

THE ARC SPARK

Grab the Popcorn – The Arc & Sprout Film Festival Returns!

Looking for a true-to-life glimpse at the lives and loves, challenges, dreams and achievements of individuals with Down syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fragile X, or other I/DD?

Look no further – you’ve got it all in the most entertaining, enjoyable, enlightening experience imaginable at the **2nd Annual The Arc & Sprout Film Festival** on Friday, April 22nd! This year’s event, jointly presented by **The Arc of Arizona** and **Chandler-Gilbert Arc**, takes place at Pollack Tempe Cinemas in Tempe.

On-screen depictions of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are rarely realistic – mostly because the actors playing such roles rarely have I/DD themselves. And they rarely shed light on the true experiences of people with I/DD.

Not so, however, with **The Arc & Sprout Film Festival**.

The Festival showcases almost three dozen short films dramas, comedies, documentaries, animation and music videos – in which every character with I/DD is portrayed by an actor with I/DD. All films are drawn from the nationally-acclaimed Sprout Film Festival’s catalog of nearly 300 films.

“The Sprout Film Festival’s mission is to inspire audiences, promote inclusion and support transformative filmmaking as an integral part of social change,” says Sprout founder and director Anthony Di Salvo. “By focusing exclusively on films that celebrate the diverse lives and creativity of people with I/DD, Sprout strives to challenge assumptions and break down stereotypes, to promote greater acceptance, celebrate difference and light the spark to help make the invisible, visible.”

entertaining and memorable films featuring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities




The Arc
Arizona


Chandler
Gilbert Arc
"Developing Potential"

Friday April 22, 2016
9:30AM, 12:00PM & 7:00PM



Pollack Tempe Cinemas
1825 E. Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

To purchase tickets visit: www.arcarizona.org

\$5.00 General Admission

\$4.00 Groups of 10 plus

\$12.00 Full Festival Pass

sprout
film festival
making the invisible visible

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ARC OF ARIZONA AT
602-234-2721 WWW.ARCARIZONA.ORG

In This Issue...

- *Grab the Popcorn—The Arc & Sprout Film Festival Returns!*
- *Six-State Consortium Helps Families ASPIRE To Greatness*
- *The Arc of Arizona to Organize Statewide Family Supports Coalition*
- *The Arc’s Legislative Efforts Bear Fruit for Arizonans with I/DD*
- *Wings for Autism Set to Touch Down in 2016*
- *Save the Date—Family Disability Resources Conference*
- *Upcoming Events*



Six-State Consortium Helps Families ASPIRE To Greatness

Arizona's Department of Education, in collaboration with sister agencies in five other states, is rolling out **ASPIRE**, a study for youth ages 14-16 who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Participants are actively being sought to reach the state's goal of 1,050 enrollees.

ASPIRE – shorthand for **Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment** – is a unique partnership between Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah to advance the self-sufficiency of youth receiving SSI.

Participants in the ASPIRE services group will receive interventions including:

- √ Information to improve education and career choices
- √ Individualized assistance in understanding Medicaid, Social Security, and more
- √ Money management coaching to help move from poverty to self-sufficiency
- √ Help to navigate complex public and government systems
- √ Paid work experience for youth
- √ Self-determination training

For more information and to take advantage of this valuable program, visit www.aspirewest.org or call toll-free, (844) 260-2890.



The Arc of Arizona to Organize Statewide Family Supports Coalition

A grant from **The Arc of the United States** and the **Family Support Research and Training Center** at the University of Illinois at Chicago is making it possible for **The Arc of Arizona** to organize a statewide Family Supports Coalition to improve the systems of support for the disability and aging populations in Arizona.

Bringing together organizations that represent people with physical, developmental, mental health, and aging-related disabilities, as well as those that advocate on behalf of underserved racial/ethnic communities, The Arc-led Coalition will:

- √ Explore and better understand systemic challenges in providing family support to ALL families of people with disabilities in the state
- √ Share promising practices in family support that currently exist in the state
- √ Develop and implement an action plan to address challenges in the state's family support systems
- √ Report to constituents on progress made towards addressing these challenges

We look forward to sharing news of the Coalition's work in upcoming communications. If you are involved with an organization that serves a disability and/or aging population and would like to be involved, contact Jon Meyers at The Arc of Arizona, jon@arcarizona.org or (602)290-1632.



The Arc's Legislative Efforts Bear Fruit for Arizonans with I/DD

The 2016 Arizona legislative session has been no vacation for disability organizations. Indeed, protecting and preserving the civil rights of Arizonans with I/DD has kept The Arc of Arizona and other advocates working overtime.

There is good news to report, though. Two key pieces of legislation touching the lives of Arizonans with disabilities appear headed for Governor Ducey's signature: Establishment of ABLE accounts – special savings accounts for individuals with disabilities that generally do not affect eligibility for public supports – and restoration of preventive dental care for recipients of Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCS) through the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

As of this writing neither measure has reached the Governor's desk. But support has been strong and bipartisan, giving reason for optimism. Both would be signal achievements for The Arc and its partner advocates. Most important, of course, is that both will vastly improve the health and well-being of those served by The Arc of Arizona. That is the sweetest fruit of all.



Wings for Autism to Touch Down Again in 2016

Back for its third trip around the tarmac, *Wings for Autism* returns to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on Friday, August 19th!

