



"Expanding the Possibilities"

"Ho'o Nui Ka Hiki"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum

Bluegrass Concert

January 21, 2012

Aloha Theatre

Message From Gretchen



**Gretchen Lawson
President/CEO**

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

It's 2012!! Happy 50th anniversary to the Arc of Kona; Yes, it was 1962 when Dr. Kid Steele McCoy led a group on interested and involved local citizens to start the Kona Association to Help Big Island Citizens (BIAHRC). In 1965, this association incorporated to become the Kona Association for Retarded Children (Kona Krafts was an informal nickname) and finally, in 1973 once the public schools began accepting children with cognitive disabilities, the articles of incorporation were altered and the name became Kona Association for Retarded Citizens. Since retarded is not a word that is acceptable in the 21st century, we applied for and were given the dba "The Arc of Kona" in 2004. 50 years of continual improvement and service to support people with disabilities and provide the means for them to reach their goals.

2012 starts off with the fabulous duo Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum who have come to Kona and given a benefit concert for the last 13 years! These Grammy-nominated artists are widely regarded as among the leading lights of modern bluegrass and are highly-prized by their peers as producers. They will be here to play for us on January 21st at the Aloha Theatre. Save the date and come have a rousing good time and support the Arc with one ticket purchase. See the ad further on in this newsletter.

At the tail end of 2011, the Arc of Kona was very pleased and proud to have finally submitted an application to the Social Security Administration to become an Employment Network. Employment Networks act as

agents for the Social Security Administration in their efforts to decrease public benefits paid out to people with disabilities by making it possible to go to work to support themselves. We think this a noble and proactive way to help people with barriers to employment join society and realize their fondest dream-that of contributing to their communities via work.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us throughout the years and remember, if you want to make a difference and earn a tax deduction too, you can contribute via check or credit card either by phone or on-line at www.acrofkona.org.

A peaceful and prosperous New Year to everyone.

Gretchen

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Adult Day Health Update



**Giuse Bullock
ADH Coordinator**

As many of you probably know, here at the Adult Day Health program we collaborate with many different organizations and people for fun, informational, and quite often educational visits and outings. Here are a few highlights from the last few months!

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.

Halloween Masks with Pamela Hayden:

Casey's mom stopped by to make Halloween masks with everyone in October. We had all sorts of decorations and materials, and spent most of the day creating fun, imaginative pieces. The classroom

made some awesome, intricate creations. Thank you Pam!

Monthly Kealakekua Library & Yano Hall Outings:

We visit the Kealakekua Library and Yano Hall every month for whole group outings. In November, Kipapa and Michelle at the library had a wonderful autumn craft for us and a beautiful Hawaiian story about the legend of the Gourd people in Ka'u. At Yano Hall, Alisa and John had a cool new activity where participants had an opportunity to make an aromatic heating pack. Of course, painting, pool playing and music were also a part of our fun day at the recreational center.



Juilee, Maryanne & Lindsey at Library!

Donkey Mill Art Center Projects:

Gerald and Miho from the Donkey Mill Art Center have visited our class two times in November and December. In the first visit they showed the participants how to create batik-style drawings in a four-step process. This process consisted of each person initially making a drawing representing them; and ended in a compilation of all pictures, creating a whole class quilt-like hanging. It's up in the main room, if anyone wants to come see it. In December Gerald and Miho joined us again to work with clay. Everyone got a chance to get their hands dirty (and most people liked it), as we rolled coil pieces, that were then joined together to form a big pot. Next the participants created pendant-like decorative pieces from the clay to embellish the ceramic pot. The pot has been taken to be fired, and should be finished soon!



Duke & Gerald create ceramic pot



Everyone celebrating at Christmas Party!

Onizuka Space Center:

We recently had the chance to take a special outing to the Ellison Onizuka Space Center, at the Kona Airport. They showed a great movie about being in space, and had lots of cool displays, interactive puzzles and games, and informational material. It's really a great community resource, and was a unique place to patronize.



Malia & Barbara do the Hula

Christmas Party:

I don't know what I can say about the Christmas party here at the Arc, other than WOW! What a fun-filled day of food, gifts, music, dancing and merriment. Thank you to all who joined us in the celebration!

And a Big Mahalo to all who make the Arc of Kona a great place to work and be!!

Giuse

News From The North Hawaii Office



Jeani Navarro
Vice President for
Program Services

Happy New Year from all of us in the North Office. It has been a climate challenge for the North. We spent a great deal of this quarter just trying to stay dry and avoid all the fog, wind, rain, mud slides and road closures! But in spite of all of that we have some great opportunities to effect change in the lives of our participants.

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation News:

The DVR "Order of Selection" process wait listed a large number of people last year, but we are now seeing this open up and the referrals are flowing from the Captain Cook office to our contracted employment program. Many of these referrals are young adults that have only been out of high school for a short period of time and are delightful to work with as most are seeking their first paid job.

Along with Chris Barnett, our Assessment Specialist, we were able to meet with everyone just right before the Christmas holiday and begin the preparation and planning for seeking employment.

Congratulations to Matthew who received a job offer from Denny's Restaurant in Kona and will start working in January and to Lois, Richard and Erin for completing three months of successful employment at their job sites.

Walmart Grant:

The summer and fall saw several of our participants complete a paid work experience at an off campus work sites in Kona and Hamakua. This school year we are working closely once again with Honokaa and Kealakehe High Schools to get new referrals of youth transitioning from high school who are interested in employment opportunities, and learning how to prepare for work. One of the main goals of the grant is to help students and families who are not yet receiving services from the Department of Health Medicaid Waiver program to make that connection. The Information Nights that we are holding at the schools covers eligibility for those services as well as Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and also provides Social Security Benefits education. We are at the half way mark with the services from this grant, so we are trying to outreach the schools and make sure everyone who wants to be included has the opportunity to enroll.

Special Olympics:

Congratulations go out to Arc of Kona DSWs Nathaniel Cope, Lester Walker and Valynn Lewis who were recognized at Special Olympics on the East Side for their extraordinary coaching abilities. Nathaniel was also voted Coach of the Year for the East Side. You all make us proud!

✍ **Jeani**



Happy New Year from Everyone at the Arc of Kona!

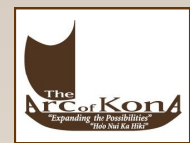
Our Mission

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.

2011-2012 Board Officers and Directors

Gretchen Lawson, President and CEO * Ruth Lindsey, Chairperson * Michael Fraser, Vice Chairperson
Dean Uemura, Treasurer * Stephanie Ackerman, Secretary *
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Earn Bonus Points
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while giving to a good cause.



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



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The
Arc of Kona
dba Kona Krafts

"Expanding the Possibilities"

"Ho'o Nui Ka Hiki"

Mark Your Calendars

Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum



**In Concert
A Benefit for the Arc of Kona**

The Aloha Theater

**In Kainaliu
Saturday**

January 21, 2012

7:00 PM



**The Voggy Mountain
Ramblers will open
the show!**

**Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 (cash) at the door
or Available at:**

Arc of Kona — 323-2626

Kona Wine Market — 329-9400

Kiernan Music — 322-4939

Kona Music Exchange — 329-3200

or online at www.apachawaii.org

