

FALL

2025

KC ARC

NEWSLETTER

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1972



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CO-EDITOR - MARIA PUCKETT

President's Message...



The weather isn't the only thing that's changing around here. 2025 was a year of immense change for human service agencies in Indiana. Funding issues at the state and federal levels have forced budget reductions in everything from Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Early Childhood Education Vouchers, and everything in between. Administrative cuts have led to serious issues for individuals being served through state and federal programs to even get their redeterminations processed and have left many in limbo, not knowing whether or not the services they so desperately need will even be approved.

While fiscal responsibility for social service programs is something that we as a nation need to get a handle on, it is organizations like KCARC that keep life rolling for individuals and families while the political theater plays out. Organizations affiliated with The Arc US have been supporting their fellow citizens since before Medicaid and Medicare were even created and will continue to support their fellow citizens regardless of the political landscape.

While our country's leadership meet in legislative halls to discuss political theory and decide how to act in our best interest, organizations like KCARC are working hand in hand with their fellow Hoosiers to help make life work. We are recognizing our amazing staff through monthly programs like our Mission Champion Winners; we're hosting community events at 1972; we're helping children learn their numbers and the alphabet; we're being recognized by the community as the Best Manufacturer and Best Childcare Center in Knox County; we're celebrating what happens when community members lift each other up.

2026 is gearing up to be another year of change for human services within Indiana and KCARC is ready. Our staff are more engaged than ever, taking part in leadership cohorts and committees at the local, state, and national level. While we cannot promise it won't be a bumpy ride, we can promise that we will continue to be there for Hoosiers when they need us. If your family has questions about how to navigate the service delivery system in Indiana, please do not hesitate to reach out to KCARC. 812-886-4312 (ask for the Navigator) or just walk right in the doors at 2525 N. 6th St in Vincennes and our team will be ready to serve you.



President, KCARC

KCARC NAMED "BEST MANUFACTURING"

KCARC recently earned the title "Best Manufacturing" by the Vincennes Sun-Commercial Knox County Readers Choice award. This is the second year KCARC has won this title. KCARC continues to be a leader in the manufacturing industry. KCARC produces multiple products and a full line of Seraphina products, including hoods, mock collar long sleeve shirts, joggers for men and women, and sports bras. Our wood shop continues to produce the M155 Howitzer projectile crate for the United States military.



OPENING OUR DOORS AT COONROD PRODUCTION CENTER

We opened our doors to the Leadership Knox County group. KCARC's own Director of Manufacturing, Deb Burris was one of the participants and will later be a graduate of the program.

The group once again took advantage of the tour of Coonrod Production Center as well as a presentation from President Nash Dunn and Burris.

In November, Coonrod Production Center was also one of the stops for the 127th Annual Meeting for the Southern Indiana Superintendents' Club.

They were very eager to learn about KCARC's Coonrod Production Center. They enjoyed presentations by President, Nash Dunn and Director of Manufacturing, Deb Burris. Some other stops they made in Vincennes were the Red Skelton Museum and the Indiana Military Museum.

Another exciting event was a very successful job fair at Coonrod Production Center. Participants were able to apply online at the event and interview with a supervisor. Each department was represented and present to answer questions, conduct interviews and support the event. Tours were also given to present the many opportunities that Coonrod Production Center has available.

Sarah McKinney, KCARC's Human Resources Recruiter organized the event and commented on its success. "Big shout-out to everyone who helped make the job fair a success! Our teamwork, professionalism, and enthusiasm made a great impression and helped showcase who we are. We appreciate every one of you! I can't wait for our next job fair this Spring."



Leadership Knox County were very interested in learning some of the processes at Coonrod Production Center from Plant Manager, Amanda Miskell.



Sandy Keusch demonstrates a folding technique used while packaging an order of shirts for the United States Military.



Civitan Children's Center

2025 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH, PROGRESS AND
EXCITEMENT FOR THE CIVITAN CHILDREN'S CENTER



"Every day you learned something new, and every challenge made you stronger."

