg—Treasurer, Philip Golrick—Secretary, Karen O'Connor—Past President
Constance Battle, Kerinne Browne, Flavia Favali, Kathy Ghiladi, John Gould, Lizette Hoffman, Ben Lopez, Aileen O'Hare, Aaron Malofsky, John Olenick, Michael Tadesse

Awards Selection Committee

Carrie Barrett, Mary Boylen, Doug Clarke, Kathy Ghiladi, Deborah Mark, Aileen O'Hare, Ed Stewart, Rosamond Thomas

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Youth Volunteer of the Year

The Nchinda Family

Presented to an individual under age 18 who, over the past year, has exhibited exceptional commitment and volunteer efforts on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Nchinda family has been championing The Arc's mission for the past six years as volunteers at KFICCC, our inclusive childcare center. Lee Roy volunteered 427 hours of his time from 2013-15; Wesley volunteered 436 hours from 2014-17; and Harrison volunteered 372 hours from 2017-19. That totals 1,235 hours of service! But beyond just the hours, they have brought joy into the classrooms with their warm personalities and willing hands.

Volunteer of the Year

Josie Mark

Presented to an individual age 18 or older who, over the past year, has exhibited exceptional commitment and volunteer efforts on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As the lock down lengthened, Josie Mark volunteered to coordinate a meal delivery initiative. She managed the entire project, which required careful communication and constant tracking to match volunteers with homes and to comply with everyone's dietary restrictions. Josie alerted staff of deliveries and ensured volunteers were acknowledged, creating a win/win by providing employees with a break from meal prep and volunteers with a way to take positive action.

Board Member of the Year

Philip Golrick

Presented to a member of The Arc Montgomery County Board of Directors who, over the past year, has exhibited exceptional commitment and volunteer efforts on behalf of people with disabilities.

Since Philip Golrick became Board Secretary, he has provided significant support as a consistent and effective leader, and provided critical guidance during key discussions. His work ethic and output clearly demonstrates a passion for The Arc's mission. Phil took on the challenging task of updating the bylaws, working with an attorney, leadership staff, and members of the Board to revise key governance guidelines for business operations.

Community Inclusion Award

Elma Galimba

Presented to an individual or community group which has clearly demonstrated a strong commitment to connecting people of all ages and abilities with their communities to build inclusive and fulfilling lives for everyone.

Elma Galimba founded Sunshine Projects in 2019 to connect people through music, art, and dance. When the pandemic closed programs for people with disabilities, Elma immediately pivoted Sunshine Projects to online classes. She created a way for people of all abilities to come together, be challenged with engaging interactive classes, and feel less isolated. When the community shut down, Elma opened new doors to connect people.

Philanthropist of the Year

Timothy Dennis

Presented to an individual or organization in recognition of significant philanthropic contributions to The Arc Montgomery County which embody joining together heart, hands, mind and wallet to support The Arc's mission.

When The Arc's homes went into lockdown overnight, we were desperate to secure PPE for our staff. Tim Dennis asked, "What can I do to help The Arc?" He immediately sprang to action and secured donations of hand sanitizer, gloves and masks. When his brother's house became COVID-positive, Tim donated funds to have the house disinfected and to provide meals for the residents and staff. His selfless actions have literally saved lives.



PANDEMIC CHAMPION

Maxine Reger

Presented to an individual, business or community group which has clearly demonstrated extraordinary support for the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. Support must be impactful and meaningful, with no expectation of personal/professional gain.

Maxine Reger was always a favorite landlord—attentive, cooperative, and quick to respond to issues. Her recent email should have been notification of an expected rent increase. Instead, she wrote to say that she was putting the increase on hold and wanted to know what she could do for the women living in the home she rents to The Arc. When many people were vying for a financial advantage, Maxine thought of other people.

STAFF AWARDS

Employees of the Year

Presented to Direct Support Professionals whose behavior brings to life The Arc Montgomery County's mission of building inclusive communities, who has consistently gone above and beyond the expectations of his/her job description and who has demonstrated outstanding work on behalf of the organization, its staff, and the individuals we support.

Children & Youth Services

Elizabeth Edwards

Although her job is being a lead teacher, Elizabeth Edwards has always worked tirelessly in whatever capacity needed to ensure KFICCC thrives. This year, she personally shouldered many of the tasks required to reopen during the pandemic—ordering supplies, making calls, sending emails, packing, unpacking and organizing. Elizabeth also made “cheer bags” for the DSPs and delivered them, along with other supplies, to our group homes.

Inclusive Living Services

Alice Bannerman

Alice Bannerman is a giver. While totally focused on being an excellent caregiver, she also serves as a mentor for other staff. She makes everyone feel welcome and brings a sense of unity to the work environment. Alice's dedication to the people she supports is evident—she clearly loves her work! Throughout the pandemic, she has demonstrated extraordinary resilience and grace.

Inclusive Living Services

Muna Mansaray

As the 1:1 support staff for a person with disabilities and mental health concerns, Muna Mansaray has consistently demonstrated respect and patience, even during times of crisis. She has helped the person she supports learn to manage problems before they become overwhelming, thus enabling her to continue participating in a rich life in the community. Muna is viewed as true and trustworthy friend.

Employment & Meaningful Day Services

William Mfotiog

William Mfotiog consistently goes the extra mile. Throughout the pandemic, he has done an exceptional job ensuring work at the Rockville Library is completed, even though he has been short-staffed. He communicates well with his supervisor and has a positive impact on each member of his crew and their families. William takes a personal interest in each person he supports and matches his teaching style to their needs and capabilities.

Administration/Management

Carlos Barrios

Carlos Barrios holds a critical and unsung position as Maintenance Engineer. His high standards ensure quality outcomes, and he takes it upon himself to research new repair methods, saving the organization thousands of dollars. What makes Carlos extraordinary is not just the quality of his work, but the way he interacts with people supported. He is patient, kind and careful to explain why he is in their home and what he is doing.

Rising Star Award

Lynne Raden

Presented to an individual in his/her first year of employment who has gone above and beyond the expectations of his/her job description and has demonstrated outstanding work on behalf of the organization, its staff and the individuals we support.

Lynne Raden began her tenure during a tumultuous time, but has maintained her calming presence and laser focus on providing quality services. Her employees say she leads with kindness, friendship and respect for the staff, the children, and their families. Lynne is a welcome classroom presence who can deescalate a situation, comfort an upset child, and demonstrate new resource materials. Her knowledge and dedication is evident, but her praise of and concern for the staff is what sets her apart.



PANDEMIC CHAMPION

Jaya Musa

Presented to an individual, business or community group which has clearly demonstrated extraordinary support for the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. Support must be impactful and meaningful, with no expectation of personal/professional gain.

When staff refused to work in COVID-19 positive homes, Jaya Musa became the “go-to” employee, covering their shifts in addition to performing his own team coordinator duties. He demonstrated how to correctly wear PPE, how to correctly wash hands and maintain other protocols, and how to maintain a positive attitude and flexibility. In taking personal responsibility for the homes he manages, Jaya truly leads by example.