

The Arc Archives



Summer 2020

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#Achieve with us.

A message from the Executive Director...

Service delivery during a pandemic

The Arc, like so many organizations and businesses, has had to reinvent the ways we support our "customers" during the pandemic. Health and safety have never been a higher priority for us as we continue to provide Respite Care to families raising children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Moore and surrounding counties. Now, more than ever, families have needed this relief from their day-to-day caregiving routines.

Every effort will continue to be made to support families and individuals while keeping our workforce protected and safe. In many cases, our direct support professionals are like family members to the individuals for whom they provide care. Their health and safety is of utmost importance to The Arc of Moore County.

I would like to personally thank all of our Respite care providers that have answered the call of families and for their exceptional diligence in following all precautions to keep people supported and safe. Truly, heroes are at work for The Arc!

~ Wendy Carter

Ode to Peggy

Peggy Lassiter, who for 35 years served as The Arc's Respite Care Program coordinator, retired Feb. 27. As a testament to her dedication to families and Respite care staff, she was celebrated by her co-workers, staff and family members at a surprise luncheon at Valenti's restaurant.

In the early '80s, along with a handful of other



parents, including her husband Harry, and Sharon Allen, all whose children were young, Peggy figured out a way to provide a kind of support that was desperately needed by families in Moore County – Respite Care. This program got off the ground with some funding from Sandhills Center and United Way and in 1985, Peggy became the first employee of the newly incorporated Arc of Moore County.

During this time, this determined group of parents either directly or indirectly were instrumental in bringing the first special education classroom to Moore County Schools.

They helped start what is now Sandhills Children’s Center. They helped develop the first group home for adults and overall brought the community’s attention to the special needs of our citizens with disabilities.

Peggy was a true pioneer for people with special needs. We wish her every happiness in her well-earned retirement!

New staff welcomed to The Arc of Moore County

Paige Norbury, Respite Coordinator

Paige began with The Arc just prior to the COVID-19 crisis and hit the ground running to continue care for those receiving Respite services through The Arc. "I am thrilled to be working with the team at The Arc and look forward to meeting families and the entire Respite team in the next few months," she said.

Paige grew up in Moore County, then moved to Wilmington to complete her undergraduate degree in Social Work and then to Charlotte for her MSW. Most recently, she worked at the Sandhills Children's Center in both Administrative and Play Therapy positions. She and her husband Bret live in Whispering Pines with their 4-year-old twins, Adley and Cooley.



Laura Thomson, PR/ Development Director

Laura and her husband Dan have been volunteering with The Arc for various events since they moved to the area in 2013. In 2018 Laura became part of the First in Families Management Team, volunteering time to team

meetings and FIF events. Laura comes to The Arc with many years of experience working with individuals with disabilities and their families. She holds degrees in Psychology and Public Administration and is excited to now be employed by The Arc in the PR/Development capacity.

"Raising community awareness and funds to serve our population is so meaningful to me," she says. Laura and Dan have two adult children, Bethany and DJ, also living in North Carolina.



First in Families update...

First In Families has continued to assist families during these trying times. In one instance, FIF assisted a family with four kids in obtaining beds for each of the children. The three older kids were all sharing one twin bed as the family had to leave their beds at their previous residence. Mom requested a toddler bed and twin bunk beds and mattresses for the older children to give each child his/her own sleeping space and to allow the whole family to sleep better. First in Families was happy to be able to meet this need.

First in Families links individuals and their families with community resources unavailable to them through the traditional service system and funding sources. In order to be eligible for these services, the applicant must have a family member with a developmental disability, meet income guidelines, and live in Moore or one of the eight other counties served by the regional managed care organization, Sandhills Center.

For an application or more information on this program, please contact Resource Consultant [Jennifer Heidel](#).

**We'd love to have you join us...
Together we can make a difference!
Please consider joining The Arc of Moore
County during our Annual Membership
drive going on now.**

**Become a Member of
The Arc of Moore
County**

Tidbits...

- Our office is open 10:00-3:00 Monday through Thursday and 10:00-1:00 on Friday. We ask that you call for an appointment if you need to meet with our staff. Face masks and sanitizer are available in our lobby if needed.
- Please consider The Arc when creating or revising your will, bequest or mandatory disbursement from an IRA. We would be honored to be included in your plans. We would be happy to discuss this option with your further. Call Wendy Carter or Laura Thomson for details, (910) 692-8272.

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Staff Directory

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