We are already one month into 2017! In this past month, we have made some great strides as an organization. We have hired a new case manager and have also hit the ground running with many of our programs. You can find more information about the progress of our programs in the next few pages.
Everyday Living Session 2

The second session of our independent living skills program for teens and young adults started on January 24th. This fun 8-week program meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to teach the participants independent living skills. We are very excited to hold the meetings at The Arc of South Carolina’s newly renovated space for learning.

The current session is filled to capacity; however, we anticipate more sessions in the future. As such, we are always seeking volunteers for this and other events. Please stay posted for dates. If you have any questions regarding Everyday Living, please contact Megan at megan@arcsc.org or 803-748-5020 ext 3#.
New Pilot Program: Cooking EdVentures

Cooking EdVentures is a new collaborative program of The Arc of South Carolina, EdVenture Children’s Museum, and ECM Support Services. We held several practice sessions at EdVenture’s Cooking Lab, where 4 teens/young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder have chosen and practiced cooking several recipes to prepare for their filming day, where a professional videographer filmed their cooking show and edited it to create a 5-minute “webisode”. The first episode teaches others how to make a delicious jambalaya recipe safely and independently.

Another exciting feature of this program is that the food that was made during the practice sessions was donated to a local organization called the 153 Project, which feeds those experiencing hunger in Columbia each Wednesday at Finlay Park.

The pilot episode was filmed on Saturday, January 7th, and is now available online HERE for anyone to watch and follow along with!

We are currently seeking sponsors for further episodes. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please contact Megan Galloway via email at megan@arcsc.org or by phone at 803-748-5020 ext 3#.
MLK Jr. Day of Service Grant

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is to commemorate the extraordinary work of Martin Luther King, Jr. by asking “Life’s most persistent and urgent question: ‘What are you doing for others?’” Here at The Arc of South Carolina, we are thrilled about the opportunity to provide many chances for those with disabilities in our community to partake in a service project in an inclusive setting. We will be addressing food insecurity in our community through various volunteer opportunities that also help bridge barriers between several populations.

Recently The Arc of South Carolina held a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich-Making Competition on MLK Day (1/16/17) on USC’s campus. We exceeded our goal to provide 450 PB&J’s for those experiencing hunger on a day when many emergency food assistance organizations are closed to observe the holiday. Thank you to all volunteers and participants of the Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich-Making Competition. In under 4 hours, 648 PB&J’s were made for those experiencing hunger in Columbia. Half of the sandwiches were given to Oliver Gospel Mission, and the other half were given to the 153 Project. View photos from the event HERE.

**Have a disability and wish to serve your community?** We have opportunities for you to volunteer, including: serving at a local soup kitchen and volunteering at Harvest Hope Food Bank. For more information, please contact Megan Galloway via email at megan@arcsc.org or by phone at 803-748-5020 ext 3#.
Program Update: The Elephant In The Room

The Elephant In The Room is an educational program for parents of teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities who want to:

• Become more confident and prepared in having effective, age-appropriate conversations about healthy relationships, appropriate behavior, and sex
• Tailor this information to their child’s learning style and needs
• Learn how to spot signs of sexual abuse, and what to do about it
  • Network with other parents

Recently, 40 parents received this training at the Hopes and Dreams Conference.

Upcoming Training:
Healthy Me Conference on February 25 at Trenholm Road United Methodist Church
3401 Trenholm Road
Columbia, SC 29204

Registration is required by February 17 for the conference. You can register at https://links.connecteddata.com/r2mXCoN7mF5mzdu/HMHF%20Reg%20Packet.pdf/06

Visit http://www.arcsc.org/elephant to download the resource guide for parents!
For questions, contact Amanda Pollak at amandap@arcsc.org or 803-748-5020 ext 6#.
Program Update: A.L.E.R.T.

The Autism Law & Emergency Response Training (A.L.E.R.T.) program provides training for first responders so they can better serve people with Autism in an emergency situation. We are thrilled that this program has been hosted throughout the state so that numerous first responders become trained in this important area.

The most recent training on January 30th was a success! 55 first responders attended the session.

They learned about some of the challenges faced by those with Autism and other forms of I/DD. The first responders got to interact first hand and hear the stories of some of these individuals. Through learning lab activities, they gained a firsthand understanding of some of the sensory input problems faced by I/DD individuals. Lunch was provided by and served by the Conservatory for Independence.

If you are a First Responder and would like to set up a training in your area, please contact Megan at megan@arcsc.org or 803-748-5020 ext 3#

Greenville Recreation Survey

If you live in Greenville, SC, please complete this survey for Greenville CAN regarding recreation in the area.

http://greenvillecan.org/recreation-survey/
A Message From The Executive Director

January 2017 was a success. We are thankful for new opportunities in this New Year!
We encourage you to also create new opportunities for yourselves and for those in our community with I/DD. One way to do this is by contacting us to learn how you can become an advocate. You can also become a member of The Arc by visiting https://www.thearc.org/join-now. Lastly, you can also become involved by serving on a committee or council of The Arc. Please note that the application deadline is quickly approaching, so you must take action now! See the “News From The Arc of the United States” section on the next page to learn more about these extraordinary opportunities for involvement.

Save The Date

Community Engagement Day
Wednesday, March 1
South Carolina State House
Registration starts at 9:30am
Visit http://www.scdisabilityadvocacy.org/ to learn more.

