

**2017-2018
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Dear Friends,

On behalf of our members and their families, I would like to ask you to please consider making your year-end tax-deductible contribution to The Arc of Northwest Wayne County (TheArcNW.org).

Our Generous Supporters:

As many of you know, Ernest Darin, a long-time friend of the Zago family, and of The Arc NW, made a unique legacy gift in 2015. In his will, he left a portion of his financial estate to John and Carol Zago of Livonia, with the understanding that a significant percentage would go to support the work of The Arc. His generosity was inspired largely by The Arc's service to Christian Zago, John and Carol's son, who had a developmental disability, and who died 13 years ago. Ernest Darin's motivation was specifically founded on his affection and respect for The Arc. "Uncle Ernie always felt The Arc was such a good thing," Carol said, "and that its people were very caring." The Zagos agree with that assessment.

Its many friends and supporters, as well as the individuals and families it serves, know The Arc as a leader in developing and implementing programs and services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more than 50 years the organization has been known by more than one name, but its purpose and commitment have remained the same – to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families with special needs.

Our Challenges:

Through the years, The Arc has been fortunate to have a strong and dedicated community of people who believe in its ability to change lives for the better. The emotional and financial support of The Arc's many friends and advocates have been critical to the organization's ability to achieve its goals with compassion and excellence. Just like Uncle Ernie's donation, your gifts will be used to help build and maintain a secure and stable endowment for The Arc. Over time an endowment grows through private gifts and prudent investment management, helping to ensure an organization's continuing long-term ability to fund its programs and services. The generosity and good will shown by "Uncle Ernie" Darin and John and Carol Zago came at a critical time. Those financial challenges continued in 2017 and are likely to be present in 2018. Financial contributions by The Arc's friends and other supporters are critical as our organization strives to maintain a high level of services to the individuals and families who need them.

How you can contribute:

On behalf of everyone at The Arc I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your support of our organization. As The Arc strives to meet its fiscal challenges, individual investment in our future becomes increasingly essential to ensure that we can continue to help children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve better life outcomes through advocacy, support, and information. For your convenience, donations can be processed through our website: TheArcNW.org.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,
Jean Walsh, President





The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

26049 Five Mile Road
Redford, MI 48239

Phone: 313-532-7915 Fax: 313-532-7488

www.thearcnw.org

Next Board Meetings

No Board Meeting in January
Tuesday, the 13th of February

2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT **Jean Walsh**

VICE PRESIDENT **Kathy Pfulher**

SECRETARY **Bill Winkler**

TREASURER **Susan Gardynik**

DIRECTORS

Kristine Copeland Marianne Licari
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Heidi Warren Rebecca Wengliniski
Greg Wittrock

STAFF

Executive Director: Chris Lerchen

Advocacy & Community
Resource Director Michelle Driscoll

Programs & Services
Assistant Sandra Dobson

Advocate: Chesley Giertz

Lekotek Play Leader: Lana Richardson

Lekotek Librarian: Holly Balaka

Claims Processor: Mary Scala

Clerical Assistant: Tammy Clements

Achieve with us.



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

From the Director

The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA), the largest of ten public community mental health agencies in Michigan and serving our northwest Wayne County communities, is in the process of hiring a new CEO. With the resignation of Tom Watkins, the board recently made an offer to Joy Calloway, currently serving as the president and CEO of New Center Community Health. I had the privilege of serving on the DWMHA CEO search committee at which time Ms. Calloway shared her interest in learning more about the needs of consumers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

If she accepts this position I'm confident Ms. Calloway will be well equipped to work with the DWMHA board members and serve the Detroit Wayne County community well. Ms. Calloway recently stated, "I am absolutely honored to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I'm looking to continue the good work already being done, but I also want to be a convener and really want to pull stakeholders together so we can operate more effectively."

As the executive director of The Arc of Northwest Wayne County and chairperson for The Arc Coalition of Wayne County I look forward to working with Ms. Calloway.

*I wish each and every one of you
a safe and happy holiday season!*

Chris



John Elder Robison My Life With Asperger's

Sex, Lies, and Autism Research - Getting Value for Our Money

How can we get tangible benefit from the millions we spend on autism science?

Posted Nov 12, 2017

The U.S. government is the world's biggest funder of autism research. For the past decade I have had the honor of advising various agencies and committees on how that money should be spent. As an adult with autism, sometimes I've been pleased at our government's choices. Other times I've been disappointed. Every now and then I turn to reflect: What have we gotten for our investment? Autistic people and their parents agree on this: The hundreds of millions we've spent on autism research every year has provided precious little benefit to families and individuals living with autism today. Over the past decade the expenditures have run into the billions, yet our quality of life has hardly changed at all.