The Civitan Children's Center had quite the year. From trainings and new policies to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas parties, to a complete overhaul of the entire center. The Civitan Center proves to continue making strides and growth for the children of our community.

2025 was definitely an exciting year for Civitan. With money from a grant through the city of Vincennes, all of our classrooms received new furniture, supplies, equipment and toys. Civitan was one of the first, if not the first, childcare facility in the nation to be outfitted with Kaplan Company's inclusive preschool furniture which was designed to help special needs children successfully participate in preschool classroom activities.

Civitan also added an eighth classroom which added an additional 14 childcare/preschool spots thus helping to better meet the childcare needs of the Vincennes community.

In 2025 several of our Civitan employees continued or have started their education in Early Childhood and Child Development. This includes progress toward Child Development Associate credentials, associates degrees, a bachelor's degree and even a master's degree.

Several employees attended a three-day educational conference in Evansville which was sponsored and led by Building Blocks. We are very proud of our people for taking these valuable steps in professional growth.

Another big step in quality was realized as Civitan now employs both a Special Education teacher and a paraprofessional. These employees help serve the special needs children who are enrolled in preschool through the Vincennes Community School Corporation Special Education Cooperative. The collaboration with VCSC is an example of Civitan's continued commitment to the mission of KCARC.



Civitan Children's Corner



CIVITAN CHILDREN'S CENTER NAMED "BEST CHILD CARE CENTER"

We are thrilled to announce that the Civitan Children's Center is once again the recipient of the Vincennes Sun-Commercial Readers Choice for Best Child Care Center. This is their seventh time to win this prestigious award.



The Civitan Children's Center serves ninety children and currently employs thirty-three. The ages of the Children they serve is twelve months and walking through roughly to five. Civitan Children's Center prepares them for kindergarten.



IT WAS A MERRY HOLIDAY SEASON

Each department at KCARC was challenged to host its own holiday party—and the best part? Getting to choose the food! The Civitan Children's Center selected KCARC's "The Shop" as the perfect place to celebrate.

The evening was filled with gift exchanges, fellowship, and great food, making it a memorable holiday gathering for everyone.

The fun didn't stop there. During this special season, the Civitan Children's Center also welcomed a very special visitor—Santa! He spent time speaking with each child and made sure there was an opportunity for photos and smiles all around. By the looks of it, everyone made it onto the NICE list!



KCARC Mission Champions of the Month

Beau Crabtree, Paul Burton and, Brittany Moore

Beau Crabtree



Please join us in celebrating Beau Crabtree, one of our Mission Champions of the Month! Beau is a Medical Transporter and has been part of the KCARC team for about a year.

Beau's nomination highlights his thoroughness, strong communication skills, and genuine care for the people we serve. He is a trusted advocate, reliable liaison, and a true team player.

Beau credits his supervisor, Joy Seitzinger, for inspiring him with her positive, kind, and helpful leadership. He believes great

communication and shared goals are key to success. Outside of work, Beau enjoys documentaries, cooking, video games, time with friends, and collecting vinyl records. Most of all, he loves connecting with the people KCARC serves—building trust and making everyone's day brighter.

KCARC is proud to recognize Paul Burton as one of our Mission Champions of the Month. Paul serves as a Manufacturing Manager in the Coonrod Production Center and has been part of the KCARC family off and on for nearly seven years.

Paul's nominations describe him as an emerging leader with integrity, respect, and compassion, truly reflecting KCARC's mission. He is known for his exceptional work ethic, willingness to help others, and commitment to producing quality products. Paul consistently gives 100%, goes above and beyond, and shows genuine care for his team.

Outside of KCARC, Paul enjoys art, music, sports, and working out. He draws inspiration from the challenges of his role and from the people KCARC serves each day. The best professional advice he's received—"Walk with purpose"—and it is something he lives out daily.

Paul shared that being named Mission Champion of the Month is a great honor. Congratulations, Paul! You are an inspiration to many, and we are grateful for all you do.

