



The Arc of Bismarck

Annual Report
September 30, 2012 - October 1, 2013

MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide education, advocacy and supports to children and adults with disabilities to foster empowerment and full inclusion in the community."

BACKGROUND

The Arc is a private, non-profit 501(C)3 advocacy organization that was formed in 1957 and incorporated in 1960. Originally founded by a small group of parents and stakeholders, The Arc has developed into a powerful membership driven organization of over 700 state and local chapters. Throughout its history, The Arc of Bismarck has offered a variety of services and supports, always morphing to meet the current needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. The Arc of Bismarck is dedicated to improving community supports and services, influencing public policy at all levels, providing education and training for advocates, self-advocates, and parents, and achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. Through these efforts, the organization teaches effective self-advocacy skills, fosters empowerment, and seeks to advance the overall quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. Many activities over the past year have allowed The Arc of Bismarck to remain relevant and important to the disability community.

SUPPORTS

Information and Referral

The Arc of Bismarck provides individuals with disabilities and their families assistance in finding appropriate community resources. Trained professionals help self-advocates, parents, and community members understand and navigate complex systems of education, government, and community institutions. During the past year, information and referrals have been given on a variety of topics, such as housing, guardianship, low-income services, family services, adaptive equipment, and education.

Community Living Program

This program provides people with disabilities transitioning out of an institutional setting and into the community a voucher that can be used at our thrift store for household items and personal effects. The Arc of Bismarck does not see large volumes of requests for this service. However, The Arc continues to provide assistance to people transitioning into independent living environments. A representative from The Arc is actively involved with the Money Follows the Person Program, which provides funding for one-time moving costs to people with disabilities and adults and assists individuals in obtaining the services and supports needed to live independently.

American People Self-Advocacy Association

American People is a self-advocacy organization whose mission is: "Helping all people with disabilities learn about their rights and responsibilities, while promoting self and systems advocacy in the community." This group is provided with advisory and fiscal support by The Arc. During the past year, The Arc has worked closely with this group to encourage growth and development. Some highlights include: attending the National Self-Advocates Becoming Aware (SABE) Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota;

selling cookbooks at community events and The Arc Thrift Store; hosting presenters on the topics of transportation and fire safety at membership meetings; and sponsoring several social events, including a Halloween party, barbeque, and zoo excursion.

ADVOCACY

Individual and Systems Advocacy

The Arc of Bismarck knows the critical role advocacy plays in independence, and is an active advocate for issues and concerns regarding the rights of people with disabilities and their families. Individual advocacy is provided upon request and has come largely in the form of information dispersal and connecting citizens with their legislators.

Systems advocacy at The Arc of Bismarck is displayed through continued participation in the local Legislative Working Group and collaborative activities. Efforts The Arc is especially proud to have achieved over the past year include training 50 individuals in the legislative process and giving testimony and completing the twentieth year of the Partners in Policymaking program here in North Dakota.

Legislative Advocacy

The Arc of Bismarck tracks and monitors disability related legislation and provides written and oral testimony, as needed. As a member organization of the North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Association, the group's legislative platform served as the guiding priorities of the 2013 state legislative session. Elements of healthcare reform, housing, home and community based services, and funding came to the forefront as pressing issues for The Arc's constituents. On the national level, Congress reintroduced the ABLE Act in 2013. The ABLE Act would allow families to set funds aside in a tax-advantaged savings account; the funds could be withdrawn to cover costs of housing, transportation, adaptive technology, education, health care, or employment support. Senator Heidi Heitkamp was the first of the North Dakota federal delegation to sign onto the bill in March 2013, followed by Representative Kevin Cramer in September. Senator John Hoeven has yet to pledge his support.

EDUCATION

Partners in Policymaking

The Arc of Bismarck houses North Dakota's Partners in Policymaking Program, which offers adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities an opportunity to acquire the tools needed to attain leadership roles and to be effective advocates within their communities. In the past year, 21 graduates have become educated in a variety of topic areas, such as legislative processes, disability issues, and best practices. The program's intent is to achieve a productive partnership between people utilizing services and those providing services and creating policy. Partners continues to be a popular program, which is generously supported by the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Walter L. Braun & Lucille Braun Family Charitable Gift Fund, Otto Bremer Foundation, and MDU Resources Foundation.

Capability Chronicles

The Arc of Bismarck is in its third year of producing the Capability Chronicles, a television series that features the strengths, abilities, and contributions of people

with disabilities. Thirteen new segments were released on Bismarck's community access channel, and through online mediums, this past year. Topics ranged from raising children with visual impairments to mental health to outdoor recreational activities for people with disabilities. Three public meetings were also held in Jamestown, Oakes, and Dickinson to create an awareness of the program across the state of North Dakota.

