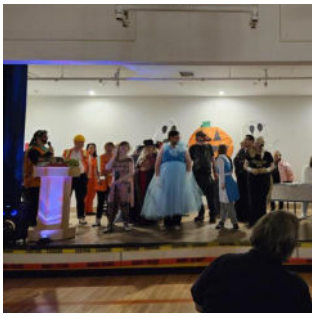
inSights

The Arc of Anchorage

Quarter 4, 2023

Community Programs

The Arc of Anchorage's Community Programs began the cold season with the new winter 2023-2024 semester on 10/02/2023! With more classes provided, participants have been given the opportunity to try out something new—for example, print-making and mosaic classes. We hosted our first winter event with the Murder Mystery Dinner on 10/13/2023, working together to look for clues to catch the "murderer"! Following the dinner, everyone wore great costumes as they attended our Halloween-themed dance on 10/27/2023. We then hosted our very first Halloween Costume Contest on 10/31/2023, which was a huge success as everyone came in ready to go on stage to show off their incredible costumes!







In November, we hosted our whimsical Dr. Seuss dance on 11/17/2023; everyone enjoyed their green eggs and ham combined with pancakes and tater tots as they dressed up as characters from Cat in the Hat, The Lorax, and more! We then started our holidays with a group of participants attending the Nutcracker Dress Rehearsal on 11/22/2023, enjoying the ballet and music. Thanksgiving was celebrated not only on Thursday but also on 11/28/2023 for our Giving Tuesday, where everyone came together to eat some delicious Thanksgiving meals and a lot of pie!







We are ending 2023 and the holiday season with the Harry Potter Yuletide Ball-themed dance on 12/15/2023. We hope everyone celebrated the holiday season with family, friends, loved ones, or however you prefer them! Have a great 2024!

Advocacy Corner - Become a Member Today!

Are you a Member of The Arc of Anchorage? What is a member? It's actually one of the most important parts of our organization. Our staff reports to Executive Management, Executive Management reports to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors reports to the Membership! The Arc of Anchorage is a Membership Organization, which means, per our bylaws, our members are the heart of the organization. Members elect the Board of Directors, may apply to run for a seat on the board, and, of course, help The Arc achieve its mission: to encourage and celebrate the potential of people who experience disabilities. Anyone over 18 can be a member (Special notes: staff can be members but cannot vote or serve on the board, and fees for membership may be waived for individuals we provide services for).

or $15 per person, you get a seat at the table at the 2024 Annual Meeting (always the third Monday in May) to select the Board of Directors and learn how your membership dues are used to support The Arc.

Join or renew by 12/31/2023!!

thearcofanchorage.org/membership

Milestone Anniversaries

5 Years

Mary Frances Banse
Aishatu Darno
Vanessa K. DeBrill
Michelle Drafter
Karissa Huston
Will Vajdic

10 Years

Anthony Braeutigam
Diosdado Malabanan
Robert Tran
Vanessa Solorio

15 Years

Anne Durham
Giselle Martin

20 Years

Tracy Faas

Calendar Events

December 1st	*First Friday at Sparc (3p-5p)*
December 7-15th	*Hanukkah*
December 15th	*Harry Potter Yuletide Ball (6p-8p)*
December 25th	*Agency Closed for Christmas Day*
December 26th	*Kwanzaa*
January 1st	*Agency Closed for New Year's Day*
January 12th	*Casino Royale Dinner (6p-7p)*
January 26th	*Candy Land Dance (6p-8p)*
February 23rd	*I Love Lucy Valentine's Dance (6p-8p)*
March 1st	*Community Programs Summer Semester Open Enrollment*
March 8th	*Pokémon Go Dinner (6p-7p)*
March 22nd	*Under the Sea Dance (6p-8p)*
April 1st	*Community Programs Summer Semester Begins*

CEO Corner

As we gather together in the warmth of the holiday season, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the incredible journey we have shared throughout the year. The winter edition of our newsletter provides a wonderful opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each member of our staff, clients, families, partners, and supporters.

Despite the challenges we face, as a community, we have showcased resilience, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. The unwavering dedication of our staff to enhancing the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with mental health challenges has not only made a difference but has created a ripple effect of positive change.

As we celebrate the holidays, let us take a moment to recognize the connections we have forged and the accomplishments we have achieved together. Our collective efforts have transformed challenges into triumphs. I am confident that the upcoming year holds even more promise for growth and success.

I hope the season brings you moments to reflect on the impact we make in the lives of those we serve. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a new year filled with hope and new opportunities.

J. Ian Casey

Membership

If you are interested in engaging with The Arc of Anchorage locally, we invite you to become a member. Membership allows you to participate in the governance of our organization while enjoying benefits such as invitations to special events and our quarterly newsletters mailed to you. To become a member or renew your membership, please complete the membership application form on the reverse side of this letter and make a payment of membership dues of $15 per individual by 12/31/2023.

Become a member today!

Note: Individuals who are enrolled for services at The Arc are free, however, a membership application will need to be completed. The form and payment can also be completed online at thearcofanchorage.org/membership/! Join now!