Paul Burton



Brittany Moore



KCARC also congratulates Brittany Moore as one of our Mission Champions of the month. She has been an Employment Specialist with KCARC for nine years and is known for advocating and being a voice to many that she serves. She enjoys creating opportunities for meaningful inclusion in our community.

Brittany is a proud mother of two teenage girls, Zoey and Joslyn. She enjoys bonding and spending time with them. She also enjoys reading, bowling and anything nature.

One of Brittany's favorite memory is working the Miss Marvelous pageant. The amount of support that is given is heartwarming and inspiring. Brittany says that, "KCARC is the job she never knew she needed. It helped me grow not only as an employee but as a person. She says she will always advocate for the people we serve because, it may be the only voice they have in their corner."



KC ARC



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

The wet, rainy weather was no match for our Adult Programming participants, who once again served with the Salvation Army by ringing bells. Stationed at both entrances of Hobby Lobby, they rang bells and delighted shoppers with holiday greeting's and cheerful caroling.

This marks KCARC's second year participating in the Red Kettle Campaign. The Salvation Army offers holiday assistance and access to a food pantry for families in need. Our Adult Residential Program always looks forward to this event and look forward to continuing to support this cause in our community.



BRITTNEY CARTER

NAMED TO THE INARF

ACADEMY CLASS OF 2026



Brittney Carter, Director of Supported Living Services, was recently named to the INARF Leadership Academy Class of 2026.

The Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities organization or INARF had a main goal to strengthen the system of services and supports for Hoosiers with disabilities by representing providers of services to people with disabilities.

Participants were chosen through a comprehensive review and selection process conducted by the INARF Leadership Skill-Building Workgroup. To ensure an equitable and objective review, applicants' names and organizations were redacted, allowing selections to be based solely on the quality and thoroughness of essay responses, as well as demonstrated industry experience.

The Leadership Academy Class of 2026 will begin on March 12 at the Embassy Suites Noblesville Conference Center and is made possible through sponsors. "I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with others who share a commitment to leadership, advocacy, and quality services. I look forward to using this experience to make a meaningful impact both personally and professionally." Carter stated. Congratulations, Brittney!



Unmasking Moments: "Behind Every Mask is a Story"



Manufacturing Employee of the Year:
Beth Jenkins



Volunteer of the Year:
Remington Schultz



Thriving Life Award:
D.J. Gilbert



Lois Little Award:
Brandi Petelle



Student of the Year:
Charli Chopp



Transition Student of the Year:
Landon Malott

What an unforgettable night at the KCARC Banquet! Unmasking Moments: "Behind Every Mask Is a Story" came to life as we celebrated our incredible team.

The Banquet Committee consisted of Kris Opell, Elizabeth Hardin, Brandi Petelle, Blair Schultz, Tina Carie, Nancy Jean, Jonathan Peters, Kylor Shields and Isabel Oglesby. The committee prepared for months in advance for this yearly event. Location, food, prizes and of course live music had to be organized.

KCARC's President, Nash Dunn, spoke and honored seven distinguished award winners. The crowd was filled with excitement as everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner, fabulous raffles, and dancing to "On The One" featuring Jamie Taylor.

A mask theme was carried out with amazing purple, gold and black accent colors. A photo backdrop, a "make your own mask" station and even a large, fantastic raffle giveaway took place. KCARC had nearly 20 local business donors support the Banquet.

A heartfelt thank you to our Banquet Committee for another stellar event. Here's to more shared stories and achievements in the coming year!

