

# Message

*Expanding opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to participate actively in the community.*

## 2012 Board of Directors

**President:** Amos Gaines  
**Pres. Elect:** David Vaughan  
**Secretary:** Stacey Pate  
**Treasurer:** David Dodson  
**Past Pres:** Debbie Youngblood  
**President of United Advocates:**  
Kathy Doty

Carol Ann Beard  
Kathy Braudway  
Bill Eaton  
Richard Garnett  
Molly Hurst  
Sharon Sanderson  
David Swallow

**Executive Director:**  
Erinn Hall

## Agency News

I know we say this a lot, but I cannot believe it's already the holiday season and almost a new year! This year has gone by so fast and we have done so much—and we have you, our members, to thank! You are The Arc!

This year, we surpassed the total number of individuals, children and families served in 2011 by the beginning of October! We will not know the totals for 2012 until the end of this month, but we are going to exceed last year by almost 40%!! And even with an increase of services of this size we still have a waiting list for classes. This is huge because we have grown so much in the midst of significant cuts in our budget and with fewer staff. We must make up these gaps in our budget so that we can continue to grow our services and meet the needs of our community.

This year we started many new initiatives including EmpowerME! This is a creation of our continued partnership with the Advocacy and Support Department at MHMR. These workshops will focus on issues directly impacting individuals with I/DD, their families, friends, and professionals. Look for details on our next EmpowerME in our January newsletter! We are also proud of the new Passport to Employment program helping individuals build communication and job skills to enhance their work with job coaches and other employment services.

In 2013 we are looking forward to the start of our new health initiative: *Achieving Wellness*. We will focus on overall wellness and offer participants creative and fun ways to create healthier, more active and peaceful lifestyles. We'll do so with activities and weigh-ins on our new Wii Fit at the office, a new Weight Watchers group, nutrition classes, and a very exciting new partnership with TCU!! We are so excited to offer these awesome new opportunities for our consumers and to see a healthier 2013 and beyond!

While we are very excited about everything we've accomplished and hopeful about our future, we do need to increase our support and resources. Please tell your friends, families and other acquaintances about our great organization and encourage them to get involved and invest in The Arc! We absolutely could not do the important work we do each day without your continued support and passion. It is truly an honor to serve you and work together to strengthen this great community! I hope you enjoy a most peaceful and loving holiday and New Year with those you love.

*Sincerest gratitude,*  
*Erinn Hall*

## **Arc of GTC Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday  
December 18th  
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Arc of GTC Conference Room  
1051 Haskell St., Suite 106  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

## ARC GTC HAPPENINGS

Invest in The Arc	<u>Pg 2</u>
The Arc with a Twist!	<u>Pg 3</u>
Holiday Celebration	<u>Pg 4</u>
Fiesta de Navidad	<u>Pg 5</u>
Calendar of Events	<u>Pg 6</u>
United Advocate News	<u>Pg 7</u>

## 2012 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**WHO: Our Special Children/Las Familias**

**WHEN: Saturday, December 8, 2012**

**WHERE: University Christian Church**

**2720 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109**

**If you haven't made your reservations for this annual event, be sure to call the ARC of GTC office (817) 877-1474 ASAP. You MUST register the ENTIRE family PRIOR to the party.**

**Space is limited and we need to have an accurate count. For more information, check out pages 4 and 5 or call The Arc GTC. We look forward to seeing you there!**



