

# KC ARC

## NEWSLETTER

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1972



# President's Message...



We are blessed to be preparing for our annual banquet here at KCARC. On October 11 we will have the opportunity to celebrate some of the wonderful accomplishments of KCARC employees and those we serve. The KCARC team has been having a blast planning this year's event that will include an awards ceremony, delicious local catering, door prizes and activities, as well as live music (dance floor included)!

It's hard not to celebrate around here. Being surrounded by people who are committed to not wasting the opportunity to develop themselves and dedicated to expanding their positive influence on the world around them is an amazing gift. The world is run by those who show up and the people involved with KCARC show up.

Whether it is helping to support the future generations of our community, navigating the ever-changing regulatory climate, being a solutions provider to families, our nation's defense sector, or private customers, the people involved with KCARC show up. It's not just that we're all committed

to supporting KCARC's mission. We are committed to each other and to our community. I couldn't be more excited to get to celebrate the joy of fellowship that comes from working alongside others in the pursuit of continued growth: for ourselves, for others, and for our community.

"The miracle is not that we do the work, but that we are happy to do it" – Mother Teresa



*Nash Dunn*

President, KCARC

KC  ARC



## KCARC and Seraphina collab to produce a variety of new products

KCARC continues to be a leader in the manufacturing industry. Producing multiple products and our latest addition is a full line of Seraphina products, including hoods, mock collar long sleeve shirts, joggers for men and women, and sports bras.



Deb Burris, Director of Manufacturing, explains how the new Flame-Resistant Hood is produced at Coonrod Production Center.



Men's Base Leggings and Women's Sports Bra



Flame-Resistant Hood



Men's Crew neck long sleeve shirt

## A new venture for Cut and Sew!

It is an exciting time for KCARCs' Cut and Sew Department! After producing an item for Lenzing Fiber, they suggested to Seraphina, a safety apparel company, to use KCARC for some new items they were

designing. KCARC is now under contract to produce seven new flame-resistant items. These items can be used for many occupations, like race car drivers, welders, and most commonly in the steel industry.

Deb Burris, Director of Manufacturing, described this contract as being very good for our community. "It will allow more people to get more jobs in the area. It will also open up opportunities in Cut and Sew to the people we serve. Seraphina and KCARC have formed a great partnership, and I feel like it will continue to grow. Seraphina will grow, and we will grow with them." Burris explained.

KCARC has opened up more positions to help fill the orders contracted with Seraphina.

KCARC has also reorganized the sewing line to make it more conducive to Seraphina and help the flow of everything. Burris is hoping that this will make things run efficiently.

Burris says that this opportunity will open up opportunities for the people KCARC serves and will give them tools to help with their dexterity and help give them their best work life.

The Cut and Sew Department had the pleasure of hosting Kelly Franko and Carissa Tosi from Seraphina Safety Apparel to celebrate their 4th anniversary! KCARC is thrilled to produce a range of products for them, including the mock collar

long sleeve shirts, joggers for men and women, sports bras, and flame-resistant hoods.

Seraphina's visit included a tour of our facilities and cake to commemorate the occasion!







# Civitan Children's Center

## Civitan Children's Center "Little Minds, Big Ideas"

KCARC's Civitan Children's Center hosted an Open House to celebrate the amazing accomplishments, improvements, and expansion the center has achieved thanks to a collaborative effort with the mayor and the City of Vincennes through a HELP grant.

What an incredible day! We showcased improvements, new equipment and expansions that have transformed our center, thanks to our employees and generous sponsors, parents, teachers, and community heroes—like Mayor Yochum and Vincennes Fire Department. Everyone came together as our excited children explored a real fire truck and all of the new amenities of the Civitan Center.

President of KCARC, Nash Dunn spoke at the opening ceremony of the event and explained, "These conversations of improvement started behind closed doors years ago. It has taken a while to come to fruition, but the reality is that the majority of the work happens here on site with our Civitan employees when no one is looking. I can't thank our team enough, and we are absolutely blessed to have this opportunity to improve things for our children here in Knox County".

