Board Chair Receives 2019 Family Advocate Award

As an Evansville attorney, Joe Langerak spends much of his time advocating for the rights of his clients and helping them to achieve positive impacts. Fortunately, he does much of the same in his personal time by serving in many capacities that are improving the lives of those with disabilities.

As a parent of a child with disabilities, Joe often recalls the bewildering feeling of not knowing what to do upon hearing of his daughter’s diagnosis. He desired to make a difference for other families facing the same type of situation. He, along with a diverse group of volunteer professionals, collaborated to provide a resource guide for local families with a newborn. The resource guide, which is titled “Raising a Healthy Child: A Family’s Guide to Local Resources for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers,” presents information to new parents about developmental milestones, local support services, and other medical, therapeutic, and educational resources for families.

Today, Joe serves as Board Chair at The Arc of Evansville, as well as a member of the State of Indiana’s 1102 Task Force. The Task Force was established in 2017 and is led by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. It is the first broad assessment of intellectual and developmental disabilities services since 1997. Joe, along with other Task Force appointees, travels around the state to attend meetings for gathering input and preparing a comprehensive plan for the implementation of community-based services provided to people with intellectual and other disabilities.

On October 23, 2019, Joe was recognized at The Arc of Indiana’s annual award luncheon in Plainfield, Indiana with the 2019 Family Advocate Award from The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana for his dedication to individuals with disabilities. This award recognizes a family member, who is a strong advocate, not only for their own family member but all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Congratulations, Joe!

Tri-State’s Got Talent On November 16

Do you love to sing, dance, or perform to showcase your talent? Do you dream of performing in front of a large number of people? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then Tri-State’s Got Talent is the event for you. Join us on Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Eastland Mall’s food court area.

Interested individuals will have an opportunity to showcase their diverse talent in front of a panel of judges who will determine which act will be featured in front of thousands for The 2020 Really Big Show on February 8, 2020. The public is welcome to attend the event and watch the auditions.

For official rules and registration, please visit our website at http://arcof Evansville.org/tri-states-got-talent/. You may also contact Kim Henning, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator, at (812) 428-4500, ext. 307 or kimberly.henning@arcof Evansville.org for additional information.
Gift Club Membership

The Arc of Evansville’s Annual Fund Gift Club stems from our agency’s core of honoring those who help us serve approximately 600 individuals with disabilities each year. To become a member of the gift club, a donor must give a minimum of $250 cumulatively during the year (July 1 – June 30). A donor may advance his/her level by making additional contributions throughout the year. Each donor will receive specific recognition rewards as they reach a new gift club level. For more information, contact Cinda Phillips, Director of Development at (812) 428-4500, ext. 308 or cinda.phillips@arcofevansville.org.

Thank you to our loyal donors for supporting the mission of The Arc of Evansville. These are our 2019-2020 Gift Club Members as of July 1, 2019 to October 30, 2019.

**President’s Circle ($5,000+)**
- Anonymous
- Dan & Diane Krupp
- Leanna M. Thomas
- Colleen Martin

**Platinum ($2,500 - $4,999)**
- Gayle Rood
- Daniel Townsend & Denise Seibert Townsend
- Darren & Lisa Verkamp

**Gold ($1,000 - $2,499)**
- Patricia S. Mitsos
- Jim & Mary Kay Muehlbauer
- Tom & Brenda Rusche
- Larry & Melody Schmitt
- David & Patricia Smith
- Charlotte Tanner
- The Massey Family
- Steve & Wendy Thomas
- Glenn & Jennifer Wuchner

Maximizing His Abilities

During his 14 years of employment at Home Depot, Ken Wagner has gained skills and knowledge that only come from longevity with a company. He has seen many co-workers come and go through the years; however, he continues to be a dependable, loyal employee who is said to know where every item belongs throughout the store. The Arc’s job coaching services such as job-related training, reinforcement of acquired skills, and job performance supervision have helped Ken be successful in his position.

Employment is a vital part of living a meaningful life for individuals with disabilities. Many of those served by The Arc have the ability and willingness to be employed in the community. To find out more about community employment, contact Jack Maxwell, Manager of Community Job Link, at (812) 492-1204.

Building Your Legacy

When you make a gift to The Arc of Evansville, you improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Every gift advances the mission of The Arc to empower individuals with disabilities to build relationships, gain independence, and achieve their full potential. Below are some giving options that you may not have considered that can enable you to increase the impact of your gift.

- **IRA Charitable Rollover** – if you are age 70 ½ or older, donating directly from your IRA to The Arc of Evansville enables you to make a gift up to $100,000 without being subject to income taxes on the distribution
- **Planned Gift** – including The Arc of Evansville in your will or estate or naming The Arc of Evansville as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement plan
- **Gift Of Stock** – transferring a gift of stock may enable you to avoid capital gains tax

**For more information on making a gift to The Arc of Evansville**
Please contact Denise Seibert Townsend at (812) 428-4500, ext. 310, or denise.seibert@arcofevansville.org
Can You Help With These Items?

The Arc of Evansville is in need of items to help support activities of our programs and services. If you can donate, please contact Kayla Schmitt, Development Assistant, at (812) 428-4500, ext. 309, or kayla.schmitt@arcofevansville.org.

- Cassette Tapes
- Metal Cookie Cutters
- Hard Peppermint Candies

Because Of The Generosity Of Others

The Vectren Foundation supported The Arc’s project to provide opportunities such as group exercise, cooking lessons, safety and life skills classes, creative arts and education. The project was impactful for our clients, but the stationary bike, in particular, has been a huge hit with those we serve. Kimberly Woerz, Manager of Day Services For Adults, said, “The individuals we serve really enjoy using the stationary bikes! Some utilize wheelchairs the majority of the day and did not otherwise have a way to keep their legs and joints moving. The stationary bike has been a great way to keep them going even if they cannot get up and go!”

We want to thank the Vectren Foundation for its continued support for individuals with disabilities!

Seeking Volunteers

The Really Big Show is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020, at the Old National Events Plaza in downtown Evansville. This signature event is The Arc of Evansville’s largest annual fundraiser. Approximately 280 volunteers contributed 1,830 hours of their time for the 2019 show. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the event.

Please consider giving a few hours of your time to volunteer for this fun event. Numerous volunteer opportunities are available, but these are some of our greatest needs.

- Auction committee member: Volunteer will help solicit new auction donations, assist with picking up items, and assist with following up on requests.
- Table Decorators: Volunteers will assist with setting up decorations as instructed on February 7, including arranging centerpieces for 65-80 dinner tables, decorating auction tables, and setting up silent auction items.
- Auction set up: Volunteers will assist with loading items into vehicles, unloading vehicles, and placing items on auction tables as instructed on February 7.
- Auction Table Monitor: Volunteers will circulate their designated auction section, monitoring auction tables, and ensuring items stay on the tables. Volunteers will encourage bidding. Volunteers will also help close auction sections at designated times.
- Auction Registration: Volunteers will assist guests in registering for their auction bid number.

To volunteer
Please contact Kim Henning, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator, at (812) 428-4500, ext. 307, or visit www.arcofevansville.org.
The mission of The Arc of Evansville is to empower individuals with disabilities to build relationships, gain independence, and achieve their full potential.

Our $100 VIP tickets, which include Curtain Call Reception admission, are on sale now! To purchase your ticket or to help volunteer, please contact Kayla Schmitt, Development Assistant, at (812) 428-4500, ext. 309, or visit www.arcofevansville.org.

All proceeds from The Really Big Show benefit The Arc of Evansville’s programs and services.