



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

**The Arc.**  
St. Clair County

**FALL  
2025**

# NEWSLETTER

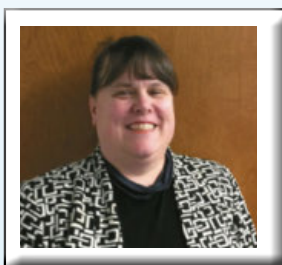
## SAVE THE DATES!

**Holiday Pie Sale**  
**Nov 16 thru Dec. 4th**  
**Show the Love**  
**Dinner Dance**  
**Thursday, March 6**  
**Mother's Day**  
**Flower Sale**  
**March 15th-May 1st**  
**Richard Schock**  
**Golf Outing**  
**TBD**  
**Check inside for**  
**details**

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

Pie Sales	\$2,500
2nd 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

**Can You Help  
us?**



### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Wow! What a summer it has been so far. Flower Sale, Guardianship Conference, Richard Schock Golf Outing, Fun with Fishing, Walk Michigan, new clients young and old! The Arc of SCC is hopping and it is thanks to all our supporters! The word has definitely gotten out on how we help our clients. The phone is ringing off the hook and we are scrambling to keep ahead of the wave! A big shout out to all our golfers at our Richard Schock Golf Outing. We had a beautiful day and all our golfers were extra generous with both their time and their wallets! You helped us raise the \$25,000 we needed for our budget so thanks so much for your generosity! We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you all!

We were shocked and awed that we were chosen as the benefactor of a \$2,000 grant from the Port Hueon Elks Lodge and a \$10,000 grant prize from the 200 Women Who Care this past month. These monies will allow us to create a program for high school students and their families to help them make decisions about Future Planning and information about Next Step. More about this in our next issue.

*Valorie Hudgens, Executive Director*



### 200 Women Who Care

The Arc was both shocked and overjoyed to receive the top prize of \$10,000 at the recent 200 Women Who Care event. We were so excited about just being invited to have a table to be able to show what we do here at the Arc with our consumers, young and old. Without any federal or state funding available to us, receiving donations like this is what helps keep our doors open. This gift, along with the grant we just received from the PH Elks Lodge will allow us to fully fund our Planning for the Future - The Next Step program which we are creating for high school students and their families to help them make decisions for their future so that they can succeed to become an independent and successful part of our community. We appreciate everyone who voted for us and will use these monies wisely.



# The Arc of SCC Holiday Pie Sale

**Sale Begins Thursday, November 16th!**

Check out the new Ice Cream Pies!



## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

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](http://www.TheArcSCC.org) or call 810-989-9144

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

**How you can help:** We are looking for Event Sponsors, Table Sponsors and Donations for the Auction. Tickets will go on sale around Thanksgiving! Buy tickets for a Christmas gift!

**Like our event on Facebook!**

**Share our posts about this event on Facebook!**

**Please help us fill the room with 400 supporters!**

## **WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF SUPPLIES**

If you have the ability to donate office supplies for the office or craft supplies for the children and young adults that we serve we will gladly accept any of the following items: **Office Supplies:** copy paper, staples, stamps, things to run our office daily. **Craft supplies for Consumer Recreation:** crayons, markers, colored pencils, gel pens, coloring books for both kids and young adults, cute stickers, games and puzzles. **Consumer personal care items:** toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, body wash, Q-tips, hydrogen peroxide, sanitary pads, socks (men and women's), tissues, toilet paper, cleaning supplies. (Many of the consumers we take care of don't have a lot of extra monies for these items). Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. We also take gently used clothing (including coats, hats and mittens), but they need to be sorted by size and gender so that we can get it to the people who need them quickly as we have no storage at the office.





## ANNUAL BUDDY WALK

Come and join us as we celebrate our loved ones with Down Syndrome. Every year we use this opportunity to raise awareness about the wonderful people who continue to rise above every challenge they face.

The walk starts at the pavilion, travels to the Blue Water Bridge, then returns to the pavilion for food and raffle prizes. There is no fee to participate, but donations are welcome as this is the only fundraising event we host each year.



RAIN OR SHINE

GIFT BASKET  
RAFFLE

50/50 RAFFLE

MUSIC / SNACKS

REGISTRATION  
STARTS AT 10 AM

RAFFLE BEGINS AT  
NOON

\*must be present  
to win\*

PINE GROVE PARK  
PAVILION

1204 Pine Grove Ave  
Port Huron, MI

SCC-DSSG.ORG

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>,  
2025 @ 11 am




## HALLOWEEN AT CAMP GRACE BENTLEY

**OCTOBER 31 | 6-8 PM**

8250 LAKESHORE RD., BURTCHVILLE TWP, MI

## FUN FOR ALL AGES

 Cabin-to-Cabin  
Trick-or-Treating



Popcorn, Hot  
Cocoa & Fresh  
Cider 

 Cozy Bonfire  
 



Outdoor Movie  
Under the Stars

Bring your family for a spooktacular evening!