Congratulations to our Award Recipients:

- Lois Little Award: Brandi Petelle
- Student of the Year: Charlie Chopp
- Transition Student of the Year: Landon Malott
- Thriving Life Award: D.J. Gilbert
- Manufacturing Employee of the Year: Beth Jenkins
- N. Philip Shelton Award: Fort Sackville Project
- Volunteer of the Year: Remington Schultz



N. Philip Shelton Award
Fort Sackville Project



From the Window of the Baker Center



BY: MARIA PUCKETT

GENEALOGY CLUB: LEARNING ABOUT OUR HERITAGE

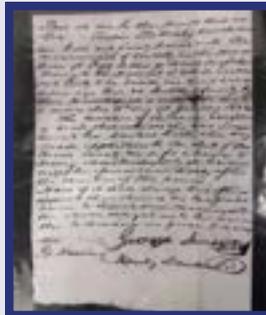
Our Day Program has been fortunate to offer a variety of clubs that provide participants with opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, and learn more about themselves. Through these clubs, many participants have discovered personal passions, gained new knowledge, and connected more deeply with their own heritage.

One such opportunity is the Genealogy Club, led by Direct Support Professional, Gina Zeabart. Club members Ronda Summers, Adam Rath, and Maria Puckett partnered with employees at the McGrady-Brockman House, a Regional History and Genealogical Research Center. With their assistance, participants uncovered invaluable information about their ancestors. We were able to trace our family history back as far as seven generations.

I located birth certificates, marriage licenses, and my mother's obituary. She had once served as Vice President of the KCARC Board. While Adam learned that part of his family history traces back to Germany.

The Genealogy Club has been a rewarding experience, allowing participants to connect with their past while building confidence, curiosity, and a deeper sense of identity.

McGrady-Brockman House



Historic finds L to R: Ancestors of Maria Puckett, Elizabeth Germack Buck and Heber Hollis and a marriage license from 1832 as well as, a headstone dating back to 1925 were amongst their finds.

Below: Adam Rath proudly points to a baby picture of himself on his grandmothers lap.





Fun Fall Fest 2025



Wow, what a weekend! Our Fun Fall Fest at 1972 was a resounding success, welcoming over 600 attendees! From vibrant costumes to exciting games, pumpkin painting, and delicious food trucks, it was a day filled with joy and fellowship. A huge thank you to our amazing community for the support and our employees who made the day very memorable for all.



We had a beautiful fall day for outdoor activities which included games, a costume contest, receiving prizes and sweet treats and local food trucks, who provided a great lunch.

A traditional favorite for many was the petting zoo. Many animals from the Lincoln Trail Mobile Unit were available to pet, learn about, and simply enjoy.

Blazer 91.1 was also on site to conduct interviews and share all of the information and highlights with their listeners.

Our indoor activities included our inflatables, climbing rock wall, karaoke and a fan favorite, the costume contest!

Winners of the costume contest were selected by the audiences' applause.

We are going to continue the fun and offer the Fun Fall Fest in 2026 on Saturday, October 24th.

For more information on 1972 events contact, Trudy McCormick at- 812-316-0641.



Costume Contest winners were:
Sheppard Dunn as a steampunk Zombie, JayInn White was a hot air balloon, and Cannon Delligner was a duck. All of them were awarded a Jack-o-lantern treat bucket.



Here's what's new at 1972: Cookies, Cocoa and Claus

It was another wonderful Cookies, Cocoa, and Claus event at 1972! KCARC's 1972 is proud to serve the community by hosting events that not only bring KCARC families together, but also welcome and benefit the community as a whole.

Guests enjoyed hot cocoa, cookie-decorating kits, face painting, crafts, visits with Santa and the Grinch—and, for the first time, a special performance by the Vincennes Community Children's Choir. The choir shared their incredible talents by singing Christmas carols while KCARC families and community members took part in the many festive activities offered throughout the event. Pictures with Santa seemed to be a favorite among our attendees.



CHRISTMAS CAMP

Christmas Camp had another successful season. Children from kindergarten through fifth grade were welcomed into 1972 for Christmas Camp. Many fun activities were holiday arts and crafts, games, karaoke, and caroling throughout KCARC facilities and a few local businesses.

They even got a visit and individual pictures from the BIG guy, Santa!

FITNESS AT 1972:

Monday: 5:30-6:30pm- Yoga

Wednesday: 5:30-6:30pm- Cardio Drumming

Thursday: 5:30-6:30pm- Zumba

Contact Trudy McCormick: 812-316-0641



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

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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