



Helping people with intellectual & developmental disabilities
lead independent lives EVERY DAY!

The Arc
St. Clair County

**December
2025**

NEWSLETTER

**SAVE THE
DATES!**

**Star Wars Prowlers
Game**

Friday, February 13th

**Show the Love
Dinner Dance**

**Thursday, February
26th**

**Mother's Day
Flower Sale**

March 15th-May 1st

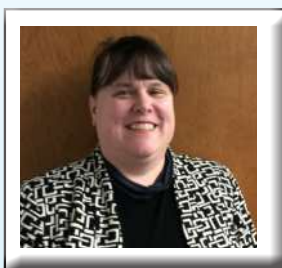
**Richard Schock
Golf Outing
TBD**

Check inside for

**2025-26 Target
\$65,000**

Pie Sales	\$2,500
Prowlers Game	\$7,500
3rd Annual Show the Love Dinner & Auction	\$30,000
Membership	\$3,000
Flower Sales	\$3,500
Golf Outing	\$25,000
Heart of a Hero	\$3,500
Summer Raffle	\$2,500

**Come Join the
Fun!**



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Fall is starting out with a bang! We have been busy helping children and their parents with school issues and the meetings haven't stopped yet. We are seeing very positive results and we just received our first referral right from a school. We must be doing something right!

Our new Adult Advocate, Jean Chapdelaine, who was previously our guardian/payee bookkeeper has been jumping in with both feet and she helped move 5 clients (three who were homeless) in October. We now have 50 payees/guardianship clients that we take care of, many on a daily basis and that is keeping our schedules full. There are many days when both Jean and I are out of the office at the same time. We are getting a new phone system soon that will help everyone to be able to leave messages for the right person rather than all of them going into just one mailbox which will help us get back to everyone sooner. We appreciate your patience as we try to make sure that everyone who needs us gets the time and help that they deserve.

Our Holiday Pie Sale is going on right now. Everyone should have received a postcard in the mail. Our goal is 500 pies this holiday season. If you have ordered a pie the pickup is Friday December 19th here at the Arc of SCC from 1-5pm.

Thank you to all who have donated coats, office supplies and food during these trying times with the food stamps in November. Hopefully everything will be back to normal for December (fingers crossed). We were able to supplement many of our clients with what was donated. It was greatly appreciated by all. During the holiday season we try to make sure that all our clients have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those that live independently we try to make sure that they are visiting family or friends or have what is needed to have a holiday in their home. We budget all year to make sure that everyone has a few extra dollars to buy presents for family and friends and sometimes even themselves. We also coordinate with staff in the group homes with agencies that gift some of our residents with holiday items and food. We are very grateful for all of the agencies that work with us to make sure that all of our clients can have a Merry Christmas!

We have a great story inside about what is going on with SNAP and how it is affecting our clients and every ID/D person in Michigan. It is worth the read and very important that everyone is educated on what is going on in our government.

Jon Watt's LIVEtoLEAD program is a great way for local businesses to improve their leadership. We have been using Jon's guidance for the past two years and it has really paid off for us and if you own or know someone who does own a business this is a great way to take you to the next level of growth and commitment for your business. I encourage every business owner to come to this event.

Looking ahead to the Star Wars Prowlers Game (something new for all the Star Wars fans) let's show the Prowlers we are their fans! The 3rd Annual Show the Love we promise that there will be more dancing time! Let's fill the room with love and have 400 people in attendance. The music will be great! The photo booth will be rocking and the showing of the love for the consumers we serve will be amazing!

Valorie Hudgens, Executive Director

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!!

The Arc of SCC 3rd Annual
SHOW THE LOVE
DINNER/DANCE & AUCTION
Thursday, February 26, 2026
6-9pm • \$50 per person

Alexander's Banquet Center • 1200 Gratiot Blvd. • Marysville

Buy your tickets online at www.TheArcSCC.org or call 810-989-9144

DJ • PHOTOBOOTH • AUCTION • BOOZE PULL • 50/50 & MORE!

**How you can help: Event Sponsors • Table Sponsors
Baskets/Gift Cards for the Auction • Buy tickets for a Christmas gift!
Like AND Share our event on Facebook!**

Please help us fill the room with 400 supporters!
COME JOIN THE FUN! HELP US HELP THEM!