As guests arrived at the Open House, they were greeted by a sea of bright neon green shirts, worn by our incredible young learners proudly representing "Little Minds, Big Ideas!" and our employees shone in orange, showcasing unity and enthusiasm, thanks to Kaplan Early Learning Company.

Guests viewed a video highlighting the amazing transformations, enjoyed guided tours, and received custom cookies! We are thankful for a celebration of nurturing creativity and growth in every child!





# Civitan Children's Corner



## Elevating and investing in our children at Civitan

KCARC was elated to have the support from Vincennes Community School Corporation, the City of Vincennes, Packaging Corporation of America in Vincennes, KAPLAN, and Building Blocks, which were invaluable in driving the improvements forward at the Civitan Children's Center.

We are thrilled to announce incredible improvements and accommodations that enhance our learning environment! Our transformed communal area now features the Learning Tree library, a serene quiet zone, illumination tables, and sound treatment. With the incredible support of KAPLAN Early Learning Company, we have introduced specialized equipment to boost motor skills and innovative teaching methods for our employees.

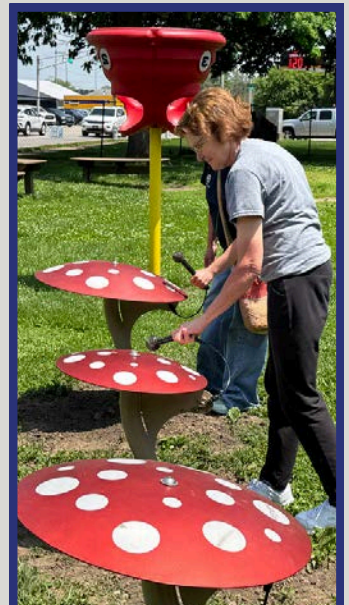
Our playgrounds have been revitalized, now featuring inviting shaded areas, playful sandboxes, and toddler-friendly equipment for endless fun! Each classroom is also enriched with new teaching tools, books, and toys to inspire our young learners.

KAPLAN Early Learning Company representative, Della Micco, was present to assist in the setup of this new equipment and to provide employee training on innovative teaching methods, utilizing these resources.

The vision was to create a high-quality, integrated learning environment that welcomes children of all abilities, which includes the addition of an eighth classroom. This new space will enable the Civitan Center to welcome 10 to 14 more students, with all designs prioritizing accessibility. The classrooms have been equipped with new changing tables, furniture, tables and chairs, toys, art supplies, projectors, and whiteboards, all crafted to foster a decade of enriching learning experiences. Congratulations, Civitan Children's Center!



Della Micco with KAPLAN Early Learning Center was on hand to help set-up and educate the teachers on all of the new equipment.





# KCARC Mission Champions of the Month

## Austin Osburn, JoAnna Rupperecht and, Gary Evans



### Austin Osburn



KCARC congratulates Austin Osburn for being named a Mission Champion Employee of the Month. As an Agency Maintenance Manager at KCARC for over five years, Austin has truly gone above and beyond. From enhancing our boardroom technology to prepping vital production spaces, his dedication shines through.

Austin's work ensures seamless installs, boosts our Wi-Fi capabilities, and fosters crucial upgrades across locations—all while minimizing waste and costs!

He's even supporting Civitan Children's Center with grant materials. Thank you, Austin, for being a powerhouse of support!

Austin is a true advocate of KCARC's mission and lives it every day. KCARC is a better place because of him.

### JoAnna Rupperecht



We're thrilled to honor JoAnna Rupperecht, the outstanding Children's Services Manager at Civitan Children's Center! She was also named a Mission Champion of the Month.

From her beginnings as an Administrative Assistant at the Civitan Children's Center, JoAnna has truly excelled. Her unwavering work ethic, innovative ideas, and dedication have made her invaluable to her team.

JoAnna is committed to continuous learning and fostering growth in others—an exemplary leader indeed!

Residing with her husband Nathan, their vibrant 11-year-old daughter Allie, and beloved English bulldog Champ (her #1!), JoAnna's dedication inspires all of us. Alongside her two other dogs and cats, she shows true passion for improvement. When asked about this honor, she humbly shared that it confirms she's right where she belongs.