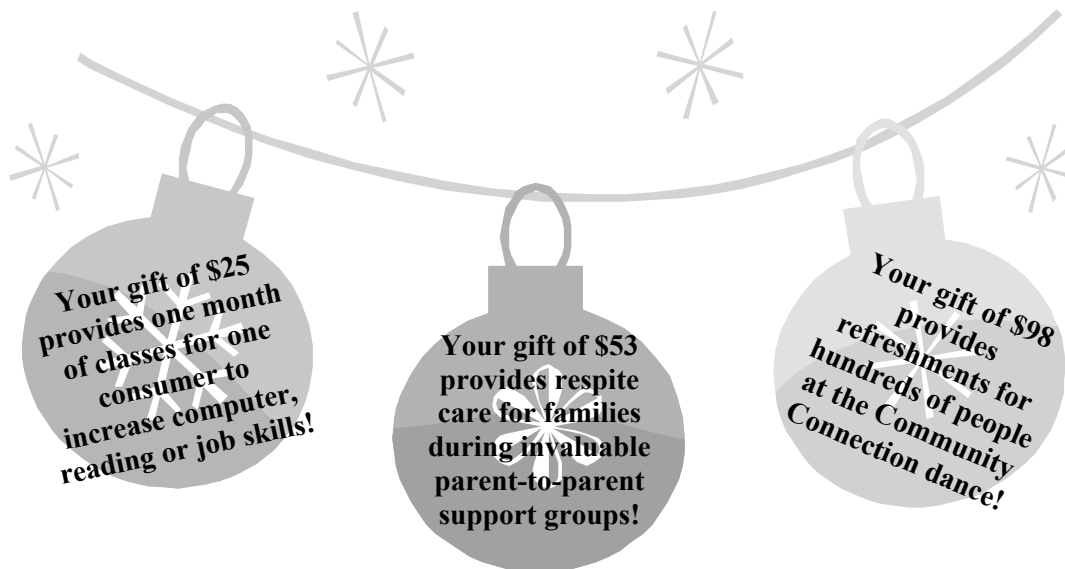
## Invest in The Arc

During this holiday season, we ask you to invest in The Arc and our programs. Whether you donate your time, talents or treasure, The Arc needs your support to reach those who need our services.

It has been said that everyone needs three things in order to be happy: something to do, something to love, and something to look forward to. For thousands each year, The Arc is something to do, something to look forward to, a place to love and a place of hope.



Your support *creates opportunities* for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families.



As the need for services rises our waiting list continues to grow. There are thousands of individuals, children and parents in need of the unique education opportunities, supports, resources, and hope we provide. Please share The Arc with your friends, family and coworkers and help us grow to meet our great community's needs!

If you or someone you know would like to contribute, please contact The Arc GTC offices by phone at 817.877.1474, by email at [pamela@arcgtc.org](mailto:pamela@arcgtc.org), or online at [www.arcgtc.org](http://www.arcgtc.org). As you can see, your donation goes a long way and makes a HUGE difference in the lives of so many!

## The Arc with a Twist!

Thank you to everyone who attended our new fall fundraiser, The Arc with a Twist! The event was a success and VERY fun!



Attendees enjoy a break from painting! From left to right:  
Board members Stacey Pate and Kathy Doty;  
Adult Services Coordinator Katie Adkins; and  
President-Elect of United Advocates, Kathy Bales.



Each boot was a unique masterpiece and everyone LOVED the event! We cannot wait to do another The Arc with a Twist! event for even more Arc GTC supporters to enjoy. Thank you so much for all you do!



United Advocates wants to hear from you!

Please contact your United Advocates leadership if you want to join this awesome group, or if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities during 2013. You can reach President Kathy Doty at The Arc Tuesday through Friday at 817.877.1474 or anytime by email at [kathy.doty@arcgtc.org](mailto:kathy.doty@arcgtc.org)!

## **SPENCER AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING**

( Since 1960 )

Many of you already know that since January of 2010, Spencer Air Conditioning has been a corporate sponsor for The Arc of GTC. They have always been supportive of our mission and the folks we serve. And now, thanks to their generosity, we are able to continue reaching out to people in Tarrant County and surrounding areas with the services we offer and by sending them The Arc Message each and every month. We encourage all of our members and friends to call on Spencer A/C & Heating for your service needs and to share their name with your friends and neighbors. This is the best way to show our appreciation for Spencer's support of The Arc of GTC. They have also informed us that they are offering all the members and friends of the Arc of GTC a 10% discount on all purchases and services. When you contact them be sure to tell them you are with The Arc of Greater Tarrant County.

