

The Arc Montgomery County is a private nonprofit which provides daily 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 (IDD), 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 IDD
- Community living support in the family home or at 30+ residential locations for adults with IDD
- 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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*Going beyond expectations
Rising above obstacles*

**COMMUNITY, STAFF &
VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2021



COMMUNITY AWARDS



Self-Advocate of the Year

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

Mat Rice and Aileen O'Hare are the impetus behind Empowering Partners, a new initiative that has grown from The Arc Maryland's Partners in Policymaking program. Mat is the Director of Public Policy for The Arc Maryland and a life-long self-advocate. Aileen is a Board member of The Arc Montgomery County and is also an experienced and tireless self-advocate. In the Empowering Partners initiative, they are taking advocacy to the next level, raising awareness about the value of self-advocacy, and strengthening self-advocacy groups throughout the state.

Advocate of the Year

Presented to an individual/legislator/business/community group which has contributed to the inclusion, dignity and welfare of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and whose actions have resulted in conditions significantly improving the quality of life of an individual(s), systemic change, or protection of basic human, civil or legal rights.

Divine Metuge, Michael Odum, Solomon Merugu, and Jacquelyn Martin come together as The Gaither Team. This vigilant team of advocates went to bat for one of the people they support to ensure he received the medical care he urgently needed this year. At every step, they were watchful for complications, presenting a united front, and communicating clearly and regularly, which helped to save his life. Their astute intuition, prompt action, and dogged determination represented advocacy in action.

Empowering Partners

Aileen O'Hare & Mat Rice

The Gaither Team
Jacquelyn Martin, Solomon Merugu,
Divine Metuge, Michael Odum

Board Member of the Year

Stephanie Katz

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.

Stephanie Katz has served on The Arc Montgomery County's Board of Directors since 2014 and has been President for the last four years, ending this past July. In addition to leading the Board meetings, Stephanie asks insightful questions and frequently offers suggestions for resolving outstanding issues. Stephanie's commitment to the organization goes well above and beyond her Board service. She works diligently to connect people to The Arc Montgomery County, as volunteers, donors, sponsors, and employees. On a personal level, she sets an example for other Board members by supporting the organization's fundraising appeals and events.

President's Award

Daria Cervantes

Presented at the sole discretion of the Board President to an individual who has made such significant and outstanding contributions that no other award would be adequate to recognize the depth and breadth of service.

Daria Cervantes was asked to lead The Arc Montgomery County during an extremely challenging time. She faced tremendous obstacles, including the recent departure of two former CEOs, the need to protect people supported and employees from COVID-19, and a significant financial deficit. Throughout the past year, Daria has worked many long hours to make critical decisions and implement new policies which position the organization for future success. Along the way, she offered reassurance to all constituents, from DDA to families to employees and beyond, gaining and holding their trust.

FY2022 Board of Directors

Eugene Mark, Jr. – President
Raymond Davidson – Vice President
Sara Cato – Treasurer
Philip Golrick – Secretary
Stephanie Katz – Past President

Kerinne Browne, Flavia Favali
Kathy Ghiladi, Lizette Hoffman,
Benjamin Lopez Katherine O'Connell,
Aileen O'Hare John Olenick,
Mark Rittenberg, James Seaton

Awards Selection Committee

Carrie Barrett, Mary Boylen, Kathy Ghiladi, James Gipson, Aileen O'Hare, Deborah Mark



VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Youth Volunteer of the Year **Our Lady of Good Counsel High School**

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

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School has a long-standing relationship with The Arc Montgomery County. Each year, they send teams of volunteers to our homes or to our childcare center for yardwork during their family service days. The student volunteers are eager and hardworking, and we have seen many return annually. Over our nearly decade-long relationship, Good Counsel groups have volunteered more than 1,300 hours of service!

Volunteer of the Year **Colleen Scanlon**

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.

Colleen Scanlon has been the organizer of Holy Cross Catholic Church's Christmas Giving Tree program for many years. The Giving Tree program provides holiday gifts for people who may not otherwise receive gifts. This relationship was even important last Christmas, as social distancing and online shopping prevailed, making celebrations and gift giving uncertain for the people we support. Colleen creatively adapted the Giving Tree program to ensure that the people we support had gifts to open.

Community Partner

The Greater Silver Spring Civitan Club

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.

