Building for Self-Sufficiency

The Arc of San Diego received an $800,000 gift from the Sol and Ruth Gerber Family to launch its $4.5 million Building for Self-Sufficiency capital campaign that will renovate the aging Starlight Center. In honor of this landmark gift, Starlight Center will be renamed The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center.

“We greatly appreciate this generous gift which will positively affect the lives of people with disabilities,” said David W. Schneider, CEO & President. “A renovated center for our programs in South Bay is long overdue and this contribution takes us one step closer to a new and modern center for those we serve.”

The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center will provide an upgraded environment for individuals attending the programs. The renovated 30,000-square-foot center will feature a commercial kitchen, computer lab, media room, and innovative activity-based classrooms.

The campaign has raised over $2,400,000 towards its goal. Funds raised include a commitment of $1.5 million from the South Bay Chapter Advisory Board. To learn more about Building for Self-Sufficiency, contact Jennifer Bates Navarra at (619) 685-1175, ext. 291 or jnavarra@arc-sd.com.

Modest Beginnings

In September 1956, the Chula Vista Junior Women’s Club provided financial and volunteer help to start a recreational program in a carport for teens with disabilities. The group joined The Arc of San Diego in September 1959, becoming Starlight Center.

In July 1960, to accommodate a growing enrollment, the Stephen and Mary Birch Family donated 2½ acres of land at 1280 Nolan Avenue and the City of Chula Vista contributed three buildings to be used as classrooms. At the time, these units were considered to have outlived their usefulness and were meant to be discarded.

Parents, friends, and volunteers worked tirelessly to renovate these buildings as classrooms, officially opening their doors in September 1960, serving 29 adults with disabilities. A 6,000-square-foot workshop was built in 1972 to provide 125 individuals with vocational opportunities.

Today, almost six decades later, the center serves more than 300 children and adults daily in the same timeworn portable units. We have outgrown our current facility which has deteriorated beyond repair and is too costly to maintain.

The renovated center is designed to accommodate current and future needs of individuals with disabilities, providing programs that contribute to their health, well-being, and quality of life from birth through senior years.

Capital Campaign Committee

Co-Chairs: James O. Reynolds, Edward C. Walton, Esq.
Members: Ron Blair, Martha Brault, Susan J. Fuller, Tom Harmon, Norma Hidalgo-Del Rio, RPh, Graciela Montes de Oca, Yrma Nixon, Bill Waite, Sandra Wilson
Be a Not-So-Secret Admirer: Join Our Legacy Society

Give to The Arc!

The Legacy Society recognizes and honors our generous supporters who have made The Arc of San Diego a beneficiary of their estate and financial planning. When you make a charitable planned gift to The Arc, regardless of amount, you are invited to join the Legacy Society. When you choose to make a charitable planned gift to our organization, you are actively expressing your desire to impact the lives of children & adults with disabilities in San Diego for generations to come. Through the Legacy Society, The Arc of San Diego recognizes the thoughtful and generous decisions of those who have made a charitable gift, regardless of amount.

Planned Gifts may be made through:
- Bequests
- Charitable Life Income Plans
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Life Insurance
- Remainder interest in a personal residence
- Gifts from qualified retirement plans
- Remainder from Special Needs Trusts
- Other individual estate plans

Your membership in the Legacy Society will be acknowledged in our publications, recognized at an annual celebration, and commemorated with a gift of appreciation. It is a truly special person who makes the choice to provide for the future of their community. Consider naming The Arc of San Diego as a beneficiary in your trust, estate, or insurance policies today!

To learn more about how you can support The Arc of San Diego for years to come, please contact Jennifer Bates Navarra at (619) 685-1175, ext. 291 or jnavarra@arc-sd.com.

Founding Members

We are proud to recognize our supporters who have committed to leaving a lasting legacy that will sustain The Arc of San Diego for future generations.

Anonymous (5)
Ron Blair
James & Nancy* Bosley
Gary Bryant
Dr. Harland* & Virginia DeBoer
Anthony A. Ghio Family
Gerald & Ingrid Hansen
Dr. Stuart Karasik
Blanche Logan*

Julie Murch
Susan Naanes
Jim & Denise Reynolds
Allosys* & Mariantie Sally*
David W. & Janet D. Schneider
Cherrie Sevick*
Bill Waite
Olivia & Marty Winkler* deceased

* deceased

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Julie Lyon, North County Chapter
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Arc San Diego Foundation

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Darla Davis
Honorable John S. Einhorn
Willis J. Fletcher (deceased)
Arthur Neumann, CPA
George Saadeh
Sidney Schuman
January 23 through May 18, 2015
The Arc of San Diego greatly appreciates the assistance we receive to help us enhance the services we provide to children and adults with disabilities. We are grateful for your support and commitment to improving their quality of life. Thank you to all our wonderful supporters!