**Call : (972) 253-4131**

**[www.spencerairconditioning.com](http://www.spencerairconditioning.com)**



# Our Special Children

*Families Helping Families*

*Education and support groups for people parenting or caring for a person with a developmental disability.*

Information concerning children and youth.

Deneesa Rasmussen (361) 389-5126  
deneesar@yahoo.com

Philip Bell (817) 877-1474  
philip.bell@arcgctc.org



## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 8th, 2012

10:00AM till 12PM

The University Christian Church

2720 S. University Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76109



The annual Holiday Celebration for OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN will be held again this year at The University Christian Church, where it has been for the last few years. As always, we will have entertaining clowns, music therapists, caroling, face-painting, balloons, snacks, free toys for the children, performances by The Ballet Folklorico of Fort Worth, and, of course, the annual visit by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. We are expecting a large attendance so reservations will be checked very closely at the registration tables. We are limited to a maximum number of participants due to logistics and fire code regulations. This time we accepted reservations only at the October and November meetings of OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN and then began taking RSVP's by phone. We have now reached our limit of guests, so we apologize if you were not able to reserve your place at this annual and traditional event. Please continue your interest in our support group and we encourage your attendance and participation in our monthly meetings, held on the second Saturday of each month ( January through November ) at 1051 Haskell Street, Suite 106, Fort Worth, Texas 76107. We meet from 9:30 am until 12 noon and provide free childcare with reservations. Our workshop topics vary from month to month, but they always address subjects that would interest a parent or family raising a child or adult with disabilities. If you would like to volunteer with OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN or would like to get more active, maybe as a parent leader, please contact either Deneesa Rasmussen or Philip Bell. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!!**

#### PARENTS ON CALL

**Parents on call** are volunteer parents who provide support and information to other parents of children with special needs or disabilities.

Deneesa Rasmussen 361-389-5126    Denise Gasmire 817-481-9700  
Mary May 817-547-5715        Emma Ramirez-Bell 817-265-6009



**Free Childcare Available for  
Saturday Meetings  
Reservations Required!  
Call 817-877-1474**

El Grupo de padres de familias que hablan Español.

Manuela Ramirez (817) 366-7798    Emma Ramirez-Bell (817) 265-6009  
Philip Bell (817) 877-1474



## FIESTA DE NAVIDAD

### Las Familias

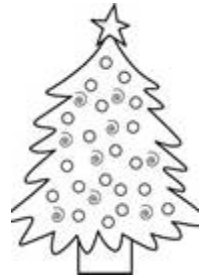
Sábado, 8 de Diciembre de 2012

10:00AM - 12:00PM

THE UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2720 S. UNIVERSITY DRIVE

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76109



El grupo de apoyo **Las Familias**, con niños especiales o niños con desarrollo lento, celebra su Fiesta Navideña de 2012. Este año vamos a celebrar la época en la Iglesia **University Christian Church**. En estas fiestas tenemos pallazos, globos, regalos para todos los niños, música, canciones, refrescos, la visita con **Santo Claus y su esposa** y mucha más diversión para todos. Es con mucho orgullo que también ofrecemos una presentación del famoso **Ballet Folklórico de Fort Worth**. Este grupo de artistas estará con nosotros en la fiesta y van a bailar varias veces para Las Familias. Traigan sus cámaras para sacar fotos y vengán a crear memorias bonitas para su familia. Vamos a tener una fiesta bien grande. Este año aceptamos reservaciones en las juntas de Octubre y Noviembre, y después empezamos aceptando llamadas telefónicas para reservar su lugar en esta fiesta bien popular. Estamos limitados con el número de invitados que podemos acomodar y por eso ya no podemos aceptar más, porque llegamos a nuestro límite. Si usted no ha hecho su reservación, ya no se puede. Trate de venir a nuestras juntas entre Enero y Noviembre, en el segundo Sábado de cada mes de las 12pm hasta las 2 pm. Las pláticas son bien educativas y es una oportunidad de conocer a otros padres de niños especiales.

