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# The Challenge

Summer 2024



## DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

VISIT: [WWW.ARCQCA.ORG](http://WWW.ARCQCA.ORG)



QC Flex Ribbon Cutting and more inside...



## Michael's Message

This year The Arc has made inroads on many of our goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. The most highlighted of these was the dramatic re-brand of QC Flex, a social enterprise that supports the mission of The Arc of the Quad Cities Area and operates as a division of The Arc. The entire spring edition of The Arc's newsletter The Challenge was dedicated to this transformation. The feedback we received from the rollout of QC Flex has been tremendous and we were happy to share the moment with a ribbon cutting in conjunction with members from DARI (Development Association of Rock Island), members of our Board of Directors, staff members, and QC Flex business partners. QC Flex offers an example to the business community of what an inclusive workforce looks like and is an important conduit for spreading the idea of inclusion in our home community.

The Arc is proud of its inclusive and diverse workforce that has reached over 300 employees strong and is representative of a vibrant community of different people. This community includes more than 20% of people who identify as having a disability proving that disability should be a natural part of the hiring experiencing.

In the coming weeks, The Arc will highlight people who have been catalysts for inclusion at the **Catalyst Awards** which will take place on **August 9th** at the Quad City Botanical Center in Rock Island. The evening recognizes the individuals and organizations who have been paving the road to true disability representation and share a vision and passion for inclusion that drives change.

Please join us as we celebrate the 2024 champions of inclusion who include:

**Happy Joe's East Moline**, as Business Partner of the Year Award

**Rock Island Parks and Recreation**, Community Advocate of the Year Award

**IOSSI Construction**, Community Partner of the Year Award

**Steve Loete**, posthumous recognition for Lifetime Achievement Award

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## Our Mission

The Arc mission's is to empower people with disabilities to believe in their own unique abilities and achieve their full potential by providing quality, innovative services that focus on advocacy, inclusion, independence, employment, meaningful community life and personal happiness.

Pictured Above: Executive Director Michael Glanz is pictured alongside golf participants, individuals, and staff members at the Charity Golf Outing.

## Michael's Message (Continued)

The Arc's quest to spread the idea of inclusion would not be possible without our community partners and leaders who embody this principle. Expanding the boundaries of what is possible for people with disabilities cannot be accomplished alone. For this reason we have dedicated an evening to those who have ignited a passion for inclusion.

The Arc's work to promote inclusion would also not be possible without our dedicated workforce. This is why The Arc is the proud recipient of an Illinois grant to help attract and retain Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

**"Quality is defined at the point of interaction between the staff member and the individual with disability."** – John F. Kennedy, Jr.

The Arc is a premier employer in the Quad Cities Area and we are grateful that through this grant we can highlight the amazing work of the agency. The Arc has created and updated both our 'Welcome to The Arc' video and recruitment video spots that feature current staff members. We are excited to roll out these videos and engage a talent pipeline that will invigorate and enhance The Arc's mission.

We hope you can join us August 9, 2024 for the Catalyst Awards or Trivia Night on November 9, 2024. We always look forward to sharing our mission with you.

## Leaving A Legacy

The founding families that united to create The Arc of the Quad Cities Area in 1952 could never have imagined that their fledgling organization would grow to become one of the oldest chapters of The Arc supporting countless lives. The Arc is now part of a network that has become the largest provider of programs and services for people with disabilities nationwide. That is a legacy.

You too can leave a lasting legacy. While many people think of leaving their assets to family members and friends, a growing number are considering the impactful option of including charitable organizations in their estate plans. When you give to The Arc, you are giving to an organization that has withstood the test of time and has grown towards perfecting its mission year after year.

Estate gifts allow individuals to leave a lasting mark on causes they care deeply about. By supporting The Arc of the Quad Cities Area, you are contributing to a future that we couldn't possibly imagine where individuals with disabilities have greater opportunities and improved quality of life.

Leaving a gift to The Arc through your will or estate plan is a powerful way to make a lasting impact. It sustains vital services, empowers independence, honors your values, addresses needs, and creates a personal legacy of compassion and generosity. By considering this option, you are not only supporting individuals with disabilities but also contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations.

Please contact us if you'd like to explore leaving a legacy at 309-429-6067.

## Dove Legacy Society



Dove Legacy members have made a commitment to leaving a legacy through their estate plan. Their gift will live on in perpetuity.