Community Education Workshops

The Arc offers educational opportunities around the state; topics are varied, but always have a disability focus. These workshops provide information, resources, and networking opportunities for people with disabilities and family members. A Legislative Process Training that reached nearly 50 individuals was held to give people with disabilities and stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the legislative process and to offer testimony to a mock panel of legislators. The Arc of Bismarck held the "Taking Care of Business - North Dakota Self-Advocates & Allies Conference" this past year, which allowed individuals with disabilities and their support networks from around the state to gather for two days of educational workshops and networking. Topics at the conference ranged from goal setting to medical appointment preparedness to effecting systemic change.

Disability Awareness

Awareness efforts and community outreach are an integral part of educating people in the community about disabilities. Increasing awareness not only busts stereotypes, but also promotes community inclusion. Disability awareness activities over the past year include: People First Language and Disability Sensitivity Trainings, Person-Centered Planning Facilitation, Employment First Summit, Arts & Abilities Conference and Sprout Film Festival. Through these activities, The Arc of Bismarck reached over 700 community members to provide information and skills for building inclusive communities.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS: COLLABORATION, DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIP

The Arc of Bismarck provided support to individuals and organizations to enhance community involvement. This is an opportunity for The Arc to invest in worthy individuals and efforts by providing financial or in-kind support. It also allows The Arc of Bismarck to form partnerships with future organizational stakeholders and build relationships within the community.

The Arc of Bismarck is dedicated to collaboration with diverse entities throughout the state to enhance opportunities available to people with disabilities, families, and others. In order to utilize resources responsibly, The Arc worked with several agencies over the past year, including: N.D. Protection and Advocacy; North Dakota chapters of The Arc; American People Self-Advocacy Association; RSVP+; LISTEN Drop-In Performing Arts; NDSCDD; Mental Health America of N.D.; Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living; Bismarck Public Schools; Self-Advocacy Solutions, North Dakota; NDDAC; Dakota Media Access; Bismarck Fire Department; Sam McQuade, Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament; Capital Trophy; Alzheimer's Association;

Sporting Chance; Comfort Inn; AccessPoint Solutions, Inc.; Designer Genes/iCan Bike Program; offices of the federal delegation; Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center; North Dakota National Guard; HIT, Inc.; Anne Carlson Center; ABLE, Inc.; N.D. Autism Connection; Pathfinder Parent Center; Independence, Inc.; and Support Systems, Inc. These partnerships have greatly increased the quality and quantity of services and supports provided. Outcomes have included educational workshops, intensive trainings, disability awareness, and networking opportunities for people with disabilities

SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR PROGRAMS

Chapter Efforts

The Arc of Bismarck is able to fund quality programs and services through several resources. The Arc holds fundraisers and relies on members to offer support in the form of dues and monetary donations. The Arc receives revenue from corporate sponsors and foundations. Over the past year, The Arc was generously supported by Sam McQuades Sr./Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament, Walter L. Braun & Lucille Braun Family Charitable Gift Fund, Otto Bremer Foundation, MDU Resources Foundation, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The support of these organizations is greatly appreciated and ensures the impact and success of efforts.

The Arc Thrifts Store Efforts

The Arc Thrift Store provides monetary support for programs. Thrift store sales for 2012-2013 were \$466,230.56 compared to 2011-2012 sales of \$449,592.58 over the same period (from October 1 - September 30). In 2013 alone, the store has brought in over 34,500 customers and received over 5,000 donations. Volunteers have put in over 3,100 hours so far this year, and dedicated employees have clocked in over 16,000 hours. The success of The Arc Thrift Store greatly relies on the hard work of employees, which include: Kathy Puklich, Store Manager; Robbie Guthmiller, Store Supervisor; and employees Don Bailey, Charlene Bolton, Cody Bunn, Mary Burlingame, Tanya Corning, Kimberly DeKett, Carissa Feist, Lance Jahner, Maribeth Johnson, Anna Neis, Justin Neis, Jason Neis, Syla Pitzer, Mary Spertzel, and Pat Sullivan.

