



“Expanding the Possibilities”

“Ho’o Nui Ka Hiki”

Don't Forget!
15th Annual Arc of Kona Bazaar
November 19, 2011
Donations Gladly Accepted

Message From Gretchen



Gretchen Lawson
President/CEO

Yikes-it’s already September and soon we will be faced with all the holiday preparations. The Arc of Kona is no exception; we are busily planning this year’s Bazaar and Car Show. It’s the 15th annual!! Hard to believe that it has been 15 years but it’s true. Time flies when you’re having fun. Last year we added a car show and it added a whole new dimension, so we are doing it again. Save the date November 19th and bring your check book—it’s a FUNd Raiser. All is well at the Arc. Summer was a blur and whirlwind of activity. We have new staff, turn the page and see who joined our team.

tax deductible as the Arc of Kona is a 501c3 not for profit organization.

Gretchen

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Our new division, Career Development and Training, has really picked up and the businesses all around the island have welcomed our Participants as new employees. Thanks to all those businesses and thanks to the job seekers who have worked so hard to become good employees. As we strive to bring quality and accomplishment to our employment programs, we are excited that Mr. Joe Cordova, State Administrator for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services to the Blind Division is visiting Arc of Kona on September 23!! This is definitely an opportunity for us to showcase our operation.

While we are dishing out the thanks; I can’t thank the community enough for all your support; it truly makes a difference. Remember all contributions you make to help support people with disabilities are

We would like to thank the following employers for their cooperation and generosity working with and hiring our Participants

- Choice Mart in Captain Cook
- Malama Market in Honokaa
- Malama Market in Pahoa
- Foodland in Waimea
- Safeway in Kailua-Kona
- North Hawaii Community Hospital in Waimea
- Ross in Kailua-Kona
- Leslie Correa of Paauiilo Corner
- County of Hawaii Base Yards
- County of Hawaii Parks & Recreation
- Federal Department of Parks & Recreation
- Takata Market in Kohala
- Arc of Kona Yard Crew
- Arc of Kona Janitorial Crew

In This Issue

News from North Hawaii	2
Adult Day Health Update	3
Announcements	4



The Arc of Kona is CARF accredited

What is CARF?

CARF is a not-for-profit organization that accredits human services providers throughout the United States, Canada, and Western Europe in the areas of rehabilitation, employment, aging, and family services.

The mission of CARF is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served.



Gilbert Acosta Honors Bruddah Iz



Joshua, Elijah and Jeani at AHA Art Show



**Jeani Navarro
Vice President for Program Services**

News From The North Hawaii Office

What a great summer season this has been for the Arc Participants. Successful art shows, medals won at Special Olympics, and Participants getting employed, some for the first time.

The AHA Art Show "Got Art?" was held in late July and we had a good showing of our Arc artists participating in the showing and sale of art products and also sharing their music art form. Once again Gilbert Acosta kicked off the show with his ukulele and singing tribute to Bruddah Iz, that always starts the AHA show on a

positive note. (Pun intended.) Thanks to all the families and friends that came to support our six artists and their beautiful creations.

Our Walmart School to Work Transition grant has partnered with Goodwill Industries' Ola I Ka Hana" program that will pay wages for up to 100 hours at a work site of our Participant's choice. We now have some of our Participants in this program working at local small businesses as well as County and Federal job sites. This allows for that first job experience that will provide a wide variety of new work and personal skills and create a work history for use with regular employments.

As we have been reporting in previous newsletters, the State Department of Health is putting a new focus on work and has created three new employment areas, pre vocational, individual work, and working in small groups of up to four people.

To further prepare, the Arc is pleased to add a new member to our team. Chris Barnett, who is a former employee of West Hawaii Today and has done many stories on our agency, is now joining our Arc family as a part time employee. Chris has an extensive background in assessments and job preparation from the corporate world and she has agreed to give us a much needed hand with the up-front preparation needed to get job ready for a job interview. We joyfully welcome her and her skills for all of our employment programs.

The State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) contract has kept me really busy with several new referrals this period. It is a pleasure working with each individual and getting to know their personal story and work history and assisting them with their new employment needs. We want to congratulate two people who have made their 90 day retention and have successfully completed their employment plan this period. Myleen Villarin, working at Foodland in Waimea, and Michael Carras, working at North Hawaii Community Hospital.