Let's celebrate JoAnna's remarkable contributions to KCARC!

### Gary Evans



KCARC is celebrating Gary Evans as one of our Mission Champions of the month. Gary was nominated in recognition of his unwavering commitment to the well-being of those we serve. His advocacy, teamwork, integrity, and dedication to quality service shine brightly within our organization.

For nearly 28 years, Gary has served as an Employment Specialist and collaborated with colleagues and families to create a supportive environment where dignity and rights are paramount.

Gary enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and a new granddaughter Violet. Thank you for your incredible dedication, Gary!





# KC ARC

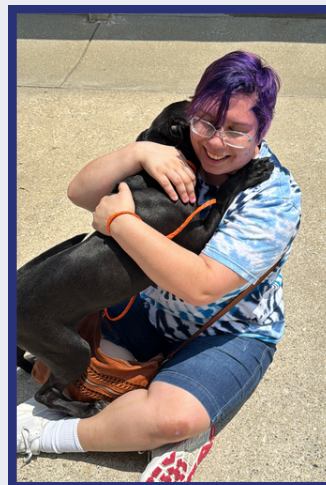
Adult and Youth Day Programming



## Helping out our furry friends in need

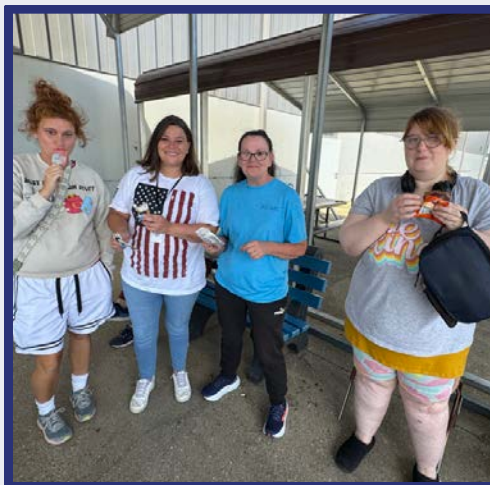
Our Adult Day Program hosted a “Pet Pals” drive to benefit our Vincennes Animal Shelter. There were four drop-off points where they collected dog and cat food, towels, blankets, cleaning supplies, and much more. A TRUCKLOAD of essential items for the animals was collected and delivered to the shelter. Our day programming members did an incredible job of collecting, organizing and delivering all of the donations. A perk of the drive was that they got to spend quality time loving on some of the animals.

Aleena Korfhage even got to walk a sweet puppy that was very fond of her. Other members of our day program enjoyed some kitten snuggles. What a fantastic pet drive and delivery day!



## Chilling out on a hot day!

Sweet times at KCARC! We celebrated our amazing team with not one, but TWO Employee Appreciation Days featuring the delightful Dixie B Ice Cream truck. On two very hot days, our fantastic crew enjoyed their favorite icy treats at the Coonrod Production Center—complete with a cool mister fan and great tunes! The truck made stops to spread joy to the Civitan Children’s Center, 1972, Baker Center, and the Shop. What a delicious way to beat the summer heat while honoring our hardworking crew!







# Miss Marvelous 2025

"Raise Your Voice!"



What an unforgettable afternoon at Miss Marvelous 2025! This stunning pageant showcases the incredible talents of women with developmental challenges, fostering community involvement and support. The show unfolded under the theme "Raise Your Voice," honoring this year's ARC initiative.

Every gown was a gift, and our talented volunteers made magic happen with hair and makeup. With breathtaking performances from Zoe Herron, Isabella Lange, and Remington Schultz lighting up the stage, it was truly an afternoon of empowerment.

Ladies competed in casual wear, on-stage question, and evening gown. Emcee Jeremy Hamilton announced the ladies, adding some fun facts about their talents and personalities.

Sara Archer, Supported Living Coordinator for KCARC has been a huge benefactor in the success of Miss Marvelous. She stated, "I've worked here for many years, and it brings me so much joy to see the ladies step out, show off their personalities, and get all dressed up. It is truly rewarding to witness the excitement and happiness this event brings to everyone involved. I'm incredibly

thankful for the Miss Marvelous committee and all the wonderful people who attend and help make these ladies feel so special!"