A Look Ahead

In April of 2010, members, self-advocates, and staff collaborated to update The Arc of Bismarck's strategic plan. Five growth areas were identified as organizational goals: 1) To support The Arc of North Dakota by exploring the taking of leadership; 2) To expand existing and grow new programs; 3) To retain paid staff to maintain integrity and credibility of The Arc of Bismarck; 4) To leverage finances to address buildings and grounds needs; and 5) To educate the public about disability issues in an effort to change attitudes. The Arc of Bismarck has done much to accomplish these goals, such as: 1) raised base wages of employees, 2) offers health insurance to full-time store employees, 3) completed remodel of the thrift store and updating of certain fixtures, 4) selling items through online mediums, and 5) pursuing legislative work for The Arc of North Dakota. While much has been done to support these goals, much work remains. The Arc of Bismarck will continue to perform activities that support its mission and vision of full inclusion for people with disabilities

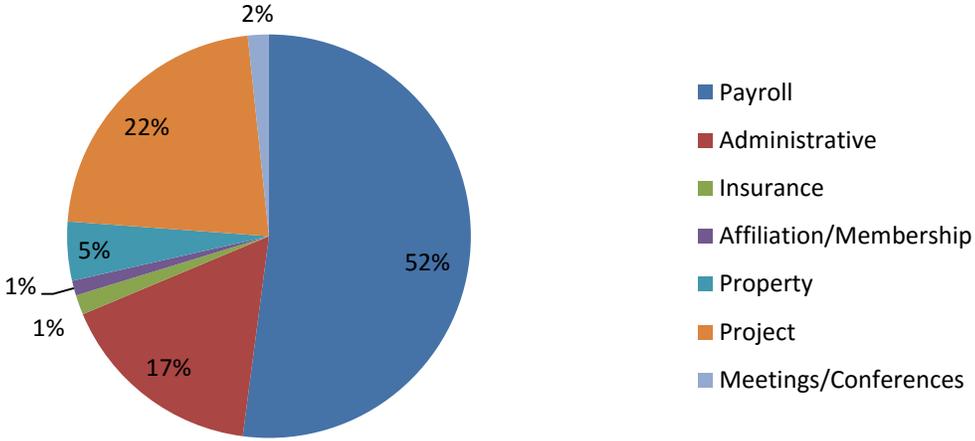
**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**

	Oct '12 - Sept 13	Oct '11 - Sept 12	\$ Change	% Change
Income				
Sales	466,230.56	449,592.58	16,637.98	3.7%
Dues	2,133.00	1,186.00	947.00	79.9%
Contributions	4,230.43	7,424.56	-3,194.13	-43.0%
Projects Income	91,622.52	135,234.02	-42,725.64	-33.8%
Interest Income	1,860.13	1,397.05	463.08	33.2%
Misc. Income	4,462.88	6,313.22	-1,850.34	-29.3%
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-1,375.26	5,594.71	-6,969.97	-124.6%
Total Income	<u>570,375.46</u>	<u>606,742.14</u>	<u>-36,366.68</u>	<u>-6.0%</u>
Gross Profit	570,375.46	606,742.14	-36,366.68	-6.0%
Expense				
Payroll Expenses	312,686.16	290,700.47	21,985.69	7.6%
Vehicle/Travel Expenses	1,124.01	4,383.15	-3,259.14	-74.4%
General & Admin. Expense	99,708.01	69,351.39	30,356.62	43.8%
Insurance	9,477.00	9,442.00	35.00	0.4%
State/National Affiliation Fees	7,152.00	6,585.00	567.00	8.6%
National Conferences	543.00	2,303.03	-1,760.03	-76.4%
State Meetings	8,434.57	1,785.31	6,649.26	372.4%
Committee Expenses	900.23	2,933.33	-2,033.10	-69.3%
Property Expenses	28,324.18	26,176.60	2,147.58	8.2%
Project Expenses	<u>133,023.96</u>	<u>85,506.87</u>	<u>47,517.09</u>	<u>55.6%</u>
Total Expense	<u>602,991.12</u>	<u>523,101.15</u>	<u>79,889.97</u>	<u>15.3%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-32,615.66</u></u>	<u><u>83,640.99</u></u>	<u><u>-116,256.65</u></u>	<u><u>-139.0%</u></u>

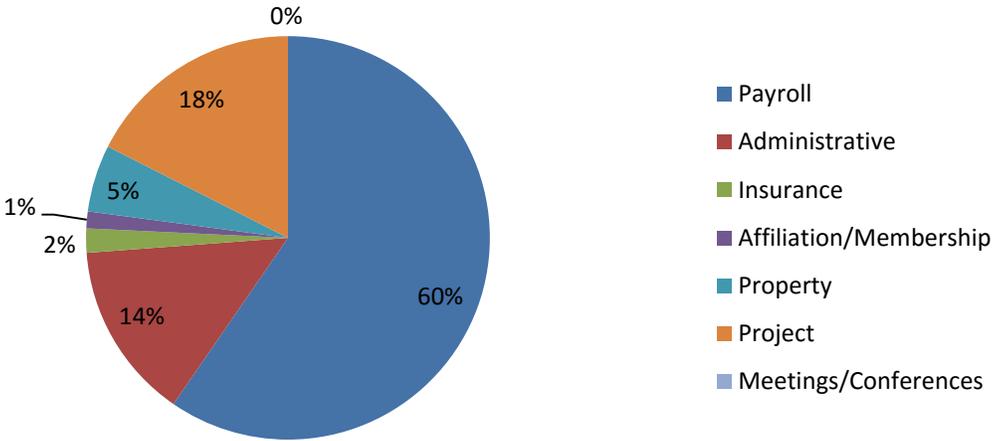
**BALANCE SHEET
PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**

