



# The Arc™

Monthly Memo  
New Mexico  
March, 2014

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**The mission of The Arc of New Mexico is to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages by advocating for equal opportunities and choices in where and how they learn, live, work, play and socialize. The Arc of New Mexico will promote self-determination, healthy families, effective community support systems and partnerships.**

On Tuesday, March 18 Sheri Dollin, Director of Education and Training at The Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center out of Phoenix, Arizona, provided an excellent training about the Center's Friend Program in Silver City, New Mexico. The inclusive social skills curriculum provides opportunities for students on the autism spectrum to improve social communication skills in a natural setting, specifically during lunch and recess, supported by peers, parents, educators, and therapists.

The program includes activities and tips that can be used for peer sensitivity training to promote awareness of ASD and social differences and appropriate strategies for facilitating social interactions for school age students. Video clips presented of students with autism before and after participation in the program showed a definite and remarkable increase of social interaction between the students and their peers.

The event was organized and sponsored Arc of New Mexico, the Disability Advisory Council, and Western New Mexico University with funding from the Grant County Community Enhancement Fund. Over 50 people attended the training including family members, an individual with Autism, educators and other professionals. A special thank you to Vicki Galindo, Cathy Owens, Spri Aubrey and Karen Morant making the event a successful one.

The Center will be presenting training in Silver City on Tuesday, April 15. For more information contact Spri Aubrey (575) 538-6418 [spri.aubry@wnmu.edu](mailto:spri.aubry@wnmu.edu) or Vicki Galindo (575) 590-7957 [vgalindo@arcnm.org](mailto:vgalindo@arcnm.org).

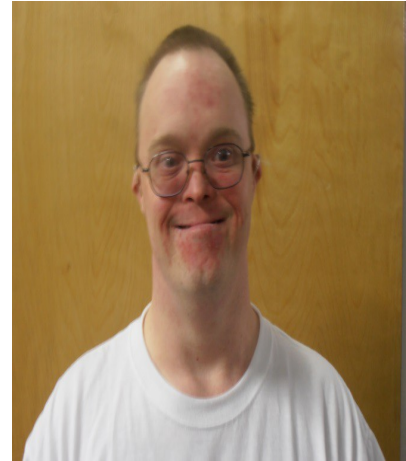
Check out the Friend Playground Club video on YouTube.

I am Waiting!  
Ray

Farmington, New Mexico  
San Juan County

My name is Ray and I live in Farmington New Mexico. I have been on the DD Waiver waiting list for 5 years. I am now 40 years older. Prior to moving to Farmington, Ray lived in Idaho and was in assisted living.

Ray was born in Mesa, Arizona. Currently, Ray works part time at the Arc of San Juan County in Farmington. Ray lives with family. He is in the choir at Church and is a leadsman in singing. Ray participates in some community activities Ray is very articulate and is proficient on computers. He can create forms, do graphic designs, knows excel and word. He has his own face book account.



Ray would like to be more independent either living with family or living on his own. He would like to have a job coach that could help him improve his skills and possibly get promoted someday so he could use his computer skills. He has PCO through the San Juan Center for Independence but these hours were cut. Ray would like to be on the Arc Board and possibly do some public policy. The DD Waiver could help him become more independent and provide the staff support he needs to access more community activities, improve his job skills. A staff support would also help Ray become involved in community boards and public policy activities.

And also he likes to go out and enjoy his day helping his family whenever if his brother or sister asked him what to do in his living skills from home. Include he likes to go and take class at the San Juan College and he knows what class he would like to take business management and become an Arc of San Juan County Bosses or secretary too someday.



The Mission of the **People First of Anthony** is to inform and enlighten the community about individuals with developmental disabilities: We are people first and **not** our disability. We want to teach the importance of **leadership skills** to become independent and educate our community about **disability issues** that affect individuals with disabilities' **quality of life**. We believe that speaking up, having fun, family ties, and healthy relationships are important and necessary in everyone's life.

La Mision **de People First of Anthony** es el de informar y iluminar a la comunidad acerca de nuestras personas con discapacidades del desarrollo, la enseñanza acerca de la importancia de las habilidades de liderazgo a la hora de independizarse, y educar a nuestra comunidad sobre temas relacionados con la discapacidad que afecta a personas con discapacidad a la calidad de vida.

The 2014 Annual Summit on Social Equality and The Arc Annual Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, June 20-21 at Hotel Cascada in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This year's theme is "Work Hard! Play Hard!"

The event will include a variety of plenary and breakout session, exhibitors/information booths and a pool party Friday evening. It is a great opportunity to learn, network and have fun.

More information about session topics will be posted soon to The Arc website. To register visit [www.arcnm.org](http://www.arcnm.org).

The Arc of New Mexico depends on public donations to sustain our work. You can make a one-time gift or a recurring gift. Make a donation now to support our mission to benefit all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in New Mexico.

A memorial gift is a beautiful and lasting tribute for a loved one or to a family as an expression of sympathy. Family and friends can be recognized with a gift in their honor. This might be for a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, holiday, wedding, retirement, etc.

Visit [www.arcnm.org](http://www.arcnm.org) to make an on-line donation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**Thank you to our 2014 Arc Allies**

**Gold - Bank of the West**

**Silver - Gregory Chase**

**Arc Allies (Continued)**

United Healthcare  
Susan Mullins

Loretta and Dennis Silva  
Fred and Jane Weiss

Steven and Rebecca Grass  
Community Health Charities  
David Barringer  
Molina Healthcare  
Presbyterian Healthcare  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico  
Desert Hills of New Mexico  
New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services  
Department  
University of New Mexico Center for  
Developmental Disabilities  
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing  
Community Outreach Program for the Deaf  
Cornucopia  
New Mexico Department of Health,  
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division  
Disability Rights New Mexico  
New Mexico Developmental Disabilities  
Planning Council, Center for Self-Advocacy  
New Mexico Department of Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Governor's Commission on Disability  
Independent Living Resource Center  
New Vistas

New Mexico School for the Deaf  
New Mexico Autism Society  
Parents Reaching Out  
Consumer Direct New Mexico  
Amira Rasheed  
Roger Weinreich  
Sally Faubion  
Dolores Harden  
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Vicki Galindo  
Van Nunley  
Randy Costales  
Rosalie DesAutel  
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Letty Mora  
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Martha and Charles Ridenour  
Karl McKibben Estate

*Achieve with us.*