Joined once again by aviation partners **American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Sky Harbor,** and the **Transportation Security Administration,** *Wings for Autism* offers more than 250 children with autism and other I/DD and their family members the opportunity to experience a realistic airport and airplane experience – as we like to say, everything short of actually leaving the ground – as a way to prepare for actual airline travel.



Participant registration opens in early May. For information on registration, volunteering, or Sponsorship opportunities with substantial recognition benefits, visit The Arc of Arizona's website at www.arcarizona.org or contact Jon Meyers at jon@arcarizona.org or (602) 290-1632.



Save the Date – Family Disability Resources Conference

Mark your calendar for The Arc of Arizona's inaugural **Family Disability Resources Conference** on **Friday, November 18th,** at the **Embassy Suites Phoenix-Biltmore.** Focused on informing family members and caregivers of individuals with I/DD about the many and varied resources available to them – resources to maximize inclusion opportunities, independence, and quality of life – this first-ever conference features speakers from public and private agencies across Arizona, as well as a Keynote Address by self-determination expert Dr. Michael Wehmeyer of the University of Kansas Beach Center on Disability.

More details will be coming your way soon!

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Did You Know...?

*YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH THE ARC OF ARIZONA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay on top of the latest news from The Arc of Arizona and get updates on issues and events affecting individuals with I/DD by checking us out on these social media sites:



Follow us on Twitter – [@TheArcAZ](http://www.twitter.com/TheArcAZ)



Like us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/TheArcofArizona



Follow us on LinkedIn – www.linkedin.com/company/the-arc-of-arizona-inc

*MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU AN ARRAY OF BENEFITS

For as little as \$10.00 a year, your Membership in The Arc of Arizona adds your voice to the growing call for protecting the rights of all Arizonans. And, because membership in The Arc of Arizona includes membership in The Arc of the United States, it provides you timely updates from state and national leaders; discounts on The Arc's trainings and materials; and exclusive newsletters and legislative alerts.

To find out more, and to start or renew your membership today, visit www.arcarizona.org or call Kristi Short at (602) 234-2721.

*YOUR USED VEHICLE CAN HELP "DRIVE" THE ARC'S SUCCESS

If you're getting rid of a car, truck, boat or RV, let The Arc of Arizona's Vehicle Donation Program take it off your hands – and give you the possibility of a nice tax deduction, too!

Simply visit www.thearc.org/donate-my-car or call (877) 272-2270 to speak with a representative. No hassles (we'll even haul it away for you and provide all the necessary documentation for your records), just a great opportunity for you to support a great cause!

*YOU CAN CREATE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE ARC

A **Memorial** or **Planned Gift** ensures your impact lives on long after you or a loved passes away. To learn more about the many ways to make a Memorial or Planned Gift to The Arc, and the tax advantages that may be available to you, contact Jon Meyers, Executive Director, at (602) 290-1632 or jon@arcarizona.org.



Supporting The Arc – As Easy as Spending on Yourself!



Now you can feed your family and support The Arc of Arizona through the

Fry's Community Rewards Program.

Simply link your Community Rewards card to The Arc of Arizona at www.frysfood.com. There's no additional cost to you — and there's a huge benefit to Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities! Visit our website at www.arcarizona.org to find out more — and get involved today!

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With every qualifying purchase, though, Amazon will donate a percentage of what you spend to The Arc of Arizona.

Visit smile.amazon.com and choose *The Arc of Arizona* before you shop!

BBVA Compass

With the **BBVA Compass For Your Cause** program, every purchase you make supports the vital advocacy and outreach of The Arc of Arizona. And you get to keep the stuff you buy!

By opening a BBVA Compass Checking Account using The Arc of Arizona's unique Affinity code – **110904** – your purchases automatically generate a donation from Compass Bank to The Arc. Compass even makes an initial \$50 donation every time an account associated with The Arc is opened. Best of all, there's no additional cost to you. It's a winning proposition all the way around! For more information about the BBVA Compass For Your Cause program, visit www.arcarizona.org or www.bbvacompass.com/checking-accounts.

All donations to The Arc of Arizona are tax deductible.

Ways To Support The Arc Of Arizona!

DONORS



We express our thanks to these Donors whose gifts were received between March 1, 2015, and February 29, 2016. These individuals and organizations make it possible for The Arc of Arizona to touch lives throughout the state.



Peter Abney	American Airlines Charitable Giving Program	American Express Employee Giving Fund
Gloria Apodaca	Laura Appel	BBVA Compass Cares
James Beal	Boeing Employees Charitable Giving Program	Scot Bohl, In Honor of Sean Bohl
Barbara Brent	Pat Chilton / American Airlines Flights for 50	Gayle Coleman
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To make your tax-deductible investment in The Arc of Arizona, visit www.arcarizona.org/get-involved/contribution-central. For information on making a Planned Gift or donation of Stocks, Bonds, or other appreciated assets, contact Jon Meyers at (602) 290-1632.



PO Box 83434
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April 29-30 Ability360 Center Health and Wellness Fair
 Ability360 Center – 5025 E. Washington St., Phoenix
www.ability360.org

August 19 3rd Annual Wings for Autism
 Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport – Terminal 4
www.arcarizona.org

April 11-13 Disability Policy Seminar
 Renaissance Washington Downtown – Washington, DC
www.thearc.org/dps

April 22 2nd Annual The Arc & Sprout Film Festival
 Pollack Tempe Cinemas – 1825 E. Elliott Road, Tempe
www.arcarizona.org

October 27-29 The Arc National Convention & Inclusion International Forum
 Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista – Orlando, FL
www.convention.thearc.org