LIVE2LEAD



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Coach, Speaker,
Author, and Former
NFL Player



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Top 50 Business
Thinker in the World



JOHN C. MAXWELL
#1 Leadership Expert
and Best-Selling
Author



JESSE COLE
Owner of the Savannah
Bananas and Creator of
Banana Ball



CRAIG GROESCHEL
Senior Pastor,
Bestselling Author,
Leader

January 14, 2026
Colonial Woods
8:00 -12:30

Every Business Owner can learn
something to make their business
prosper!

The Arc will receive a donation for
every attendee!

Contact Jon Watt
jwattcoach@gmail.com

Two of the most common ways we advocate for individuals with disabilities is through adult advocacy and child advocacy

The goal of The Arc's advocacy services is to assist individuals and their families in becoming effective self-advocates by increasing their knowledge of personal choice, and advancing their independence. The Arc provides information and referral services, access to community resources, and access to trainings, as well as one-on-one advocacy in the following areas:

- Assistance with applying for Entitlement Programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Food Assistance, and Adult Home Help
- Consultation for alternatives to guardianship, power of attorney, and guardianship and representative payee support
- Housing Resources
- Community Inclusion and Recreational Services
- Community Mental Health and Person Centered Planning

The Arc of St. Clair County partners with Michigan Alliance for Families to provide information, support, and education for families who have children (birth through 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services. Their website can help you with finding information on special education issues as well as disability specific information.

Through Michigan Alliance for Families parents can connect directly to a local mentor to address the families' needs. All Michigan families are able to access 1:1 support, electronic and printed resource information, and referrals to local community resources.

For more information on child advocacy, please contact Valorie at childadvocate@thearcsc.org. For more information on adult advocacy, please contact Jean at adultadvocate@thearcsc.org

<p>RIDE THE WAVE! Blue Water Area Transit</p> <p>Dial-a-Ride, ADA and scheduled runs serving the cities of Port Huron & Marysville, and the Townships of Burchville, Ft. Gratiot and Port Huron</p> <p><u>Seniors (60+)</u> <u>ONLY 40 cents!</u></p> <p>MON - SAT Service till 11 pm Also, weekday Commuter Routes to Macomb County Smart Bus</p> <p>plan your trip and track your Blue Water Area Transit fixed-route bus in real time!</p> <p>Scan the QR Code to load the free  transit mobile app on your phone</p> <p>Help with how to use the Transit app can be found at: https://help. transitapp.com/ and at bwbus.com</p> <p>Call 810-987-7373 for service information</p> <p>www.bwbus.com</p>	<p>SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!</p>	 <p>200 Grand River Ave Suite 104 Port Huron, MI 48060</p> <p>Ph: 810-989-6945 Fax: 810-966-4682</p>
	<p>SHORT STAFFED?</p> <p>Place an ad here to find new local talent for your business.</p> <p>CALL 800-477-4574</p>	

IEPs and 504s • What Are They? Why Do We Need Them?

by Jackie Martin-Sebell - Non-Attorney Special Education Advocate

What's the difference between an IEP and 504? As a non-attorney special education advocate, I get this question a lot. To put it simply: An individualized educational program (IEP) is guided by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and gives a student identified as having a disability that negatively impacts his or her education; special education and related services in the form of an individual education program (IEP). (<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>)

The regulations for special education within the state of Michigan are detailed within Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE). (https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/specialeducation/MI-rules/MARSE_Supplemented_with_IDEA_Regs.pdf?rev=a9fd6c0ae03548fdad9195e24c4020ac)

A 504 is a plan which is guided by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) via the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, in order to ensure that a student with a disability has access to needed accommodations that improve academic functioning and prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/504-resource-guide-201612.pdf>)

These plans, and laws that govern them are vastly different. One of the ways they are different includes procedural safeguards in place for the child and parent. Understanding your rights, and your child's rights is important.

If you (parent) have concerns that your child may have a disability impacting their education in any way (ex: academically, socially, communicatory, behaviorally, emotionally, or functionally), you can request a comprehensive psycho-educational evaluation be done by your public school district. Your formal request initiates the process for an initial evaluation of your child. This evaluation should be comprehensive to your child and assess them in all areas of recognized or suspected need (34 CFR § 300.304(c)(6)). A student does not have to be failing classes or grades in order to qualify for and need special education services. This is often not fully understood but which is very clearly spelled out in MARSE and IDEA. A student can have a disability that is impacting them educationally, while also receiving good grades academically. A student can be gifted with straight A's or in honors classes, and qualify for and need an IEP (this is often referred to as twice-exceptionally). Disability can impact a student in many ways beyond academics, including socially, behaviorally, or emotionally (34 CFR § 300.101 (c)).