**CAMPGRACEBENTLEY@GMAIL.COM**

## Blue Water Area Transit

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Also, weekday Commuter Routes to Macomb County Smart Bus

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and at [bwbus.com](http://bwbus.com)

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THE ARC OF SCC presents

# FUN with FISHING!



**SPONSORED BY:**



The Friends of Fishing US & Canada Elite Fishing Group will again be in full force for our **Sunday, October 12th 11-1pm** fishing event. Kids and adults are invited to the event at the Fort Gratiot Pond at 4888 Parker Rd., Fort Gratiot and all our consumers will have a ball reeling in those fish. We couldn't have put this on without Robert MacLeod and all of his amazing Friends of Fishing who supplied the poles, life jackets, lures, bait and lunch and volunteers to help with the fishing. All of our consumers can't wait for spring to do some more fishing! Friends of Fishing has gotten sponsors to help supply more equipment and supplies and we have fishing poles and tackle boxes that we can give to the consumers who are interested in fishing more often. We have created some fishing fanatics this summer and hope to increase that number again next year! Look for the new spring 2026 calendar in future newsletters!

## Why and When to Call 988 republished from The Arc National Newsletter

A mental health crisis deserves a mental health response. The same is true for people with IDD. 988 is the new three-digit phone number to call for help during mental health and substance use crisis situations, and it will be available nationwide by July 2022. Then, all phone companies will route 988 calls to call centers, either locally (if available) or national hubs.

While this number is called the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and will serve people with mental health or substance use disorder disabilities, this is also an opportunity to advocate for needed crisis services for people with IDD and people with co-occurring IDD and mental health disabilities (often called dual diagnosis). Approximately **30 to 40% of people with IDD also have a mental health condition** and sometimes communicate overwhelming feelings through "challenging behaviors." This can lead to inappropriate and costly stays in psychiatric hospitals or jail.

**How Can 988 Help People with IDD?** 988 call centers could divert many calls from 911 and law enforcement, instead routing them to mental health crisis professionals. People with disabilities account for one-third to one-half of all people killed by law enforcement. More than half of Black people with a disability have been arrested by the time they turn 28.

However, to fully support this approach, communities will need to link the call centers with mobile crisis teams, develop a peer support workforce and open respite centers for de-escalation needs. Funding is needed at the state and federal levels to achieve this goal.

**988 can be a game changer** for people with IDD and other disabilities if they are included in the implementation of hotline and community-based support services. This means it is very important for people with disabilities and especially people of color with disabilities, to advocate for crisis care. Contact your federal, state and local legislators to find out how our state is preparing for this moment!



**Providing information to people with disabilities about how earnings from work affect their Social Security and other public benefits.**

### **What is Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)?**

WIPA is a step by step process to assist people with disabilities, receiving benefits from Social Security, with understanding how employment will affect their Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and other benefits they may receive. WIPA also helps beneficiaries to understand how they can increase their financial independence.

**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.ARCMI.ORG/MIWIPA](http://WWW.ARCMI.ORG/MIWIPA)**



# THANKS TO ALL OUR GOLF SPONSORS!

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**COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE**

**ROYAL ROOFING COMPANY, INC.**

## SILVER SPONSORS

**SCC Community Mental Health**

## BRONZE SPONSORS

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	<p>[Turning 65 or new to Medicare?]</p> <p>Call your local licensed sales agent</p> <p><b>Humana.</b></p> <p><b>Patrick Lanthier</b> <b>810-289-9172 (TTY: 711)</b> PLanthier@humana.com</p> <p>Y0040_GHHHXDFEN_25_BC_C</p>	



**Halloween Stroll at Sanborn Park**  
**Sat, 25 Oct, 2025**  
**10:00 am to 12:30 pm (EDT)**

**Sanborn Park**  
**1701 Sanborn St • Port Huron**  
 Participants may register for a time slot between 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

**NEW LOW PRICE, \$2 CHEAPER**

**Early registration resident: \$6 • Early registration non-resident: \$8**

Join the Port Huron Parks and Recreation Department for our annual Halloween Stroll through the woods at Sanborn Park. Dress in costume and enjoy this walk-through through trick or treat event.

Get ready for...

- candy/treats from nearly 30 local businesses/organizations
- Halloween inflatables/scenes
- cider and donut holes
- Food trucks and vendors: MJ Bakes, Kona Ice, Fizz Soda and Santana's Tasties
- petting zoo
- trackless, mini train looping around Sanborn Park

**Day of event registration: \$10 cash.**

**Card reader not available.**

**Early registration is available at <https://www.porthuronrec.com/halloweenstroll> or in person at the Palmer Park Recreation Center until Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.**

## **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](http://www.thearcsc.org/members) to purchase your membership or you can mail a check to the address at the bottom of the membership form.