Along with employment often comes the worry of "what happens to Social Security benefits"? For some people it took a long time to get SSDI and SSI benefits, which include medical, and now the fear of not having them often means not going to work.

To assist the community in navigating through the Social Security system, two of us from the Arc have been selected to attend training on O'ahu that is sponsored by the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and offered/certified through Cornell University. Cheyle Kihara and myself have completed the three day intensive and are now in the ten weeks of Tuesdays on O'ahu to become certified Social Security Benefits Educators. This allows the Arc to serve all of those on Social Security who have a Ticket to Work as well as our VR and Waiver referrals. We will graduate the week of Thanksgiving and be ready to share our knowledge to allow the transition to the workforce to be more streamlined and empowering for those that chose the Arc of Kona services.



Megan, Dorrit and Malia Display their Art at AHA Art Show!

Adult Day Health Update



Yvonne Gilbert
Director of Programs
Kona & Kau

In the last quarter, the ADH program's biggest news has been to welcome a new Program Coordinator, Giuse Bullock. Giuse comes to us with a wealth of experience in the Kona community. She has been busy getting to know all participants, families, staff, and procedures, and developing more in-class activities. Giuse has shared some comments and news below:

A New Team Member's Comments:



Giuse Bullock
ADH Program Coordinator

As a new member of the Arc of Kona, I would like to express how fortunate I consider myself as a part of such a great team! I am from the Big Island, with experience working in education, elderly care, and bereavement support. I love working with people in a way that adds to their well being and potential, as well as my own. I appreciate that the Arc of Kona is aligned with this personal aspiration, and am happy to be on board.

One of the first observations I had was how smoothly and unified the organization runs. Staff and participants alike extend helping hands to each other, while doing their particular jobs competently. Simply put, work gets done well, with an emphasis on personal interactions and contributions.

Class Highlights and New Events:

Some recent highlights in the classroom include a Snorkel Day at Kaha-lu'u Beach attended by Shannon, Malia (Mary Ann), Ikaika (Josh), Barbara, and Joshua. What a fun day in the sun, with an informational reef talk and plenty of snorkel time. And our very own Makaika (Apple) is now working in the office again, putting her focus and hard-work ethics to good use assisting Katherine. Thank you Makaika!



Joshua, Dorrit and Shannon win GOLD at Special Olympics in Honolulu

The newest Adult Day Health participant Kayci is a wonderful addition and has quickly established new fans and friends here at the Arc. Her lively spirit and bright smile enhance our program.

As most of you know there are many activities going on at the Adult Day Health program on a regular basis. Between yoga, music group, roundtable discussions, the walking club, weekly outings, personal jobs, and program goal activities we stay busy! Recently we have also added a women's and men's circle. Taking place every other Friday, alternately with regular whole group roundtable discussions, these new circles have been a great place for gender-specific bonding. They're also a place for discussing related issues and topics, as well as being a lot of fun!

In addition stretch and movement classes are back by popular demand. These are taking place most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Happening in-house and a few times a week, these classes are a great opportunity for all participants to partake.

A Big Aloha to all participants and families for continued support and involvement. Together we enhance our lives and the lives of each other.

Yvonne

Earn Bonus Points
with your credit card
while giving to a good cause.



The Arc of Kona now
accepts credit cards for your
donations.



Our Mission

The Arc of Kona is a private, nonprofit organization for persons with disabilities, their advocates and families. We believe that people with disabilities are individual in their desires, needs, abilities, and gifts as any other cross section of society. The Arc of Kona is committed to helping persons with disabilities achieve their fullest possible independence and participation in our society according to their wishes.

2010-2011 Board Officers and Directors

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The
Arc of Kona
dba Kona Krafts

"Expanding the Possibilities"

"Ho'o Nui Ka Hiki"

Announcements and Events

Mark Your Calendars

15th Annual Arc of Kona

Custom Car Show



Lots of fun!
Prizes

Coloring & Crayons for the Keiki
Hosted by the Arc of Kona
Proceeds to the Arc of Kona!

BAZAAR

Music All Day ♦ Ono Food ♦ Trash &
Treasures ♦ Silent Auction
Lots of Craft Vendors

Saturday, November 19, 2011
9:00 am until 2:00 pm

Lots of fun! ♦ Call 323-2626 for more information