In Michigan, there are 13 different categories of eligibility that a student may be found to qualify for special education under (ex: speech and language impairment, autism spectrum disorder, other health impairment, or specific learning disability). No matter what classification a student qualifies under; their IEP must address all of the students' needs within it. Special education is a service, not a place/location and is determined based on the individual needs of the student. The IEP must be written to provide a student with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in their least restrictive environment (LRE).

If your child has a current IEP and you have concerns that their needs are not being met through it, you can request a meeting to review and revise the plan as determined necessary by the team which includes you (the parent).

Special education rules are complex and it can be difficult to navigate. Knowing who to reach out to for assistance and information can be key to getting answers to your questions and, when necessary, having the support you need. The Arc of St. Clair County has advocates on hand who are able to provide you information and assistance necessary. To find out more about the services and how to access them, contact (phone number). The information shared is for informational purposes only, and should not be considered legal advice.

Checklist for getting ready for the next school year:

- Review your child's IEP/504 to see if it is addressing all of his/her needs
- Make a list of your child's needs (social, emotional, behavioral, functional, and academic), including those that you do not believe are well understood or well addressed within their IEP
- Review your state rules and regulations around special education
- If appropriate, send an email to your child's IEP/caseload teacher requesting a meeting (to discuss your concerns) to be held when school begins
- If your child does not have an IEP and you suspect need, send an email to your district administrator over special education, formally requesting an evaluation for special education services under IDEA
- Reach out to the Arc of SCC or other local disability agencies for information on resources for you and your child. The Arc of SCC is a great resource to find all those other disability agencies that your child might need.
- Join the Arc's IEP/504 parent group to learn more about yours and your child's rights related to special education
- If your child is a freshman or sophomore there are two tracks they can take to graduating, either a diploma or certificate. If you are not sure which one is right for your child connect with the Arc of SCC to see what options your child has for further training and whether it is best for them.

Hands-off Medicaid! - Save Medicaid – Take Action Now!

Medicaid provides lifesaving healthcare and essential services for millions of people, including individuals with disabilities, seniors, and low-income families. But right now, it's at risk. Congress is pushing through deep cuts that could devastate the people we serve.

What's Happening? The House has passed a budget that slashes hundreds of billions from Medicaid while giving tax breaks to billionaires. These cuts would mean fewer home and community-based services, higher barriers to care, and increased instability for individuals with disabilities.

The Senate is voting next – we need to act fast!

..... **Call Your Senators Now**

The most powerful way to stop these cuts is to flood Congress with calls. We need to let them know that Medicaid is not optional—it's essential.

Use this quick and easy tool to call your senators:

<https://5calls.org/issue/house-budget-cuts-medicaid-billionaire-tax-breaks/>

Just 5 minutes of your time can help protect millions of lives.

Spread the Word - Tell your friends and family – every call makes a difference!

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PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP AND HELP THE ARC?

The Arc of SCC is a membership driven organization. Your support makes The Arc's voice in St. Clair County even stronger as we address issues such as education, employment, housing and safety that are critical to the disability community. It also helps cover the cost of getting this newsletter to consumers and their families in the community that can use our services, remind them of what is available at the Arc and what new programs are coming up in the future as well as educating them on different topics that are important to them.

For those of our loyal supporters that purchase a membership you can see what good things we are doing in the community for both awareness and education.

You can help us make a difference TODAY! You can go online at: www.thearcsc.org/members to purchase your membership or you can mail a check to the address at the bottom of the membership form.

***We now take PayPal, CashApp
and Venmo to pay for your
membership!***

Membership has benefits:

Individuals, Families & Consumers receive:

Quarterly Newsletters • Voting Rights to Vote in Yearly Appointed Board Members • Ability to address concerns to Board Members at monthly Board Meetings • Recognition once a year in Newsletter.