Grants
Thank you to the American Legion – Albert J. Hickman Post No. 460 for your generous grant to support our Arc Community Employment Services (ACES) mobile grounds crew.

Thanks to the Genuardi Family Foundation for their generous support of The Arc of San Diego.

Thank you to the Hervey Family Non-endowment Fund for your generous grant to The Arc of San Diego. We appreciate your continued support of our organization.

We appreciate funding from Newman’s Own Foundation for art & music programs at Starlight Center.

Many thanks to the Qualcomm Charitable Foundation for their support of The Arc of San Diego.

Thank you to the San Diego County Employees’ Charitable Organization (CECO) for their contribution to North Shores Vocational Center.

We are grateful for the generous support from the Sundt Foundation for their grant to Camp-A-Little.

Tribute Gifts
In Honor of Priyanka, Preeti, & Anita
Anonymous

In Honor of Diane Cimarusti-Galigher
Bryan & Di Holker

In Honor of Jon Kurtin’s Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Rollind W. Romanoff

In Honor of Johanna McGown
Stephanie L. Johnston

In Honor of Phyllis & John Parrish
Coop & Patti Cooprider
Darlene G. Davies
The John M. and Sally B. Thornton Foundation

In Honor of Robert Stiles
Marilee Stiles Stern

In Honor of John M. and Sally B. Thornton
Frank & Demi Rogozienski

In Honor of John Vaughn
Jill Schultz & Cater To You

In Honor of Jim Walsh & Kathy Healey
Chandra Appell

In Honor of Jimmy Walsh
Theresa Stout

In Honor of Our Unwavering Commitment to Social Change in the World
The Ultimate Software Group, Inc.

Memorial Gifts
In Memory of James R. Walsh
Anonymous
Rev. Frances Boyle
The Gorman Cousins
Dr. Myra Harada
Kathleen F. Healy
Aileen Hurst

In Memory of Rose M. Diamond
Sean Diamond

Road To Success
The Arc of San Diego thanks Virginia DeBoer for her donation of $10,000 in memory of her husband, Harland DeBoer, Ph.D. The donation was applied towards the purchase of a new 2014 Honda CRV for Arc North County. It is used for warehouse pickup and deliveries and to transport consumers in the inter-generational program to Pacific Ridge School.

Dr. DeBoer had been involved with individuals with disabilities since 1948 and was active with The Arc since 1991. He served on the North County Chapter Advisory Board for 10 years, was President of the Board of Directors, and a member of the Arc San Diego Foundation.

We remember Harland as a warm, friendly gentleman, very down-to-earth, with an infectious personality and marvelous sense of humor! He was responsible for initiating many pieces of legislation affecting special education programs. We appreciate his service and contributions to The Arc of San Diego!

A Night to Remember Prom held May 1st at Eastlake Community Church was a HUGE success!! More than 850 students attended the prom honoring students with disabilities ages 15-22. This event, at no cost, provides them with an experience of a lifetime – a magical prom filled with glitz, glamour, red carpet, and cheering paparazzi. The Arc of San Diego is proud to be a sponsor of the fifth annual A Night To Remember Prom.
The Arc of San Diego’s premiere fundraiser, The Jewels on Broadway, enchanted guests with a decadent culinary showcase and dancing the night away to music by Wayne Foster Music & Entertainment. Over 250 guests celebrated the philanthropic contributions and leadership of prominent San Diegans at Fairmont Grand Del Mar on Saturday, March 14th.

The evening began with a cocktail reception and silent auction featuring Broadway showgirls, delightful piano music, and an overwhelming mood of generosity. The reception was followed by dinner and a spirited live auction that boasted high ticket items such as a stay at The Grand Hyatt New York including Broadway tickets and the ultimate Padres experience watching both pre-game batting practice behind home plate and the game in a private suite.

A proclamation was presented to Jeanne Jones and Don Breitenberg from Mayor Kevin Faulconer for their significant philanthropic contributions to the community. The City of San Diego declared March 14th as “Jeanne Jones and Don Breitenberg Day.”

Additionally, Luis Monteagudo with Supervisor Greg Cox’s office presented a proclamation on behalf of the County of San Diego to Phyllis and John Parrish recognizing March 14th as “The Jewels of San Diego Day.”