	1-Oct-13	1-Oct-12	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts	70,445.38	142,556.63	-72,111.25	-50.6%
Investments	40,777.32	39,667.63	1,109.69	2.8%
Total Current Assets	111,222.70	182,224.26	-71,001.56	-39.0%
Fixed Assets				
Equipment	41,962.60	41,417.77	544.83	1.3%
Accumulated Depreciation	-177,155.90	-175,537.90	-1,618.00	-0.9%
Vehicle	15,645.00	15,645.00	0	0.00%
Leasehold Improvements	300,769.29	308,225.02	-7,455.73	-2.4%
Building	200,000.00	200,000.00	0	0.00%
Total Fixed Assets	381,220.99	389,749.89	-8,528.90	-2.2%
TOTAL ASSETS	492,443.69	571,974.15	-79,530.46	-13.9%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Current Liabilities				
Payroll	1,097.79	892.13	205.66	23.0%
Funds Owed to PIP	20,328.65	15,328.65	5,000.00	32.6%
Funds Owed to Amer. People	60.00	0.00	60.00	100.0%
Funds Owed to Cap. Chronicles	184.01	0.00	184.01	100.0%
Sales Tax Payable	1,366.84	1,582.72	-215.88	-13.6%
Total Current Liabilities	22,836.16	17,803.50	5,032.66	28.3%
Long Term Liabilities				
Remodel Loan	0.00	56,273.28	-56,273.28	-100.0%
Capital Lease Obligation	7,015.85	8,629.57	-1,613.72	-18.7%
Total Long Term Liabilities	7,015.85	64,902.85	-57,887.00	-89.2%
Total Liabilities	29,852.01	82,706.35	-52,854.34	-63.9%
Equity				
Opening Bal Equity	254,015.47	254,015.47	0	0.00%
Retained Earnings	184,558.95	134,024.55	50,534.40	37.7%
Restricted Retained Earnings	21,964.88	21,964.88	0	0.00%
Net Income	2,052.38	79,262.90	-77,210.52	-97.41%
Total Equity	462,591.68	489,267.80	-26,676.12	-5.5%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	492,443.69	571,974.15	-79,530.46	-13.9%

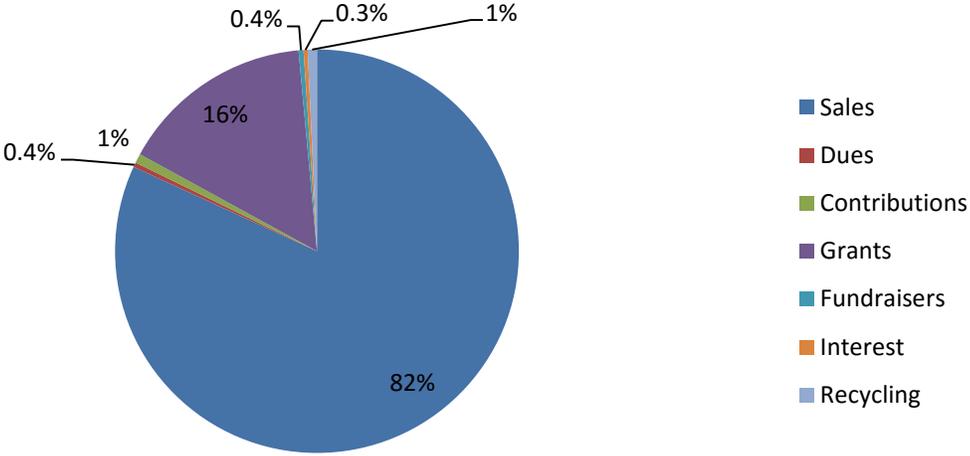
Chapter Expenses Oct. 2012 -- Sept. 2013



Chapter Expenses Oct. 2011 -- Sept. 2012



Chapter Revenue Oct. 2012 -- Sept. 2013



Chapter Revenue Oct. 2012 -- Sept. 2013