☐ Individual - \$25 ☐ Family - \$30

☐ Consumer (uses our services) - \$10

Corporate businesses receive:

All benefits of individuals plus: Advertising links on our website • Social Media Shout Outs • Logo & website info in Newsletter quarterly

☐ Corporate Business - \$150

Individual/Family/Consumer or Contact Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mail this application along with your check to:
The Arc of SCC

1530 Pine Grove Ave, Suite 1 • Port Huron, MI 48060.

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ANTHONY TRUCKS
Coach, Speaker,
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January 22, 2026
Anchor Point Bistro
8:00 -12:30

Every Business Owner can learn
something to make their business
prosper!

The Arc will receive a donation for
every attendee!

Contact Jon Watt
jwattcoach@gmail.com



Historic Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP: What It Means for Michigan

1 in 4 Michiganians rely on Medicaid or CHIP for vital health coverage.

1 in 7 Michiganians get help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to put food on the table.

New Law Made Historic Cuts

On July 4, 2025, the budget reconciliation bill (H.R. 1) was signed into law and included provisions to cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and nearly \$200 billion from SNAP over the next decade. This is the largest rollback of federal support for health care and food assistance in American history. States that have expanded their Medicaid program to cover low-income adults without children face the most challenges from numerous provisions in the new law. The law will make it harder for people to access and retain the benefits they need, including:

- **Restricting Eligibility and Enrollment:** The law requires states to check whether adults in the Medicaid expansion population are still eligible every 6 months. This adds administrative costs to states and can increase backlogs, and coverage loss due to paperwork issues. The law also eliminates Medicaid and SNAP eligibility for many lawfully present immigrants.
- **Imposing Work Requirements:** The law requires states to impose new work requirements onto many adults in the Medicaid expansion population and increases the number of people subject to existing SNAP work requirements. States will need to fund technology and staff to implement these changes and to educate people about these new requirements.
- **Making It Harder for States to Fund Medicaid:** New restrictions affect how states can raise revenue to finance their share of Medicaid costs, jeopardizing efforts to fund services based on state needs and priorities. States that have expanded Medicaid will face a decreasing amount of revenue over time due to new limitations.
- **Shifting Additional Costs on to State Budgets:** The law requires states to cover up to 15% of SNAP benefit costs and 75% of SNAP administrative costs.

Impacts for Michigan

Medicaid and SNAP are lifelines for Michiganians with disabilities and their families. 52% of working-age adults with disabilities in Michigan receive health coverage through Medicaid. More than 39% of SNAP beneficiaries in Michigan live in households with people with disabilities.

Michigan's state budget will struggle to absorb the new law's cuts to federal Medicaid and SNAP funding. Michigan currently relies on the federal government to cover around 76% of total Medicaid spending. In 2023, Michigan received \$18 billion in federal Medicaid funding. As a result of the new law, over the next 10 years Michigan could receive \$32 billion less federal Medicaid funding — a 17% cut. A separate estimate found that each year Michigan could face as much a \$609 million



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in SNAP costs. To make up for lost federal funding, Michigan may be forced to choose between raising taxes or cutting state funding for food assistance, health care, public safety, or education to balance its budget.

Federal Medicaid and SNAP cuts put critical services for people with disabilities at risk.

Although the new law does not directly cut Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS), historical trends show that states often reduce optional services, including HCBS, in the face of recessions, reduced revenues, and budget cuts.

- For example, from 2010 to 2012, all states reduced HCBS program spending or home health spending in response to federal Medicaid cuts. In Michigan, this included an 18% reduction in home health waiver participants.
- The risk of cuts to HCBS is especially great because Michigan spends more on HCBS than any other optional benefit. Michigan already limits HCBS due to constraints on available funding. 2,299 Michiganians are currently on a waitlist to receive Medicaid-funded HCBS.

Work requirements don't significantly increase employment and can result in coverage loss—especially for individuals with disabilities. Studies show that work requirements often cause people with disabilities to lose their benefits even when exemptions meant to protect them are in place.

Cuts targeting Medicaid expansion and ACA Marketplaces will increase the number of Michiganians without health insurance. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the health provisions in the new law will increase the number of people without health insurance in 2034 by 10 million. The uninsured population in Michigan will increase by an estimated 3 percentage points. Many people with disabilities who do not qualify for Medicaid through more restrictive pathways like SSI get health insurance through Medicaid expansion or the ACA Marketplaces.