Necesitamos voluntarios para ayudarnos tanto antes del inicio de la fiesta como después de la fiesta. Y si ustedes conocen a una persona o firma que puede ayudar con apoyo financiero para la fiesta, por favor comuníquense a nuestra oficina con la información. **Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo !!!**

Recuerda que se necesita hacer reservaciones para la guardería de Niños 817-877-1474 y si tiene más preguntas llámen a  
**Manuela Ramirez 817-366-7798**  
**Emma Ramirez Bell 817-265-6009**

#### Asistencia en Español...

Comuníquese a nuestras oficinas con Philip Bell o deje su mensaje en el sistema telefónico 817-877-1474.

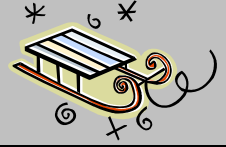



# Schedule of Events

*“Advocacy is the voice that continues even in the face of deafness and silence.” Unknown*



## December 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Fail not to call to mind, in the course of the twenty-fifth of this month, that the Divinest Heart that ever walked the earth was born on that day; and then smile and enjoy yourselves for the rest of it; for mirth is also of Heaven's making. ~Leigh Hunt</p>					1
2	3	4 10:00 - 11:30 Computer Class 12:30 - 1:30 Reading Class 1:30 - 2:30 Math Class 3:00 - 4:00 Computer Class	5 10:00 Beading Class 11:15 Money Class I 1:00 Book Group 2:00 Computer Class 2:45 Money Class II 3:30 Exercise 4:30 UA Officer Mtg	6 8:30 A.M. IDD Needs Council Mtg.  **Tutoring by appointment only	7  12:00 - 2:00 Ladies Friendship Group (Call 817-569-5459)	8 10:00 - 12:00P.M. <b>ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION</b> for OUR SPECIAL CHILDREN And LAS FAMILIAS
9	10	11 10:00 - 11:30 Computer Class 12:30 - 1:30 Reading Class 1:30 - 2:30 Math Class 3:00 - 4:00 Computer Class	12 10:00 Beading Class 11:15 Money Class I 1:00 Book Group 2:00 Computer Class 2:45 Money Class II 3:30 Exercise 5:00 Tennis	13 Men's Support Group 12:30 - 2:30 @ The Arc  **Tutoring by appointment only  4:30-7:00pm UA Fun Night	14  7:00 - 9:00 <b>Community Connection Dance</b>  6:30 - 8:30P.M. Friday Night Live pro- gram for Young Adults (Call 817-926-6214)	15 10:00 - 12:00P.M. <b>Bowling</b> (Please call "Soaring" at 817-237-4498
16	17	18	19	20	21  <i>Office Closed for the Holidays</i>	22
23	24  <i>Office Closed for the Holidays</i>	25  	26  <i>Office Closed for the Holidays</i>	27  <i>Office Closed for the Holidays</i>	28  <i>Office Closed for the Holidays</i>	29
30	31  <i>Office Closed for the Holidays</i>	<p><b>For information about advocate classes and activities call Katie Adkins</b>  <b>The Arc of Greater Tarrant County</b>  <b>1051 Haskell St., Suite 106</b>  <b>Ft. Worth, Texas 76107</b></p> <p><b>Phone: 817-877-1474</b>  <b>Fax: 817-877-1477</b>  <b>E-mail: katie.adkins@arcgtc.org</b></p>				



## UNITED ADVOCATES REPORT BY KATHY DOTY

Hi everyone, How's it going? I hope you all had awesome Thanksgiving. On Wednesday October 3 2012 we had United Advocates Elections for new officers. The election went very well. We had about 14 people sign up and I was very happy with the turn out. We celebrated and took pictures of the newly elected officers.

The New officers for 2013-2015 are,

- 1) Vice President (President-Elect) – Kathy Bales
- 2) TX Advocates Representative – Kendra Kerbow
- 3) Secretary – Falan Cofield
- 4) Treasurer – Beverly Black
- 5) Sergeant-At-Arms – Sandi Grossman
- 6) Two Board Members – Debbie Odom and Juan Serrano.