It would be one thing if massive help was just around the corner, but it's not. There are no breakthrough medicines or treatments in the pipeline. Autistic people still suffer from GI pain, epilepsy, anxiety, depression, and a host of other issues at the same rates we did before any of this research was funded.

I don't mean to suggest that nothing has been accomplished. Scientists have learned a lot. They know more about the biological underpinnings of autism. Researchers have found hundreds of genetic variations that are implicated in autism. We've quantified how autistic people are different with thousands of studies of eye gaze, body movement, and more. Scientists are rightly proud of many of their discoveries, which do advance medical and scientific knowledge. What they don't do is make our lives better today.

Why is that?

In the past I've written about the idea that taxpayer-funded research should be refocused on delivering benefit to autistic people. What I have not written about, is why that hasn't happened, at the most fundamental level.

The answer is simple: Until quite recently, autistic people were not asked what we needed.

There are many reasons for that. Autism was first observed in children and no one expects children to have adult insight and self-reflection. When autism was recognized in adults, they were assumed to be too cognitively impaired to participate in conversations about their condition. Finally, in the spirit of the times, doctors often assumed that they knew best. They were the trained professionals, and we were the patients (or the inmates.)

So doctors studied every question they could imagine, and then some, seldom seeking our opinions except in answer to their research questions. They assumed they knew what "normal" was, and we weren't it. Countless millions went down the rabbit hole of causation studies, whether in genetics, vaccines, or other environmental factors. Don't get me wrong—the knowledge we've gotten is valuable for science. It just did not help me, or any autistic person I know.

Millions more have been spent observing us and detailing exactly the ways in which we are abnormal. Only recently have some scientists began to consider a different idea: Perhaps "normal" is different for autistic people, and we are it. Again the studies enhanced the scientists' knowledge but didn't do much to help us autistics.

Then there are the educators and psychologists. They observed our "deviations" and then considered therapy to normalize us. That led to ABA and a host of other therapies. Some of those have indeed been beneficial, but the money spent on beneficial therapy is just a drop in the bucket when considering what we taxpayers have funded overall.

Continued on pg. 8

NO SESSIONS IN DECEMBER

After I'm Gone Program



NEW LOCATION

Information sessions are held monthly during the school year at
10218 Arthur Street in Livonia
(Formerly Garfield Elementary School)
Thursday Evenings 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Please RSVP: 734-729-9100 or 313-532-7915

January 11, 2018

How to Get What You Want Out of Life
Michelle Driscoll and Christy Courtney will discuss how to use Person Centered Planning and Self-Determination to live the life you want to live in your community.

January 25, 2018

Social Security and the Dept. of Health & Human Services

Speakers will discuss the programs and services available to your son or daughter with a disability, including SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Food Assistance and Adult Home Help.



All three of the Poly Hockey Teams sponsored by The Arc NW won bronze medals in the recent State Poly Hockey Tournament. Congratulations to the Wolverines, Wings & Hotshots!

All of the teams wish to offer their appreciation to their coaches, their supporters, The Arc NW for their sponsorship, and to the chaperones - Hanna & Molly Perkins - who accompanied them to the State Tournament. A team pizza party and victory dance was enjoyed by all.

Basketball season begins on December 4th - bring it on!

A team picture of the Wings can be found in the November issue of The Arc NW newsletter on our website www.thearcnw.org

The Arc Sports News

Another year is coming to an end; 2017 came & went too quickly for me! Basketball is starting the first week of December for all the teams. Mark your calendars for these basketball tournaments: Franklin Area-February 17, Northville District-March 3. If a team qualifies, the Grand Rapids State Tournament is March 24/25. GMS for Area tournament is no later than January 11, 2018. Remember before submitting any names to me or GMS, check for expired forms. Please check now since it's usually the same players, asst. coaches, & volunteers. Jackie Foust, Area 23 Director, is retiring at end of 2017. New Area 23 Director will be Sue Campbell. Sue has been a coach for the Plymouth-Canton Stars for many years. Happy retirement Jackie and welcome Sue. The next Area 23 meeting is January 22nd at 6pm, so coaches if you'd like to meet Sue, come along.

Save the dates for 2018.....

