

Wings for Autism® Flies into Phoenix

The family vacation! You remember it fondly from your youth – travel to far-flung places, new sights and sounds, adventures you will never forget.

We all look forward to visiting family and friends, creating lifelong memories and strengthening important relationships in our lives. When you're young, it's seldom more exciting than when you take an airplane to get there.

For many people with autism and other intellectual/developmental disabilities, however, the experience of air travel can be overpowering and difficult, making these trips seem impossible. Some have tried unsuccessfully or have not had the confidence to travel by air because the sensory challenges and constant changes of a busy airport can be overwhelming. As a result they have missed out on the joys of family journeys so cherished by you and me.

Here comes *The Arc to the rescue*... Through **Wings for Autism®**, a national initiative of The Arc, people with autism or intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families have the opportunity to participate in a uniquely designed airport rehearsal program to help them feel more comfortable with air travel – and to help them successfully take those long-awaited and much-anticipated family vacations.

Wings for Autism comes to Arizona on Friday, October 10th, at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Along with our partners, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Sky Harbor Airport, The Arc of Arizona will host a group of 275 youth with I/DD, siblings, and parents for this innovative event that takes participants along every step of the airport experience: parking, check-in, TSA security, boarding, pre-flight announcements, and taxiing (everything short of the plane actually leaving the ground!). We're even throwing in a "post-flight" reception.

There is no cost to participate in **Wings for Autism**. If you or someone you know would like to take part, visit the **Wings for Autism** web page at www.thearc.org/wingsforautism for more information and to register.

We can't wait to help families take flight!

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Diamondbacks Trainers Hit Grand Slam with *PLAY* Event



The lazy days of summer often turn into exactly that – lazy days – especially in the Arizona heat. But if the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) has its way, America's youth will not let that happen to them.

More than a dozen boys and girls representing The Arc of Arizona and Special Olympics Arizona joined side by side with approximately 50 typical peers at Chase Field this June as part of the *Promoting a Lifetime of Activity for Youth* campaign, or *PLAY*. A first-year collaboration between The Arc and PBATS, *PLAY* focuses on getting kids active while young to instill healthy habits throughout their lives. While it's often not our first concern when addressing the needs of children with I/DD, physical fitness is equally important for them as it is for children without disabilities.

Participants went through their paces at stations on nutrition, agility, teamwork, and endurance led by Arizona Diamondbacks training staff. The trainers' expertise and patient instruction gave all the young athletes a valuable lesson in the benefits of physical fitness. D-backs pitcher Josh Collmenter capped off the event with a professional athlete's perspective on why it is vital to take care of our bodies, whether we are athletes or not.



Diamondbacks head athletic trainer Ken Crenshaw had only praise for the event's attendees. "I felt like we had a really receptive group," Crenshaw said. "Sometimes kids come and they're not quite sure why they're here. They're a little bit younger and they just don't understand what it's all about...But the group today was great."

For the children without disabilities it was reinforcement of a message they have heard before (albeit this time in the presence of a Major League star). For those with I/DD it was that and much, much more.

"Our kids today had the chance to run, jump, throw just like all the other kids – and they did it alongside all the other kids," said Jon Meyers, The Arc of Arizona's executive director. "We're making progress, but that equal treatment is still too rare when it comes to sports. Seeing it lived out this afternoon was a huge inspiration.

"If I've heard one thing over and over again from the parents," Meyers continued, "it's that phrase: 'He's so excited' or 'She's so excited.' To be on the field at Chase Field, to be down here where Major League Baseball players are making their living and where we're seeing them on TV – that's an experience that any child would cherish, especially a child who typically wouldn't have this type of opportunity."

Decision Time

The time for decisions has arrived.

Over the next two months your airwaves will be filled with the claims and counterclaims of political candidates vying for your vote in November's election. Every seat in the Arizona Legislature is at stake. Every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well.

Who will you choose? I assure you, it matters.

It matters because, when the lives and livelihoods of people with I/DD are at stake, your vote will either help or hinder their progress toward full acceptance as valued and valuable members of our society.

You make the difference. The difference between adequate resources for people with disabilities or declining services that place this population at a disadvantage. The difference between equality of opportunity or second-tier prospects in education and employment. The difference between representatives who look out for a vulnerable segment of society or those who look the other way.

Your vote matters, in your own life and in the lives of all Arizonans with disabilities. We live in a marvelous nation that allows us to speak up and speak out freely, in part by means of the ballots we cast.

Your vote is your voice this November.

I urge you to make your voice heard, loud and clear.



Jon Meyers
Executive Director

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through its new

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huge benefit to Arizonans with intellectual and
developmental disabilities!

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more - and get involved today!

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Donors and Members

Thank you to these Donors and Members whose gifts were received between March 1 and September 1, 2014. These individuals and organizations make it possible for The Arc of Arizona to touch lives across our state:

American Express Charitable Fund	Jim Click Jr.	Nancy Gilabert	In memory of Debbie Knight	Rosanne Sabo
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Barbara Brent	Fry's Community Rewards	John Karobonik	Peda Living Trust	Eric Zaharia



A World of Change

To borrow the immortal phrase of John Lennon, *Imagine...*

Imagine all you can do to change this world, to improve the lives and expand the opportunities of Arizonans with disabilities.

Imagine how your investment in The Arc of Arizona will strengthen advocacy, expand outreach and awareness, bring help and hope to families who endeavor day by day to meet the challenges of I/DD.

While you're at it, think of the changes you and The Arc have already brought to pass: **Social Security Disability Insurance**, the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, **Medicaid Home and Community Based Services** funding, the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**, **Rosa's Law**...

Amazing progress – yet with much still to accomplish.

Together we can reach our ambitious goals in behalf of individuals with disabilities.

So *imagine...* then *invest*. Make an online donation to The Arc of Arizona by visiting our website at www.arcarizona.org.* Your tax-deductible donation means a world of change!

To learn more about the many additional ways you can support the work of The Arc of Arizona, including Planned/Estate Gifts, vehicle donations, or in-kind contributions, contact Jon Meyers, Executive Director, at (602) 290-1632 or jon@arcarizona.org.

* From the home page, click on the **Donate today!** button. You will then be taken to our donation page where you can make a secure donation via PayPal.

All donations made to The Arc of Arizona are tax deductible.

WAYS TO HELP



September 2014:

2014 Family Network on Disabilities Conference—September 19th & 20th
<http://autismnow.org/events/conference-2014-family-network-on-disabilities-conference/>

Y.E.S. The Arc’s Tootsie Roll Campaign BBQ—September 25th
Y.E.S. The Arc’s Tootsie Roll Drive—September 26th & 27th
www.yesthearc.org

The Arc’s National Conference—September 30th—October 2nd
www.thearc.org

October 2014:

The Arc of Arizona—Wings for Autism—October 10th
www.arcarizona.org

The Arc of Tempe—Greatest Human Race—October 11th
www.tempearc.org

Douglas Arc—Cochise County Cycling Classic—October 11th
www.douglasarc.org

November 2014:

The Arc of Arizona’s Annual Meeting—November 8th

Email us at arc@arcarizona.org ♦ Visit us on the web at www.arcarizona.org ♦ Call us at (602) 234-2721
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