Smiles of Life Models

This calendar is dedicated to people with developmental disabilities and their friends and families. It is our true honor to celebrate the accomplishments and joys brought to us by our models. Despite any medical, developmental, or behavioral challenges, they continue to persevere with great spirit, courage, and determination to live life to the fullest. Our goal is for the community to be inspired by their stories and encouraged by their smiles. Enjoy!

The Arc's 2023 smiles of life calendar is now available! Featuring beautiful photos, inspiring profiles, and motivating quotes, the 2023 smiles of life calendar is dedicated to people with developmental disabilities and their friends and families. The calendar makes a unique and inspiring gift for families, friends, neighbors, teachers. Your generous support (suggested donation of $10 per calendar) will help fund valuable programs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Order: https://www.classy.org/give/412351/#!/donation/checkout Calendars are available pickup Monday through Thursday from 10am - 1pm at 2602 McLeod Rd., Bellingham. Please contact admin@arcwhatcom.org for other pickup arrangements.
We are so excited to announce that The Arc of Whatcom County is partnering with partners4housing to provide free Residential Assessment (RA) to local families, courtesy of the Dan Thompson Memorial Fund. Completing this RA will help your family explore housing possibilities for your loved one and make a resilient plan for the future. The RA starts with an online questionnaire, where you and your loved one answer questions about your loved one’s needs and current benefits and define your vision of “home.” After completing the questions, you’ll meet online with a trained Solutions Coordinator. They will help you understand how to access all the benefits your loved one is eligible for, including that all-important section 8 voucher, so you can start planning for your loved one’s future housing needs.

Please watch this short video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljQOB3bCvbo&feature=youtu.be

Eligible families will also have free access to a roommate matching pool, to help you connect with other families and find compatible roommates for your loved ones. We are so excited to be partnering with partners4housing on this important project because we know how much this can help families like yours in our local communities.

How to get started: If you or someone you know has a loved one with IDD, 18 years or older, living in Washington State, claim your free RA today ... at no cost!

SIGN UP HERE: https://signup.partners4housing.com/promo/WAWAT

Please reach out if you have any questions. We look forward to helping you take this important step for your loved one!
THANK YOU!

We are so thankful for everyone who attended our Holiday Party on December 10th. Families were able to enjoy a meal and meet with others. We had a wonderful visit from Santa Claus, and each child had their picture taken. Families enjoyed multiple craft tables and our sensory play area. The party was a success largely due to the assistance of our wonderful volunteers, Super Sitters, Arc of Whatcom County Staff and Helping Parents. We appreciate the time and effort put in to make our Holiday Party a safe and inclusive event.

Thank you Christine Griffin for your wonderful photography skills and Mr. and Mrs. Skinner for bringing joy to our families!

We’d like to thank our Community Partners and Donors:

Costco  
Bellingham Parks and Rec  
Haggen  
Inner Child Studio  
Lions Club  
McKay’s Taphouse and Pizzeria  
Starbucks

Upcoming Virtual Parent Support Meetings

7-8pm, Monday, January 9

Register: p2p@arcwhatcom.org or 360-715-0170 ext 302

These virtual meetings are for parents and caregivers of children with developmental delays, disabilities, and ongoing health care needs. Those who attend will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. You will receive the Zoom link after registering.

Parent to Parent of Whatcom County

DADS SOCIAL

Thursday, January 26
6 – 7 pm
Coconut Kenny’s
1740 La Bounty Dr, Ferndale

Join Parent to Parent’s Dads Social. For fathers raising loved ones with developmental disabilities and chronic healthcare needs. A chance to be able to meet and talk with other dads that are dealing with similar issues and enjoy wonderful pizza.

Please RSVP so we can get a heads up on how many people will be there. For questions or to register contact P2P at (360) 715-0170 ext 302 or p2p@arcwhatcom.org

Learn more about Parent to Parent
The legislature asked DDA to reach out each year to individuals who are DDA-enrolled but do not receive a service. You may receive a phone call in 2023 from a DDA outreach staff or case manager to discuss your needs, interest in services, and to make sure that your contact information is correct. You may also receive a link to take a survey that will ask about your needs and interest in services now or within the upcoming year. The information that you provide helps us plan for future services.