***Wonder whether you need to renew your membership? Go to mailing side of this newsletter and your renewal date is above your name and address.***

*THE ARC OF SCC GIVES A BIG THANK YOU TO AND ALL THEIR EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT*



**4189 Keewahdin Rd,  
 Fort Gratiot Township, MI 48059**

***THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO THE MILKHOUSE DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. WE APPRECIATE THE MILKHOUSE'S SUPPORT AND LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING ANOTHER FUNDRAISER NEXT YEAR!***

## **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:

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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.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
OUR RECIPIENTS!**

## **2025 Recipients**

**Kerissa Donaldson-Hipp • John & Ann Kendrick  
Andrea Mannlein • Joe Platzer  
Lisa Shagena • Scott Sheldon  
George Stafford • Jeff & Tracy Willard**



Chapter 820 ~ Port Huron, MI  
~ The Archangels ~  
**Woman's Life**  
connection. community. cause.  
Woman's Life Insurance Society • A National Benefit Society  
www.womenslife.org

**Special Thanks to all of our Women's Life Chapter 820 ladies who helped make  
this event a success. You All ROCK!**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - IDD CONSUMERS CAN HELP**

Volunteering is an important part of community life. Every day, Americans spend time and energy making a difference in their communities. Inclusive volunteering is about making sure everyone can give back.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can serve their communities in many ways:

- Serving meals at soup kitchens,
- Stocking food pantries,
- Preparing and delivering meals to seniors,
- Helping keep communities beautiful,
- Spending time with people who are isolated,
- Helping care for pets and other animals, and more.

### **Why It Matters**

Sometimes, people with IDD do not have as many opportunities to volunteer in the community as they would like. This may happen for several reasons:

- Some people think that people with disabilities can only receive service and cannot give back to others.
- Volunteer groups and coordinators may not have experience working with people with IDD and may not know how or have enough staff to support them to volunteer.
- Volunteer locations may not be accessible to people with IDD.
- A person with IDD may need support with health needs while they volunteer.
- People may struggle to find transportation to or from a volunteering.
- People with IDD may not know how to express their interest in volunteering or where to find volunteer opportunities in their community.
- People with IDD may not want to volunteer because they want a paid job.
- Many people perceive people with disabilities as the ones in need of service. However, people with disabilities are a key part of civic engagement across the country.

People volunteer every day to build confidence, job skills, and work experience. Volunteering helps job seekers network and build relationships that can lead to employment. It also provides chances to build friendships and networks of support.

**People can and should be empowered to give back to their communities. When everyone participates, it's a win-win!**

**The Arc of SCC is always looking for volunteers! We have many jobs that could be once a week, once a month or once in a while. Give us a call and see if there is something you or someone you know can do at our next fundraiser or outing!**





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**<https://stclaircountylibrary.org/services>**

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15-0835



Caring Crafters of St. Clair County invites you to **SAVE THE DATE!**

# 4th Annual Xmas Wonderland CRAFT-A-PALOOZA

Saturday, November 29, 2025  
10am to 4pm

Alexander's Banquet Facility • 1200 Gratiot Blvd., Marysville

## Not Your Average Craft Show!

"Some-  
thing For  
Everyone"  
with over  
**80** local  
artisans  
display-  
ing their  
unique  
items.



Admission  
**\$3.00**  
Kids 10 & under FREE



Adventures of  
Dog & Bear



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## THE ARC OF SCC

Caring Crafters of St. Clair County MI LLP

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FORCE AGAINST HUNGER PRESENTS

# **A NEW BEGINNING**

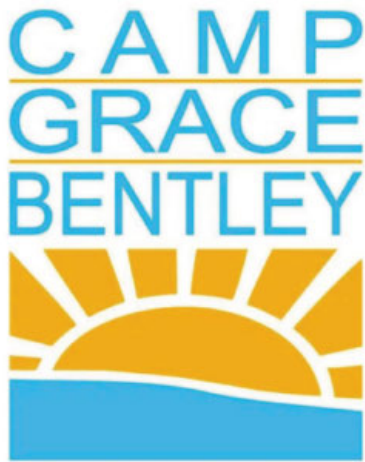
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BLUE WATER MARTIAL ARTS

**NOVEMBER 1, 2023**

Force Against Hunger, a non-profit organization, proudly presents an immersive  
Star Wars-themed event in partnership with Blue Water Martial Arts.

Proceeds from this event will be used to support local charities. Force Against Hunger is a 501(c)3  
non-profit company. REGISTRATION# 69112





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.

### **Adventure Awaits at Camp Grace Bentley**

At Camp Grace Bentley, we believe that every adventure is an opportunity for personal growth. Our campers engage in a variety of exciting activities designed to foster independence, teamwork, and self-confidence. From nature hikes and arts and crafts to team sports and swimming, each experience is tailored to help campers discover their strengths and build lasting friendships.

### **What We Offer - 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—ideal for movie nights or staying entertained on rainy days. 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, where campers come together to enjoy a variety of delicious dishes. Our camp runs for eight weekly

sessions each summer, with each session beginning on Sunday at 3:00 PM and concluding on Friday at 1:00 PM. Campers enjoy a full week of accessible activities—including swimming, arts and crafts, nature exploration, talent shows, campfires, and so much more—supported by dedicated staff and on-site medical professionals.

We also have a chapel, which doubles as an additional recreation center for special activities and can be rented out during the off-season for events like weddings. 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 19-24 • July 26-31 • August 2-7  
• August 9-14**

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The Arc at a National Level does more than you realize to help consumers with IDD disabilities. As a local chapter of The Arc

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