The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Jon Kurtin, board member of the Arc San Diego Foundation, of a $1,000,000 check from the Sol and Ruth Gerber Family to David Schneider, President & CEO, and Jim Reynolds and Paul La Bounty with the Arc San Diego Foundation. These funds will support renovations at Starlight Center and Our Place Yoga and Wellness Center at North Shores Vocational Center.

The Arc of San Diego is deeply grateful to the Jewels Committee, Honorary Jewels Chairs, our sponsors, and everyone who played a part in making The Jewels on Broadway a huge success!

Our Valued Sponsors
A round of applause to our generous sponsors and donors who made our event sparkle and shine! We are truly grateful for your commitment and support of our mission. Thank you.

Diamond Sponsor
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The John M. & Sally B. Thornton Foundation
Virginia Napierskie
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Farrell Family Foundation
Emma & Leo Zuckerman

Event Sponsor
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Honorary Chairs:
Your service on Arc boards spans almost 20 years. Tell us about it.

In 1996, I started as Vice President of the North County Chapter Advisory Board. A year later, I was First Vice President on the Board of Directors. Three months later, when the President resigned, I became President, serving three terms, 1997, 2004, and 2010. I am currently Past Board Chair.

Additionally, I sit on the Board Development Committee for The Arc of the United States, having completed one term. I have attended 18 national conventions as a delegate. I was also President for two consecutive terms in 2009 and 2011 at The Arc of California.

How did you get involved with The Arc of San Diego?

Although our daughter Jeannette, "Gigi," has cerebral palsy, we were not aware of The Arc or its services. As we were buying our home in 1990, after moving to San Diego, the woman doing the financing was on The Arc of San Diego’s Board!

Gigi went through The Arc’s Independent Living Services (ILS) and it served her extremely well. She lives in Springfield, Ohio with her husband, who also has a disability. They have been married 24 years, have a daughter, and are now grandparents.

What is your role as a member of the board?

I am on the Nominating, Finance, and Audit Committees. I assist with vetting prospective board members, helping with fundraising, and meeting with auditors.

You have given generously of your time. What motivates you?

It’s very rewarding to see what The Arc does. I believe in the organization’s services. My daughter certainly benefited! We are very thankful for the life she has, which would not have been possible without The Arc. She learned money management skills through ILS and manages her home and household budget.

Is there an accomplishment you consider most significant at The Arc?

In 1995, word on the street was we were not going to last much more than 90 days. We did, and we are still here, and in good financial condition, thanks to David Schneider. The decision to go self-insured on worker's compensation by a former Executive Director was also extremely beneficial.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I am a voracious reader of James Patterson and Stuart Woods novels. I enjoy going to the theater and traveling. I’ve been to New Zealand, Spain, and other countries but really love San Francisco.

Dwight and his wife, Kathy, live in Vista. They have four children, one son and three daughters.
Milestone Anniversaries

The Arc of San Diego recognized 90 staff with prestigious milestone anniversaries during the annual Employee Service Awards held on February 27th at the Town & Country Resort & Convention Center. We thank our staff for their dedicated service and loyalty and congratulate them on their achievements throughout the years!

20 years
Theresa V. Kaluzny
Aisha T. Khan
Nenita Locquiao
Alma Ortuno-Esparza
Ramona D. Zamora

15 years
Joann L. Coats
Elizabeth Cortez
Elizalde Esperanza
Candelaria Hernandez
Cathryn A. Jones
Susana A. Lance
Anita N. Libo-on
Donna L. McClellan
Matthew T. Mouer
Tanisha S. Ulep
Calles Nora Virgen

10 years
Julia Avila
Antonia Bravo Acosta
Hilda T. Buenrostro
Martha E. Camacho
Mary K. Castro
Elissa A. Ciaverelli
Ida D. Cloud
Karen M. D’Orlando
Tsehay G. Desta
Beatriz Estudillo De Herrera
John A. Faulkner
Vicky T. Harrell
Consuelo Jimenez Flores
Minerva Jimenez
Victoria J. Learn
Catherine M. Littlejohn
Florita T. Manalo
Patrocinio Martinez-Carillo
George B. McClellan
Marva C. Mize
Hilda C. Molina
Mario Morales
Rosa Moreno
Martha Morlett
Jacqueline Pearce