It is important for DDA to be able to reach you to keep your enrollment active. If you have recently moved, or have a new phone number or email address, please contact your local DDA office to update your information: https://www.Dshs.Wa.Gov/dda/find-dda-office.

If you would like to request services or information now, please follow this link: https://www.Dshs.Wa.Gov/dda/service-and-information-request.
Every Thursday, 11am – 12:00pm

Staff will be available on zoom to help with resources, support, information, and connection. No RSVP needed. We will not have a password to join, but participants will be in a waiting room until we admit you. We can utilize breakout rooms to enhance privacy if multiple participants have joined.

Join Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86909304702
Meeting ID: 869 0930 4702
Kinship Programs

Kinship Caregiver Support Program and Kinship Navigation

Are you raising a child of another family member or friend or know of someone who is?

Please reach out to the Opportunity Council Kinship Programs line at 360-734-5121 ext. 1455 to talk with a Kinship Navigator about legal, financial, and basic needs resources that might be available to Kinship Families in Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties.

CONTACT KINSHIP PROGRAMS:

360-734-5121 ext. 1455
kinship@oppc.org
Jaime has worked at Safeway for more than 7 years. She is proud to be part of the Safeway team - cleaning and assisting the customers with a welcoming smile.

Self-Advocacy Group Meetings

Thursday, January 5, 4:30-6:30pm

Spinning your Wheels
Share your goals and plans with others. We will use an interactive spinning wheel that prompts discussion and fun!

These are virtual meetings on zoom. After registering you will receive an e-mail containing the link for you to join the Self-Advocacy Meeting. For more questions or information call (360) 715-0170. Pre-registration is REQUIRED to get the link. Must be able to connect through a cell phone, tablet or computer.
Register at: SelfAdvocacy@arcwhatcom.org
The Arc of Whatcom County provides leadership support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians. The goal of the Parent Coalition is to enable persons with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians to become effective and involved in accessing services.

The Arc of Whatcom County
Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road, Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 715-0170
www.arcwhatcom.org

Arc of Whatcom County Staff:
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GIDES Family Advocate: Barbara Roxas
Asst Inclusion Advocate: Terri Hansen
Family Advocate: Laura Kaptinski
Parent to Parent & Self Advocate Coordinator: Karlene Umbaugh
P2P Parent Assistant & Parent Coalition Co-Coordinator: Melissa Abraham
Rhonda Rische: Assistant Director
Padres a Padres: Marta Mejia
Office Manager: Hilary Scheibner

Board of Directors:
Susan Larson, President
Melissa Mitchell & Leslie Weilbacher, Co-Vice Presidents
Missy Bartel, Secretary
Susan Jewell, Treasurer
Ellie Posel, Margaret Jahn, Melanie Hartley, Sarah Godwin; Directors

Follow our Facebook Pages:
www.facebook.com/ArcWhatcom
www.facebook.com/ParenttoParentWhatcom
www.facebook.com/WhatcomCountySelfAdvocacy

The Parent Coalition is funded by grants from the Developmental Disabilities Program of Whatcom County, the United Way and your generous donations.

Full community events calendar can be found at:
www.arcwhatcom.org/wp/events

Event Calendar

JANUARY

5 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

5 Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Self-Advocacy Meeting
Register: SelfAdvocacy@arcwhatcom.org
more info on page 7

9 Monday, 7 - 8pm
Parent Support Meeting
Register: p2p@arcwhatcom.org
more info on page 3

12 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

19 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

25 Wednesday, 5:45-7:15pm
Board of Directors Meeting
http://arcwhatcom.org/wp/about-the-arc/board-of-directors/

26 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

FEBRUARY

2 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

2 Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Self-Advocacy Meeting
Register: SelfAdvocacy@arcwhatcom.org
more info on page 7

9 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

13 Monday, 7 - 8pm
Parent Connect Meeting
more info on page 3

16 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

22 Wednesday, 5:45-7:15pm
Board of Directors Meeting
All community members welcome!
http://arcwhatcom.org/wp/about-the-arc/board-of-directors/

23 Thursday, 11 - 12noon
Virtual Office Hours
more info on page 3

26 Thursday, 6 - 7pm
Dads Social
more info on page 3

Full community events calendar can be found at:
www.arcwhatcom.org/wp/events