Archer has helped with hair and makeup for Miss Marvelous, stores, and fits everyone for a dress. All of the dresses are donated to KCARC. Congratulations to all of the Miss Marvelous winners!



Felicia Bluebaum, Miss Marvelous 2025, Isabella Lange, Miss Heart of Indiana 2025 and Senior Miss Marvelous 2025, Ronda Summers pose after the crowning ceremony.



Sara Archer poses with Senior Miss Marvelous Congeniality, Kathy Dent as she was crowned during the Miss Marvelous Pageant.

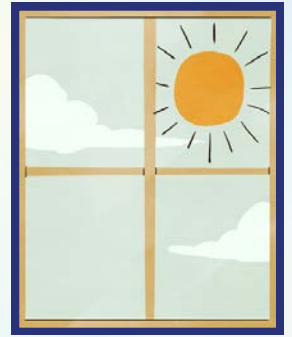






BY: MARIA PUCKETT

# From the Window of the Baker Center



## You look Marvelous!

I have loved being a part of Miss Marvelous for many years. Miss Marvelous is a day when you can get dressed up, get your hair and make-up done, and strut your stuff in front of an audience and judges.

Miss Marvelous has been a fantastic outlet for ladies with developmental disabilities to speak in front of an audience and shine on stage. This year's theme followed the ARC of Indiana Campaign message, "Raise your voice," and our ladies did just that!

We were thrilled to once again have community support in sponsors; The Enchanted Florist, Jimmy Johns, Tracy Phegley, Christina Lange, Miss Banks of the Wabash, Isabella Lange and multiple volunteers.

Jeremy Hamilton was once again our witty and entertaining, gracious host and described me as sparkly and elegant during the formal wear competition. Blair Schultz stepped in to direct this year.

Our escorts this year included: Adam Rath, Jerome Mattox, Joey Sircy, Mike Klueh, Jamerson Hols, Brennan Frye, Nathan Keusch, John Szaler, and Brian Patton.

### Senior Miss Marvelous 2025 Winners:

3rd Runner-up - Amie Robinson

2nd Runner-up - Amy Edwards

1st Runner-up - Nicki Hurley

Senior Miss Marvelous 2025-

Ronda Summers

### Miss Marvelous 2025 Winners:

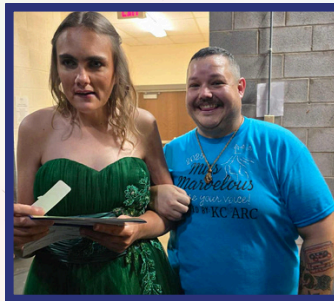
3rd Runner-up: Chelsea Sheren

2nd Runner-up: Julie Adams

1st Runner-up: Stuckey Whitsman

Miss Marvelous 2025-

Felicia Bluebaum



Winners named to the Queens Court were Darianne Fox, Rebecca Hedge, and Maria Puckett. The two ladies recognized for the best casual attire were Felicia Meeks & Quanita Lavita Sircy. Evening Gown winners were Kaitlyn Whitson and Shelley Mollenkopf. The best on-stage question awards went to Christina McCall and Melissa McIntyre. Our wonderful Miss Congenialities were, Aspen Day and Kathy Dent. What a magical day it was! Congratulations to all of the Miss Marvelous winners!





# A Summer to remember at 1972!



A revamped summer camp became a successful quest ending in amazing adventures, unique experiences, and memories that will last a lifetime. Trudy McCormick and Lauren Wolfe restructured and reinvented the summer camp at 1972. Field trips, mission work, lemonade stands, carnival and movie days, and STEM projects all filled up their schedule.

Our 1972 Camp kids rocked "Movie Day," showcasing a film they creatively wrote, shot, and produced. Talk about talent! Drew Higgins edited and filmed the movie, as well as helped outline the whole thing, but the kids also helped. As far as who was in the movie and participated, Andrew Higgins was the lead and included a full cast of campers. They enjoyed a walk down the red carpet, popcorn, and a screening of the finished chart topper. Great job team!