Feb. 6th Field & Track practices - 7pm @ Franklin HS Fieldhouse

Feb. 17th Area Basketball tournament – Franklin HS

March 3rd Northville District Basketball tournament – Northville HS

March 24/25 State Basketball tournament (must qualify) Grand Rapids

May 4th Bowling Fundraiser – Oak Lanes

May 11th Area Spring Tournament – Franklin HS

August 25th Southeast Baseball Tournament – Drake Park, Farmington Hills.

REMINDER...There are no charges for the athletes to play any sports so please remember to pay your yearly Arc membership dues. If you need to know when your membership expires, call the Arc.

Thank you to some of the Wildcat team players and coach Roy Horton for volunteering at the Plymouth Rotary Chicken BBQ picnic in September. Because of this, Rich Realty in Plymouth gave the sport program a monetary donation for their assistance. Thank you again, Rich Realty!

Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy 2018!!

Janice Bearden

JUST FUN CLUB NEWS

What a great time everyone had at our recent Country Western Dance on Friday, Nov. 10. Trademark band played many country songs to dance to. All of our members could choose from a variety of colorful bandana kerchiefs and many different colored cowboy hats to wear!

Our raffle ticket winners for the evening were: Candy Taylor, Kori Porter, John Beck, Anne Krol, Kelly, (Plymouth House) Patty Barnes, Nicole Brey, and Mary Bernardi.

Important JFC Calendar of Events:

Christmas Dinner/Dance, Saturday, Dec. 16, 5:00-9:30, Hellenic Center, Westland (**MUST pre-pay \$15.00 at Arc by Tuesday, Nov. 28**)

Hawaiian Luau , Jan. 12, 6:30-9:30, Thurston High School, (**MUST pre-pay \$5.00, at Arc by Tuesday, Jan. 9**)

Valentine's Dance, Feb. 9, 7:00-9:30, Thurston High School

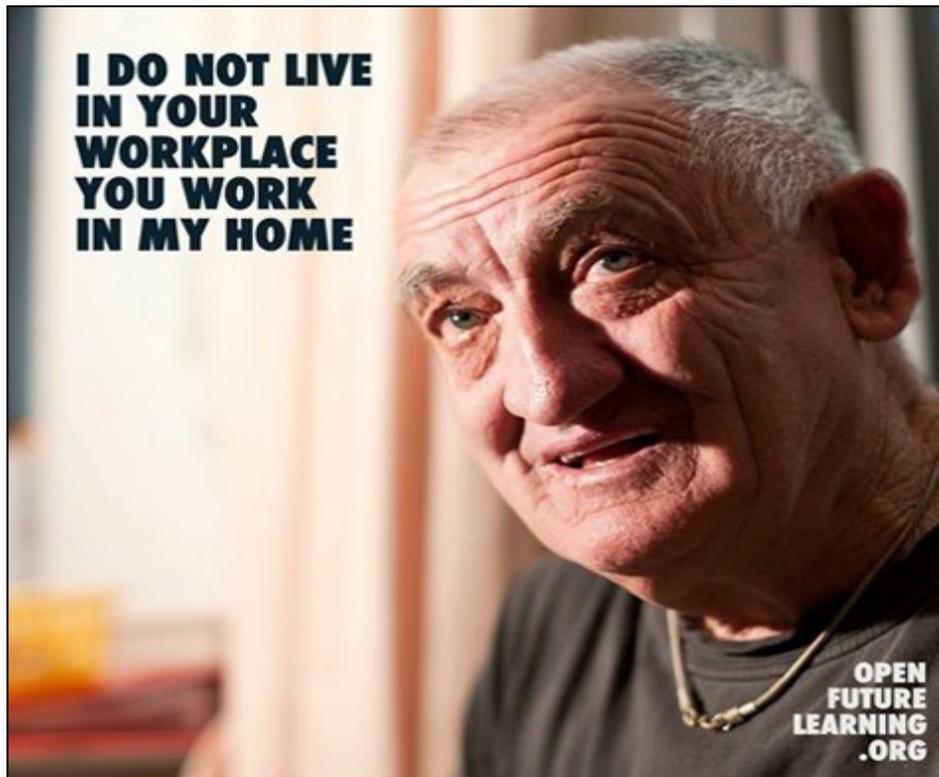
St. Patrick's Day dance, March 16, 7:00-9:30, Thurston high school

Chicken Dinner Dance, April 13, 6:30-9:39, Canton High School, (**MUST pre-pay \$5.00 at Arc by Tuesday, April 10**)

Ice Cream Social, May 11, 6:30-9:30, Canton High School, (**MUST pre-pay \$5.00 at Arc by Tuesday, May 8**)

Happy Holidays & a Happy New Year,
Jackie Norris





Do you or a family member receive community living support services? Do you believe that some sort of assessment tool is being used to determine the amount, scope and duration of community living support services? If you or others in Wayne county believe that any such instrument is being used for that purpose , and not for informing the person-centered planning process, then we encourage you to follow-up with your Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan and Behavioral Health Developmental Disabilities Administration Customer Services. The Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services has an interest in assuring that the PIHPs and the Community Mental Health Service Plans are fully compliant with Person-Centered planning requirements, but they need your input.