Joy Prom
Saturday, March 18 - Beach Church in Myrtle Beach, SC
Saturday, March 31 - Gateway Baptist Church in Irmo, SC

Midlands Gives
Tuesday, May 2
24 hour online giving challenge
Visit http://www.midlandsgives.org/ to learn more.
News From The Arc of the United States

- Get involved! Serve on a Standing Committee or Advisory Council of The Arc! You are invited to apply to serve on one of The Arc’s Committees in which volunteers and staff leaders of chapters of The Arc and other stakeholders and constituents are eligible to serve. Members are needed for the following:
  
  • Board Development Committee
  • Budget Finance and Audit Committee
  • Policy and Positions Committee
  • Legal Advocacy Subcommittee
  • Resource Development Committee
  • National Council of Self-Advocates
    - Council Members
    - Steering Committee Members
  • National Siblings Council
    - Council Members
    - Steering Committee Members

Read descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of each committee HERE, then fill out the application form HERE if you are interested. A limited number of assignments are available, and appointments are a two year term (2017-2018). The deadline to apply is Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

For Your Information

Online screening tool now available and operational!
Anyone can now go to the DDSN website and complete the screening process at any time. To begin, individuals simply go to http://www.ddsn.sc.gov/apply and click on the “Start Screening” link. This process requires an email and password to begin. This allows for users to save and come back to the screening after it is opened.

Please see this flyer from DDSN for additional information.
SOS Health Care and The Horry County Museum are proud to announce that they have partnered through A.C.E. (Autism Community Education) to provide the special needs community of Horry County with:

Special Needs Morning Out

When: Saturday February 18, 2017
Time: 11a-12p
Where: Horry County Museum 805 Main St, Conway, SC 29526
Cost: ABSOLUTELY FREE

Refreshments will be provided. To reserve a spot please contact Diane Owens at 843-283-3033 or by email at ace@sos-healthcare.com

Come check out the awesome fish tank featured on Animal Planet, the exhibit of Natural History, learn all about Horry County beaches and become familiar with different technology over the years (long before the ipad or cell phone). The staff will be providing a special activity for all participants to enjoy. The Horry County Museum is an absolute Gem and there is so much to see and learn about. This is a great opportunity to get the kids off the electronics and out of the house and learn all at the same time. Hope to see you there!

SOS Health Care, Inc. and Grand Strand Miracle Leagues have come together to offer the special needs community this AWESOME event absolutely FREE of cost!

ZUMBA PARTY!

When: Saturday February 25, 2017
Where: SKY FITNESS 9526 Highway 707 Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Time: Younger Group (ages 2-10) 10:00a-11:00a
Older Group (ages 11 and older) 11:00a-12:00p

Come enjoy an awesome day of learning to Zumba dance and take the opportunity to socialize! Both SOS Health Care and Grand Strand Miracle Leagues strongly support health and wellness so fun nutritional information and facts will be provided throughout the class and healthy snacks and drinks will also be provided. Parents are welcome (and encouraged) to join in on the fun. Due to a limited amount of space we can only have a specific number or participants so you must RSVP no later than Wednesday February 15th to reserve your spots. Spots will be filled on a first come first serve basis and you will receive notification when all spots are filled. To reserve your spot please email Diane Owens at ace@sos-healthcare.com or by text at 843-283-3033.
Anderson Events

Disability Benefits & Employment: Make it Work for You!

- Are you interested in going to work or increasing your earnings?
- Do you need information on how working will affect your disability benefits? (SSI & SSDI)
- Do you want to connect with local agencies that can assist with finding a job and providing supports?

Please join us for this FREE community event!

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
1:30 PM-3:30 PM
Trident SC Works Center
1930 Hanahan Rd, Suite 200
North Charleston, SC 29406

For more information: E-mail Sandy Jordan at sjordan@able-sc.org
Call 1.800.683.7715 or TTY 864.235.8796
Or follow this link to the registration page
Accommodation requests must be made by 02/15/2017.

Calling all Young Adults and Parents/Guardians

This year, we’re partnering with the South Carolina Supported Decision Making Project to offer FREE full-day trainings for families who want to learn more about empowering young adults for a successful transition to adulthood.

These workshops will empower the family for the next steps into the future!

8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Saturday, February 18
Special Olympics South Carolina (Special Population Building)
101 South Fann St., Anderson, SC 29624

FREE TO BE ME

Make your dream of independence a reality.

Learn about:
- Disability Rights and Resources
- Self-Advocacy & Independent Living
- Employment, Education, and Transportation
- Goal Setting & Long Term Planning

Hear an in-depth review of:
- Supported Decision-Making
- How Guardianship May Impact Future Opportunities
- Alternatives to Guardianship
  (Including information on Power of Attorney, Adult Health Care Consent Act, Adult Guardianship, and more)

Space is limited. Please register today by calling Family Connection at 1.800.578.8750.
Those who attend and complete their homework assignments will be eligible to attend a full-day conference in April, where individuals will work through developing specific portions of their long term plan for their future.
This year, The Arc of South Carolina turns 60! Since being founded in 1957, we have certainly come a long way. We have grown exponentially, which has allowed us to serve multitudes of this incredible, talented, and unique population.

Most importantly, however, we couldn’t have made it this far without the generous support of our community. You have helped us grow and thrive. From donations of time or money, to kind words of support - every bit of it can be attributed to our success.

On this 60th anniversary of the founding of The Arc of South Carolina, we want to say THANK YOU!
What else is going on at The Arc of South Carolina?

The Arc of South Carolina offers **statewide Case Management services** to people with an intellectual or related disability. Our Case Managers work diligently to advocate for the rights and needs of the people we serve and their families. Case Managers are here to assist you and your family identify needs, set personal goals and utilize resources in the community. Contact our office for more information and find out how we can assist you!

To stay up-to-date on all of the happenings of The Arc of South Carolina, visit our website and Like us on Facebook!

www.arcsc.org
www.facebook.com/TheArcSC

On our website, you can find more details about The Arc of South Carolina and our staff, upcoming events, the services we offer, recent news, ways to help or volunteer, information about intellectual and developmental disabilities, and a photo gallery from our events!