Our campers also ventured out to Good Samaritan Hospital and visited the student program learning floor a few times this summer. This was for 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade campers, and they played medical-related games in an immersion room, explored the human body through floor mats with special tablets, and got to be in the sim lab that replicates a patient room with mannequins. Our campers learned a lot and we may have future doctors and nurses on our hands.

## Lemonade and cookies for a cause



Huge shoutout to our incredible campers for conducting a very successful summer camp lemonade stand! They faced the heat and raised over \$650 for Isaiah 117 House, providing essential support for children in need. Thanks to our wonderful counselors, the campers were able to offer freshly baked cookies and delicious treats. Kudos to the kitchen team for the refreshing lemonade! Together, they came to make a difference in our community. Here's to an impactful season of mission work. We love to teach our campers to love their community.



# Here's what's new at 1972: **STYLE FOR A SMILE 2025**

Style For a Smile returned for the 2nd annual show at the 1972 Community Center.

When "Style for a Smile" was created, organizers Lauren Wolfe, Elizabeth Hardin, and Trudy McCormick wanted a way to utilize 1972, have an event that was welcoming to our community, and offer opportunities to the people KCARC serves and all involved. Everyone involved in "Style for A Smile" is part of KCARC.

Whether it's a child of an employee, a camp counselor, or one of the people KCARC serves, it was a family and community event.

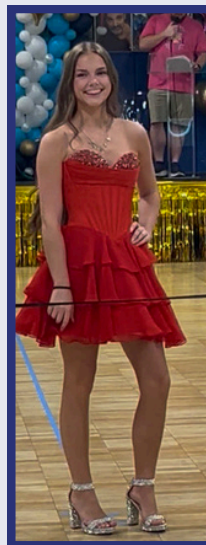
Local businesses donated their top-notch clothing for modeling.

Twenty models walked the runway and showcased a variety of looks from beautiful evening gowns, to spirit wear, to a western look. Fourteen sponsors supported "Style for a Smile".

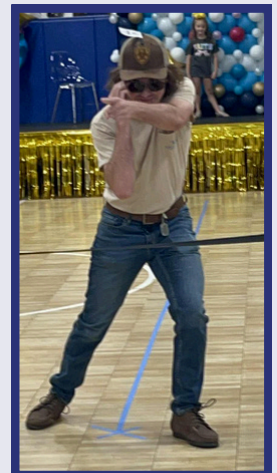
There were also amazing singing performances by Abi Jenkins and Remington Schultz. The Triple Threat dancers impressed us with two amazing routines.

This year, vendors were an added bonus at the event. Booths were set up on both sides of the runway. Fresh produce, crafts, jewelry, books, and even face painting were all available. There were also fun creation stations, and raffle prizes to give away.

Emcee for the show was Vocational Rehabilitation Services Coordinator, Jeff Weber. He explained, "It was an honor to take part in KCARC's Style for a Smile event. The collaboration between local vendors and individuals of all abilities was a powerful reminder of how inclusive partnerships can uplift and unite our community."



**STYLE FOR  
A SMILE  
2025**  
SPRING STYLE  
SHOW



KCARC is certified to provide many services under the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver system in Indiana.

For more information about KCARC's services, contact:

Hunter Henderson

Navigator

812-886-4312

**KCARC**

**2525 North 6th St**

**Vincennes, IN 47591**

# KC ARC

Follow us on social media!



**Check out our  
career opportunities!**

[www.knoxcountyarcc.com](http://www.knoxcountyarcc.com)



**DONATION  
AMOUNT:**

\$25	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	OTHER
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**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**DESIGNATION:**

- DAY PROGRAMS
- 1972 COMMUNITY CENTER
- RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS
- WELLNESS COORDINATION
- MISS MARVELOUS PAGEANT
- CIVITAN CHILDREN'S CENTER
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- PRE-ETS  
(HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION PROGRAM)
- BEHAVIOR SERVICES

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO KCARC  
AND MAIL TO:

2525 NORTH 6TH STREET  
VINCENNES, IN 47591