5 years
Edname E. Abad, Jr.
Faiza A. Ahmed
Amy Barber
Ruth Carmichael
Roberta R. Chavez
Julio C. Chee Lopez
Larry J. Conner
Arthur Contreras
Todd N. Davis
Antonio Fernandez
Joanna De Los Reyes
Rebecca S. Duyo
Carmela Galicia
Darcy Hayes
Honorina F. Hernandez
Laura Y. Iniguez
Leticia Lara
Tom R. Lockwood
Marilou Malvar
Angelina Mancillas
Sandoval
Elsa O. Montano Scott
Maria D. Mora
Myers Byron
Phillip A. O’Keefe
Claudia Paul Santos
Asha K. Pickett
Silvia L. Rocha
Elizabeth Romo
James Ryan
Jesus J. Salazar
Luis C. Silva
Linda S. Sullivan
Antonio Tejeda
Anna Thomas
Alicia A. Vega
Robert L. Williams

Is there a consumer you remember with particular fondness?

Dana Hornik. I love all my consumers, but Dana was the sweetest! She assembled wind chimes and was very good at tying the pieces. She loved her job and always carried a notepad, keeping daily notes of the number of chimes she completed. She was thoughtful, too - loved mints and put tic-tacs on everyone’s desks daily. Although Dana passed away seven years ago, I remember her with great fondness.

What is your advice to newcomers starting careers at The Arc?

Take the job knowing this is what you’d really like to do and everything will fall into place. Having patience is a plus!

What motivates you to champion The Arc?

The people around me, consumers and co-workers. Everyone is very nice. I love helping consumers learn to do different jobs. They are hard-working. There is good teamwork between the staff and consumers. I like the friendships and am happy to work and speak for The Arc.

What was a challenge you had working here?

Acceptance. I work the weekend overnight shift. Three of my consumers have lived in this home longer than me. This is their home. Be sensitive to needs and treat everyone as a member of the family. Once you gain trust, you get love and, in my case, I am called sister or mother.

What makes you stay at your job?

I enjoy coming to work every day. A friend told me about this job. My first week was very difficult because I got very emotional. I gave myself one week, then two, then three months...it’s 20 years later! I love being where I am and would not accept any promotions. I find the need to be here with the consumers. I am attached and, deep inside, have a feeling of great accomplishment.

Is there a consumer you remember with particular fondness?

Dana Hornik. I love all my consumers, but Dana was the sweetest! She assembled wind chimes and was very good at tying the pieces. She loved her job and always carried a notepad, keeping daily notes of the number of chimes she completed. She was thoughtful, too - loved mints and put tic-tacs on everyone’s desks daily. Although Dana passed away seven years ago, I remember her with great fondness.
Camp, A Magical Place!

Camp-A-Lot/Camp-A-Little has a small staff with a big mission - giving campers the opportunity to explore their independence in a safe, fun-filled environment. The program does not receive any funding from the government and relies on donations to make sure that children and adults with disabilities have the opportunity to go to camp regardless of their ability to pay.

This year, as in the past, many campers will need help. Each person has to raise approximately $1,000 to attend a five day session in Descanso. This often poses difficulties for those coming from single parent homes, those who live at home with aging parents on limited incomes or in residential homes with no family, and those who save all year long to go to camp but need a little help.

For the past five years, your generous gifts made it possible for 122 individuals to enjoy a week of pure joy and adventure. We are so grateful for your support.

Summer is here and we are busily preparing for camp. Once again, we ask for your help. With your donation, our campers will spend a happy week laughing and playing, making new friends, doing lots of activities, and just being themselves. They will return home with warm and exciting stories of sitting around the campfire, swimming, roasting marshmallows, riding bikes, and plenty of photographs to share with friends and family!

Please make your check payable to “The Arc of San Diego.” An envelope is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Thank you.

DONATE To The Camp Program

Your generous gift will help cover the cost of camp and provide our campers with an unforgettable experience. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

- $35 – Water bottles
- $60 – Bus transportation to/from camp for one
- $100 – Sunscreen for two sessions
- $180 – Camp-A-Lot memento T-shirts for 15 low-income campers
- $250 – One partial camp scholarship
- $250 – 24-hour nursing care
- $300 – Arts and crafts supplies for both sessions
- $350 – Medical supplies for both sessions
- $400 – Program supplies such as pool toys, frisbees, board games, and carnival prizes
- $600 – Adaptive archery program
- $1,000 – One full camp scholarship
- $2,000 – Round-trip bus service for 85 campers and staff

If you would prefer receiving the Spotlight via email, please email us at info@arc-sd.com

The Spotlight is published quarterly. You can find the online version of the newsletter at www.arc-sd.com

Mission

The Arc of San Diego supports and empowers people with disabilities to achieve their life goals.