The Greater Silver Spring Civitan Club works to make literacy accessible to all and to assist individuals with IDD in living fuller lives in our local community. Their collaborative relationship helped to create programs and initiatives with positive impacts throughout Montgomery County. Civitans has also provided grants to make upgrades to Urban Thrift's retail space and to provide scholarships for students with IDD to train at Rockville's Sunflower Bakery. They are living their mission of building good citizenship.

Public Service

Michael Greenberg, M.D.

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

Dr. Greenberg is a physician and a parent, whose son receives DDA-funded supports in Montgomery County. Dr. Greenberg's services to the IDD and provider communities were indispensable throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. From providing information and guidance, to helping arrange a successful vaccine clinic, Dr. Greenberg ensured that people with IDD and their DSPs were kept at the forefront of Montgomery County's pandemic response and vaccine roll out plans.

Philanthropist of the Year

John Gould

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.

John Gould was a steadfast advocate for himself and other people with disabilities and a concerned citizen who firmly believed that his voice made a difference. He served four terms on The Arc's Board of Directors and will be deeply missed by his many friends and his family. By leaving a portion of his estate to The Arc, he continues to further our mission and ensured that his wonderful legacy will endure.



STAFF AWARDS



Employees of the Year

Presented to Direct Support Professionals and one Administrative/Management employee 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 employees, and the individuals we support.

EOY for Children & Youth Services

William Astrove

William Astrove, known in the classroom as Mr. Billy, helped students ease back into his classroom after taking a break from childcare due to the pandemic. Mr. Billy is patient and understanding with students, and communicative with families. He creatively designs new behavior strategies for the children and finds positive ways to approach challenges, helping them to grow academically, emotionally, and socially.

EOY for Inclusive Living Services

Bernadette Fontem

While Bernadette Fontem has long been a dedicated and compassionate employee of The Arc Montgomery County, this past year she went above and beyond in her care for a person supported and their family during a recent behavioral and medical crisis. Bernadette persisted in advocating for timely and effective intervention. During the emergency, Bernadette was a reassuring and comforting presence, keeping the family informed, addressing concerns, and being accessible—even on her days off.

EOY for Employment & Meaningful Day Services

Mbenda Faye

Mbenda Faye joined Employment & Meaningful Day as a job coach two years ago, bringing a wealth of experience and a can-do attitude. When other employees had reservations about working during the rise of COVID-19, Mbenda volunteered to work at Montgomery County Correctional Facility. She is dedicated, loved and respected by the staff at the facility and by the people she supports.

EOY for Administration/Management

Richard See

Richard See has served as manager of Urban Thrift since 2017. Like many retailers, Urban Thrift was closed at the beginning of the pandemic. Richard used this time to remodel, reorganize, and replenish inventory, leading to steadily increasing sales upon reopening. He also secured partnerships with major vendors like Macy's, Target, Manna Food Center, and World Market. Richard is active with the Kensington-Wheaton Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Silver Spring Civitan Club. His relationship with the Civitans helped to secure a grant for infrastructure and equipment upgrades at the store.

Rising Star

Emily Bloch

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

Emily Bloch is a rising star at KFICCC. She started working in the spring of 2021, for a couple of hours after school each day. Once she graduated, she was eager to come on board as a teacher assistant. Emily volunteers to assist with planning activities for the classroom and asks questions to improve her knowledge of how to support children with and without disabilities. She is patient, kind, thoughtful, and responsible. Her dedication has been key to helping us meet the needs of KFICCC families.

Distinguished Service

Caroline Barrett

Presented to an employee of The Arc who exemplifies professionalism at its highest level over an extended time period. This person may be any employee who shows qualities of leadership which significantly contribute to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities, demonstrate the organization's mission, and set a standard for others to follow.

Carrie Barrett is an excellent employee and a great asset to the HR department. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Carrie was crucial to helping The Arc Montgomery County navigate an unprecedented situation. She worked 7 days a week, creating procedures to maintain safety, notifying employees of COVID exposure, and documenting and tracking COVID outbreaks, in addition to her regular workload. During an extended period of unplanned leave by the HR Director, Carrie assumed most of his responsibilities in addition to her own duties, proving to be resourceful and resilient. She worked tirelessly to ensure critical needs were met and critical information was shared.