

THE CONNECTOR NEWSLETTER

October 2026



HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM THE ARC OF BOO-FFALO COUNTY!

Welcome to our October Newsletter!

October is here, and The Arc of Buffalo County has a full, fun, and meaningful month ahead! From Costume Bowling and a Halloween dance, to Craft Class and recognizing Disability Employment Awareness, this is the season where we remind everyone that *Inclusion Isn't Scary*.

Read on for everything happening this month, and as always, thank you for being part of our community.

With gratitude,
The Arc of Buffalo
County Board & Staff



QUESTION: WHY DON'T GHOST EVER LIE?

ANSWER: BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THEM!

Arc Board of Directors

Grace Thomsen
Penny Warford
Jordyn Ihle Robinson
Chelsea Jensen
Janet Anderson
Christine Fisher
Angela Klaus
Lori Cody
Judy Trent
Hunter Conner, Self Advocate
Jessica Walker, Self Advocate

Office Manager

Joyce Linner



**Help us Celebrate these
member October
Birthdays!**



**Thomas Fisher
Dan Tool
Amber Rasmussen
Deanna Lakey
William Bunger**

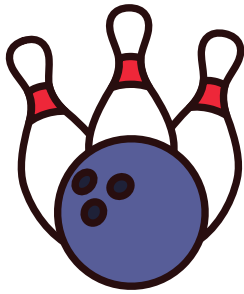




UPCOMING EVENTS

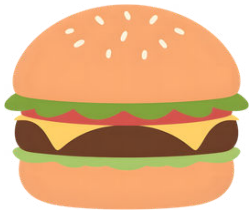
We have a lot of great upcoming events. We'd love to see you. If you have questions or suggestions, give us a call at 308-237-4343 or email ArcofBuffaloCounty@gmail.com.

October



Fall Buddy Bowling
Our Final Session is 10/7
4 pm to 5 pm
at the Big Apple

Everyone is invited to wear their Halloween Costume, if they wish.



Arc Night Out - Mixer at 5:45 pm
Tuesday, 10/13
Location: Angus Burgers
Please plan to pay for your own meals and drinks. And provide your own transportation.



Arc Craft Class - Wooden Pumpkins
Tuesday, 10/20 at the Arc Office
from 4pm to 5pm
\$5 for members
\$10 for non-members
RSVP is REQUIRED
Class is limited to 15 individuals

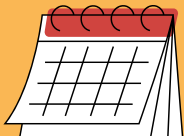


Halloween Dance
Tuesday, 10/30 at the
Harmon Park Activity Center
from 6pm to 8:30 pm
\$3 for members
\$5 for non-members
Costumes Encouraged

People First Conference
October 9-11
Register Here
<https://www.peoplefirstnebraska.com/convention-2026.html>
This is not an Arc organized event

Save the Date for these future events:

Honey Sunday: 11/1
Arc Night Out
11/10: at RUNZA
Give Where You Live: 12/3
Christmas Dance: 12/7
Santa's Workshop: 12/12



Do you have an event or activity coming up? Let us know, and we will add it to our newsletter for you!

BEGINNER FITNESS FOR FEMALES

WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 - DECEMBER 7

2:45-3:30PM AT JUST FOR LADIES

\$100 - MUST REGISTER THROUGH THE ARC

PHONE: 308.237.4343 EMAIL: ARCOFBUFFALOCOUNTY@GMAIL.COM

THE KEY IS TO JUST MOVE! JOIN TRAINER JADE BROWN AS SHE TAKES CLIENTS THROUGH A 45-MINUTE BASIC FITNESS CLASS. CLASS WILL INCLUDE DYNAMIC STRETCHING & WARM-UP AND A COOL DOWN. THE WORKOUT OF THE DAY MAY INCLUDE: AEROBIC, DUMBBELL WORK, FOUNDATIONAL MOVEMENT TECHNIQUE, MOBILITY, ETC.