The Arc Of Greater Tarrant County did Painting With A Twist on November 8 2012. It was a night of awesome people, painting and lots of fun. This was my second time doing Painting With A Twist. It was lot of fun. Sometime I would like my group the United Advocates to do Painting With A Twist. I think they would love it. They can take home something they have made and I think it would make them very happy.

In December we are planning to go to the Olive Garden to celebrate the holidays with good food and good friends. If you would like to go then you need to call the Arc at 817-877-1474 and ask for KATHY DOTY. When you call I will give you all the information you will need.

We are grateful for all of you & hope you have a great holiday & new year with the ones you love.

### Locations for Events

**See the calendar for new classes forming and call to reserve a spot!**

**Arc Classes:** Beading, Book Group, Computer, Exercise, Leadership & Advocacy Class, Math, Money Class, Reading Class, Tutoring - The Arc of GTC, 1051 Haskell Street Suite 106, Fort Worth, TX 76107 (817-877-1474)

**\*Community Meetings, Activities & Events:**

**Board Meetings:** The Arc of GTC, 1051 Haskell Street Suite 106, Fort Worth, TX 76107

**Bowling:** Brunswick Westcreek Lanes, 3025 Alta Mesa Blvd., Ft. Worth 76133 (817) 294-0501

**Community Connection Dance:** The Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Ft. Worth 76119

**Friday Night Live:** Greenbriar Community Center, 5200 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, 76115 817-926-6214

**NOTE:** Bring a snack; \$5 yearly fee; supervised activities; bring assistant if needed.

**IDD Needs Council Meeting:** Easter Seals 1424 Hemphill 76104 (817) 332-7171

**Our Special Children/Las Familias Parent Support Monthly Meetings** on the 2nd Saturday of each month  
The Arc of GTC, 1051 Haskell Street, Suite 106, Fort Worth, TX 76107

**Tennis:** TCU Tennis Courts 3609 Bellaire Drive North Fort Worth, Texas 76109 817-257-7960

**United Advocates Officer Meeting:** The Arc of GTC, 1051 Haskell Street Suite 106

**United Advocates General Meeting:** University Christian Church, 2720 S. University Dr.

**\*Please call your Advocate Member Kathy Bales for Social Activities, Event Dates and Times!**

# Your Support Makes the Difference!

**Want to become a member? Sign up here!**

Advocate \$10  
 Individual \$15  
 Professional \$20  
 Family \$25  
 Corporate \$100

**I am a: (Check all that apply):**

Advocate  
 Child  
 Grandparent  
 Friend of the Arc  
 Parent  
 Professional  
 Relative  
 Sibling

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cash  Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Payable to The Arc of Greater Tarrant County*

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card:  
 MasterCard  Visa  AmEx  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Want to donate? Sign here!**

Please accept my gift of  
 \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_ to support the work of The Arc.

My company, \_\_\_\_\_, has a Matching Gift Program

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please add your honorees' address(es) if you'd like us to notify them of your gift.*

Your dues and donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please mail to: The Arc of Greater Tarrant County  
 1051 Haskell, Suite 106  
 Fort Worth, TX 76107-2649

**Thank you for supporting The Arc!**

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**

- \* **Invest in The Arc!**
- \* **Our Special Children's HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**
- \* **FIESTA NAVIDEÑA de Las Familias**
- \* **Calendar of Events**



Proud member of the United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County, The Arc of Texas and The Arc of the United States.



*We hope you love our newsletter, and want you to receive it in the most efficient way possible. If you have an address change, or prefer an e-newsletter over a paper copy, or want your name removed from our mailing list, please notify us. Contact The Arc, 817-877-1474, or e-mail, info@arcgtc.org.*

Greater Tarrant County  
 1051 Haskell St., Suite 106  
 Fort Worth, TX 76107-2649  
 Phone: 817-877-1474  
 Fax: 817-877-1477  
 Email: info@arcgtc.org  
 www.arcgtc.org



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 FORT WORTH, TX PERMIT NO. 2173