As food and health care costs continue to stretch families' budgets, Medicaid and SNAP are more important than ever. These programs are widely supported—recent polling shows that Americans across party lines have favorable views of Medicaid (83%) and SNAP (70%). Any cuts to these critical programs will harm families, strain state budgets, and weaken local economies.

Have you checked out the Arc's Tech Toolbox on the National Arc website?

The Arc's Tech Toolbox™ is a place to find, share, rate and review technology for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). **Go to: thearc.org and look under "find resources" to check it out.**

Add tools - New apps, devices and websites are emerging every day. Post descriptions of new technology products, so that others can learn about them.

Review tools - Decide what technology products might work for you or a person with I/DD in your life, by learning from the reviews, ratings and stories of others.

Example: MyGuide - \$450.00

MyGuide presents relevant information to the user at the right time and in the right format; collects and shares feed...
Read More Software



STAR WARS™



Feb 13 | 7:05 pm

 **CORTEVA™ Family Night**
agriscience

SAVE THE DATE! Mark your calendars and come join the Arc for a great night of Star Wars! The Arc of SCC will be joined by another non-profit called Force for Hunger which works to supply food to those families in need here in St. Clair County. All their volunteers love Star Wars and will be present at the game in full Star Wars costumes. They will help us interact with all the fans for pictures and maybe a friendly battle or two. The Prowlers will be auctioning off 1 of a kind Star Wars/Prowlers jerseys for this event and all the proceeds will go to the Arc. Bring family, bring friends, and spread the word! You will also have a chance to win a great prize in our membership contest. Cost for a membership is \$10 for a consumer, \$25 for a single member and \$30 for a family. One lucky winner who signs up for an Arc membership will win a great prize. Come on down for a great time with the Prowlers and The Arc!

Welcome to Our New Adult Advocate - Jean Chapdelaine

You might have seen Jean around the Arc office. She has been a volunteer for all our marketing needs thru her Ready Set Mail business. When COVID hit, our bookkeeper retired so she stepped up and helped us thru those hard times. When Val was getting overwhelmed with the bookkeeping for the guardianships and payees, Jean stepped up again and took over those duties as well.

On August our Adult Advocate, Flo, found another position and Val again looked to Jean and said, "You already know half of the work, I can teach you the rest." Needless to say Jean stepped up again and joined the Arc as a full time employee on October 1st.

Jean has been married to her husband, Ron, for 38 years and they have 3 boys, Chris, Michael and Jonathan. Michael has dyslexia and she knows what it likes to struggle with your child thru the school system when they don't want to follow the guidelines. She volunteered with AYSO soccer for 25 years and she is now putting her heart into the Arc full time. Valorie and her met on the soccer fields 25 years ago and Val helped her when she was in charge of helping 1400 kids play soccer so she said it was her turn to help Val out. At least this volunteer job is inside and out of the weather. LOL! At least most of the time.

She loves working with the adults and has already moved 5 people into new homes with another 2 more to go. Jumping in with both feet seems to be her motto and she runs circles around most people with the amount of work she can get accomplished every day. The Show the Love Event was her idea and she can't wait to see everyone there this year. If you know of an adult who needs our help, please give Jean a call!





As Michigan's oldest special needs camp, Camp Grace Bentley has been a beacon of joy and acceptance for over 90 years. Here, we foster a nurturing environment where every individual can thrive, explore, and create unforgettable memories.

Adult & Children Summer Camp, Respite, day camp, retreats, & more!

Our camp boasts a wide range of amenities to make every camper's stay memorable. The lodge is a cozy gathering spot featuring a large-screen TV, games, karaoke, and more. Creative campers can enjoy our hobby shop, where they can dive into arts and crafts projects. The recreation hall is the perfect venue for plays, dances, and other exciting group activities. All meals are served in our spacious dining hall. Our camp runs for 8 weekly sessions each summer, each beginning on Sunday at 3pm and concluding on Friday at 1pm. Campers enjoy a full week of accessible activities—including swimming, arts and crafts, nature exploration, talent shows, campfires, supported by dedicated staff and on-site medical professionals. Our wheelchair-accessible in-ground heated pool is a relaxing spot for swimming, and, of course, Lake Huron offers endless opportunities for water-based fun.

2026 Tentative Camp Dates:

June 21-26 • June 28-July 3 July 5-10 • July 12-17 • July

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Director & Staff: Valorie Hudgens - Executive Director & Child Advocate • Jean Chapdelaine - Adult Advocate

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