IT IS IMPORTANT ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE ABLE TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW DIRECTION WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.

CLASS IS LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS.

CONTACT JADE AT 308.627.3026 FOR ANY QUESTIONS.



JUSTFORLADIES
FITNESS

1540 WEST 56TH STREET, SUITE B





Honey Sunday Pre-Sales are live!

We're excited to share that our **62nd Annual Honey Sunday Fundraiser** is open through the end of the year!

We invite you to support The Arc by purchasing locally sourced Nebraska honey that's as good for our community as it is delicious. Whether you buy by the bottle or the case, **it makes a thoughtful employee gift, a cozy addition to tea time, or a sweet holiday stocking stuffer.**

Below you'll find details on how to place your order. **Please submit your pre-order by November 2nd**, and enjoy complimentary delivery through November.

Your support helps The Arc continue our mission of promoting inclusion, independence, and opportunity for people with disabilities across Buffalo County.

Give Where You Live



This fall, we are proud to be part of the Give Where You Live campaign, a powerful reminder that local giving makes a local difference.

When you give to The Arc of Buffalo County, your dollars stay right here, supporting programs, events, and advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families in our own backyard.

Use this link to give to The Arc of Buffalo County:

<https://www.givewhereyoulive.net/organization/ArcofBuffalo>

Early Giving: November 5
Live Event: December 3

Every gift, big or small, means the world to us.

THANK YOU!

THE ARC OF BUFFALO COUNTY

2026

HONEY SUNDAY ORDER FORM

ALL PROCEEDS FROM HONEY SUNDAY ARE USED LOCALLY IN BUFFALO COUNTY TO
ENSURE ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WILL CONTINUE.

PURE LOCAL NEBRASKA HONEY

\$7 PER 12 OZ. BOTTLE
1 CASE OF 24 FOR \$160

*Your name or
business will be
recognized in our
newsletter and on our
social media pages.*



ORDER FORM

OF BOTTLES _____ TOTAL COST _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____



TO ORDER BY PHONE
CALL THE ARC OFFICE
AT 308-237-4343



TO ORDER BY MAIL:
SEND FORM WITH CHECK TO THE
ARC OF BUFFALO COUNTY
4511 6TH AVENUE,
KEARNEY, NE 68845



TO PLACE ORDER BY EMAIL:
ARCOFBUFFALOCOUNTY@GMAIL.COM


The Arc
Buffalo County



"Celebrating Value and Talent" *National Disability Employment* *Awareness Month 2026*

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and this year's theme is: *"Celebrating Value and Talent"*. We want to take a moment to recognize the incredible contributions workers with disabilities make every single day. We also want to be honest about the barriers that still stand in the way, that we're committed to breaking down.

Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the unemployment rate for people with a disability rose to 8.3% (more than double the 4.1% rate for those without a disability) in 2025. And that workers with disabilities earn a median of \$1,029 per week compared to \$1,265 for workers without disabilities. That's an 18.7% pay gap that adds up to thousands of dollars a year.

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Right here in Nebraska, more than 371,000 adults — 1 in 4 — live with a disability. For the Kearney area, employment rates for people with disabilities fall in the 50–55% range. That is better than some parts of the state, but still far below what it should be.

The barriers to employment for people with disabilities are complex. Challenges include disability stigma, the issues that can come up when disclosing a disability to an employer, uncertainty about how much workplace accommodations might cost, and a lack of employer training.

Transportation and accessibility also play a large role in employment numbers, especially in communities like ours where public transportation options are limited.

Rollbacks of DEI Initiatives at the federal level in recent years have many disability advocates watching closely as employers reconsider their commitment to inclusion.



Help Is Available with these Nebraska Resources

If you're a job seeker with a disability in Nebraska, you can access resources and employers who want to hire you.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (Nebraska VR)

Nebraska VR Employment Specialists help Nebraskans with disabilities prepare for, find, and keep a job, while also working with businesses to recruit, train, and retain employees with disabilities. **Services are free** and tailored to each individual.