Not sure who to call with your concerns? Call The Arc NW at 313-532-7915 and we can direct you to the appropriate department and agency.

Membership Renewals

January

December

Jay Robert Cowan
Derek & Janet Espley
Friendship Home
Adrian & Janet Giaccaglia
Stephan Kanyo
Arturo and Amanda Ordaz

Ben and Linda Anderson
David & Laura Becks
Lawrence and Linda Boulton
Edward Hibner
Emily McClain
Daniel and Barbara Collins
William and Mary McKee
Arthur Prowell
Gary and Sharlene Stout
Doug and Sharon Visocchi

Save the Date
February 24, 2018
The Arc. *Dinner Dance*
Northwest Wayne County
313-532-7915
thearcnw.org
Laurel Manor Livonia
Live Band Nightline
Open Bar - Dinner - Desserts - Dancing
Bring your friends and family to this Fantastic Event!
Watch for your Dinner Dance invitation in January!

Guys & Dolls

Afternoon Bowling League

New bowlers are welcome
Call Jim Gallas (248) 318-8856
Or jagallas@comcast.net for
more information.



1:30 pm - 3:00pm each Saturday
Check-In at 1:15pm
Oak Lanes in Westland

The Arc's Car Donation Program

How to Donate

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County accepts cars, vans, trucks, boats with a trailer, and recreational vehicles seven days a week, 24 hours a day. It's as simple as filling out The Arc online donation form and designate The Arc of Northwest Wayne County.

You must be able to provide: the year, make and model of your vehicle, the general condition, the vehicle identification number, and have the title and lien in hand.

The Arc will take care of the rest and arrange a convenient time for free auto towing. Your tax form will be mailed to you as a "Non-Cash Charitable Contribution" within four to six weeks.

Prefer to speak with a person? Call (877) 272-2270 and a friendly operator will assist you. Read more about it! Find the online donation form here, too. <http://www.thearc.org/donate-my-car>

Thank you for designating The Arc of Northwest Wayne County.



Want a different and better outcome? Ask actual autistic people.

We can tell you what our problems are, in many cases very eloquently. I'm not going to re-state all our needs here. I'll tell you this: Whenever this topic comes up at IACC (the Federal committee that produces the strategic plan for autism for the U.S. government), the priorities of autistic people seem rather different from those of the researchers our government has been funding for so long.

Autistic people have many disparate needs, but they all boil down to one thing: We have major challenges living in American society. Medical problems, communication challenges, learning difficulties, relationship issues, and chronic unemployment are all big deals for us. The issues are well laid out and many.

Before autistic people began speaking out in great numbers, all we had was parent advocacy. We should not dismiss that, and parents still have a role today, particularly in advocacy for small children and children who are older but unable to effectively advocate for themselves.

Even as we thank parents for their service, it's time to recognize autistic voices (some of which belong to parents too) should be taking the lead.

As much as parents did for us, they also unwittingly contributed to harm. Parents misinterpreted harmless stimming, and encouraged therapists to suppress it, leaving us scarred in adulthood. Many autistics of my generation remember being placed into programs for troubled children with parental encouragement in hopes we'd become "more normal." We didn't. Parents have given us bleach enemas, and some of us have died from misguided chelation and other treatments to "cure" our autism. I don't blame parents for any of that. They did their best, given the knowledge of the day. But it's a different day now. The children who grew up being "normalized" can talk about how it affected them, and parents and clinicians of today would be wise to listen.

Autistic voices are finally speaking in large numbers and it's time to pay attention. No one else knows life with autism. Parents and nonautistic researchers are sometimes listening. Hard as this may be for them to hear, they are always guessing. With autistics speaking out all over the world, that's no longer good enough.

For the first time, IACC has recognized this in the 2017 Strategic Plan Update. They say it's time for a paradigm shift in how we do research. We need to focus on the needs of people living with autism today. That's a realization that I appreciate, and it's long overdue.

So what's the answer to why we've gotten so little return on our autism research investment: No one asked the autistic people what we wanted. It's that simple. Had we been able to articulate our challenges, with the framework of knowledge we have today, and had we been listened to, we'd be in a very different place today.