☎ Toll-free: 1-877-659-7899 | vr.nebraska.gov

Nebraska VR Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Every Nebraska high school has an assigned VR counselor who can help students with an identified disability gain skills, find a job, and start a career, including job exploration counseling, workplace readiness training, and instruction in self-advocacy. If you have a student in your family approaching transition age, this is a resource worth knowing.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska

Provides supported employment services to job seekers and employers to create successful job matches.

☎ 308-455-1400 | goodwillne.org



Goodwill continued....

Open to those with a diagnosis of developmental disability, intellectual disability, substance abuse disorder, acquired brain injury, autism, or behavioral health issue, or those receiving public assistance from the state of Nebraska. Referral through Nebraska VR, HHS Division of Developmental Disabilities, Drug Court, or community. **Services are free.**

Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Provides specialized employment services for Nebraskans who are blind or visually impaired.

☎ 402-471-2891 | ncbvi.nebraska.gov

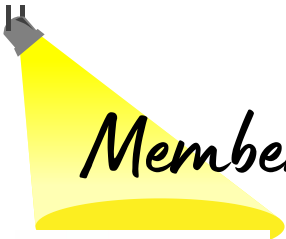
Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)

NCDHH provides information, advocacy, and referral services for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans, as well as their families, businesses, and community partners.

☎ 308-865-5447 | ncdhh.nebraska.gov

Nebraska 211

Dial 2-1-1 or visit ne211.org to connect with local employment, disability, and support services in Buffalo County and across the state.



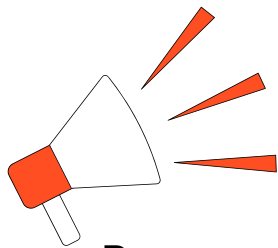
Member Spotlight

Jessica W.



Jessican loves to cook and do anything crafty. She is always looking for ways to help others.

We are thrilled to welcome Jessica to The Arc of Buffalo County as our newest self-advocate



We're Hiring!

Program Coordinator Wanted!

The Arc of Buffalo County is growing and we are looking for passionate, dedicated people to join our team!

If you or someone you know believes in inclusion, community, and the power of advocacy, we want to hear from you.

Position: Program Coordinator

Hours: Part-time / 20 Hours per week

To apply: Email your Resume to ArcOfBuffaloCounty@gmail.com or Fill Out our Online Application Here:

<https://forms.gle/PwL385gIMFzoN7uZA>

More information available on our website at

www.arcofbuffalocounty.com



Inclusive Halloween Tip

A quick reminder as trick-or-treat season approaches: not every child can say "trick or treat" — and that's okay!

Consider participating in the Teal Pumpkin Project by offering non-candy treats alongside sweets, and remember that some costumes and crowds can be overwhelming for kids with sensory sensitivities.

A little flexibility and kindness goes a long way toward making Halloween magical for everyone.

How You Can Help This Month

- Volunteer at our Halloween Dance or Buddy Bowling event. Contact us at 308-237-4343
- Buy or share Honey Sunday pre-sale information with a local business
- Give Where You Live donate at

<https://www.givewhereyoulive.net/organization/ArcofBuffalo>



4511 6th Avenue, Suite 204
Kearney, NE 68845



The Arc relies on fundraising and donations to make our events and programs possible. Ways to Donate: Cash, Check, or Card. Scan the QR Code to donate at our Website.

EVENTS REGISTRATION FORM

Participant Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Wheelchair Walker _____

Crutches _____

Other _____

Events:

☐ Halloween Dance

☐ Craft Class

Additional limitations and/or information that will benefit the staff helping you or your person:

Does the participant have any food/drug allergies? If yes, please list:

Card Payments can be accepted over the phone. **Please make checks payable to:**

Arc of Buffalo County
4511 6th Avenue, Suite 204
Kearney, NE 68845