Today is gone, but tomorrow isn't here yet, and it can be different.



(c) John Elder Robison

John Elder Robison is an autistic adult and advocate for people with neurological differences. He's the author of *Look Me in the Eye*, *Be Different*, *Raising Cubby*, and *Switched On*. He serves on the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee of the U.S. Dept. of [Health](#) and Human Services and many other autism-related boards. He's co-founder of the TCS Auto Program (a school for teens with developmental challenges), and he's the Neurodiversity Scholar in Residence at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and a visiting professor of practice at Bay Path University in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. The opinions expressed here are his own. There is no warranty expressed or implied. While reading this essay will give you food for thought, actually printing and eating it may make you sick.

Donations

Matthew Copeland
Patricia Koepke
Mary Lubeck
John & Rosemarie Iljas
John & Carol Zago
Steve & Barbara Erickson
Doak, Martha & Emily Breen
Steve Emeigh
John Elliott
Szefi Family
Kevin & MaryAnn Bush
Todd & Kinza Luchies
Dixie Hibner and Jim Gallas

Livonia Anniversary Committee, Inc.
(Donation from Livonia Spree)

John & Christine Berry
Antonia M. Daguanno

**A Donation To The Arc
Sports Program**
Rich Realty

Thank You!

Memorials

In Memory of Christian Zago
Sybil M. Taddia
Shirly, Louie, and Lisa Broccardo
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Peruchietti
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Daguanno
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Daguanno
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Skowronski
Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale Rea
Nancy Abramson

In Memory of Andrew and Frances Szakaly
Shirley Ferguson

**A Donation to The JFC
in Memory of John Webley**
Stanley D. Webley

If you hear of the passing of an
Arc member please let us know.
Help us honor the memories
of our members and support one
another through difficult times.

**Call The Arc NW office at
313-532-7915**



The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

December 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------|---|--|---|-----|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 3 | 4 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley School Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Skill Center | 5 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 10 | 11 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Skill Center | 12 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper Board Meeting & Holiday Party 6:00pm Arc Office | 13 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. | 14 | 15 | 16 JFC Christmas Dinner Dance Hellenic Center AM Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes No Afternoon Bowling |
| 17 | 18 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley School Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Skill Center | 19 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 20 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. | 21 | 22 | 23 Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 24/31 | 25 HAPPY HOLIDAYS | 26 | 27 No Basketball | 28 | 29 | 30 Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |

The Arc NW Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2

CHECK IT OUT!
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's
Web Site
thearcnw.org

Friend us on Facebook
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County

Facebook



The Arc
Northwest Wayne County

January 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | 1  Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley School | 2 Arc Office Open Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 3 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. North Gym | 4 | 5 | 6 Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 7 | 8 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley School Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Cooper | 9 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 10 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. North Gym | 11 AIG How to Get what You Want Out of Life 6:30 - 8:30pm 10218 Arthur St. Livonia NEW LOCATION | 12  JFC Hawaiian Lu- au/Pizza Dance Thurston HS | 13 Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 14 | 15 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Cooper | 16 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 17 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. North Gym | 18 | 19 | 20 Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 21 | 22 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Cooper | 23 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 24 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. North Gym | 25 AIG Social Security & Dept. of HHS 6:30 - 8:30pm 10218 Arthur St. Livonia NEW LOCATION | 26 | 27 Bowling 9:30am Oak Lanes Guys & Dolls Bowling 1:15pm Check-In Oak Lanes |
| 28 | 29 Basketball Pistons 7 - 8pm Riley Basketball Wolverines 7 - 8pm Cooper | 30 Basketball Hotshots 6 - 7pm Lightning 7 - 8pm Cooper | 31 Basketball Wildcats 6:30 - 7:30pm Adams Upper El. North Gym | | | |

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Facebook



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Redford, MI 48239

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Each edition of this newsletter is prepared for mailing by volunteers from Zeta Tau Alpha.



26049 Five Mile Road
Redford, Michigan 48239
313-532-7915

Inside The Arc is also available online at
thearcnw.org
Call 313-532-7915 to end your printed mailed newsletter.

Membership Application

Name _____

Email Address _____ **Daytime Phone** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Name _____ **Birth Date** _____

(Name line above for member(s) with intellectual and developmental disability)

Address (if different) _____

Telephone (if different) _____

Membership Dues

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- Associate Member
- \$35 Annual Family or Group Home Membership
- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$25 Associate Membership



DONATIONS \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 _____ Other