- Mike & Michele Montford
- Marie DeWispelaere
- Rose VandeWiele
- Rick Nd Marcia Voltz
- Jan & Todd Haugen
- Doug & Kyle Rick
- Dennis & Sharron Baraks
- Cindy Ferguson
- Tom & Kathy Conrad
- David Conrad
- Matt Puck
- Connie Zogg
- Lizette Desseyen
- Jim & Twilla Mitchell
- John & Helen Kerschietter
- Richard & Ruth Marie Motz
- Jim & Carol Horstmann
- Barb Goettig
- Mary Vande Voorde
- John Donald O'Shea

When you leave a legacy to The Arc, you become a part of the Dove Legacy Society. For many The Arc has been instrumental in the care of a loved one, for others our mission resonates with their core values. Whatever the reason, please reach out to Sarah Wright if you'd like to make a planned gift at [wrights@arcqca.org](mailto:wrights@arcqca.org) or 309-786-6474.

# TRIVIA NIGHT

TO BENEFIT THE ARC OF THE QUAD CITIES AREA



**Saturday, November 9**  
**Holiday Inn, Rock Island**  
Doors **5:30 PM** Game **6:30 PM**

THEME  
**HOLIDAY MOVIES**



Prizes for BEST DRESSED themed team  
Prizes for BEST DECORATED themed table

**\$15 PER PERSON OR \$120 TABLE**  
**CASH BAR | RAFFLES | 50/50 | BYO SNACKS**

RESERVATIONS FOR TEAMS  
OF EIGHT \$15 per person  
309-786-6474  
[arcqca.org/events/trivianight](http://arcqca.org/events/trivianight)

HOLIDAY INN  
226 17TH STREET  
ROCK ISLAND, IL

## New Beginnings start at QC Flex

The ribbon cutting ceremony held on Wednesday, April 17th marked a significant transformation for QC Flex, formerly known as Arc Industries, located at 310 37th Ave. in Rock Island. This organization, a division of The Arc of the Quad Cities Area, focuses on employing individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities while providing valuable services to local businesses.

Executive Director Michael Glanz highlighted the journey that led to the rebranding of Arc Industries to QC Flex, emphasizing their commitment over the past seven years to becoming a better employer for people with disabilities. The rebranding also involved a makeover of their 65,000 sq. foot warehouse, reflecting their dedication to enhancing operations and expanding opportunities for their inclusive workforce.

Glanz spoke on QC Flex's capabilities in meeting diverse business needs, from machine operations to document shredding and packaging, aiming to alleviate operational challenges for local businesses. The organization's flexibility and commitment to quality services were central themes, with Mayor Mike Thoms noting that the new name aptly represents their adaptive approach and vital community impact.

QC Flex, established in its current location since 1993, currently employs around 20 individuals and offers a variety of quality business services including **Custom Packaging, Machine Operations, Document Shredding, Custodial Services, Government Contracting**, and much more.

Overall, QC Flex's rebranding signifies its evolution into a dynamic business entity while reinforcing its mission to empower individuals with disabilities through meaningful employment and community engagement.

# QC FLEX

BUSINESS SERVICES

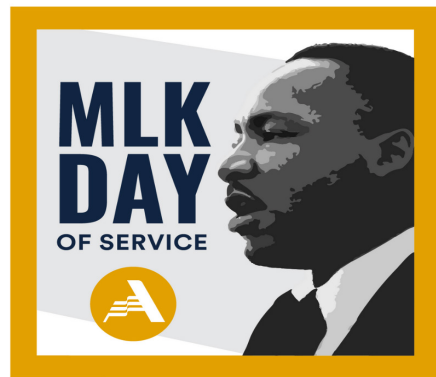


'At QC Flex, we pride ourselves on our ability to meet a wide range of business needs. Our team is committed to providing high-quality services that alleviate operational burdens for our valued partners in the community!'



# Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive

MLK Jr. Food Drive continues to feed the Quad Cities community



The Arc of the Quad Cities Area, in partnership with the Quad Cities Disability Coalition, successfully conducted the **Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive**, aimed at addressing food insecurity in the Quad Cities community. This initiative was made possible through a grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service, which oversees MLK Day of Service activities both on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and throughout the year.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive is administered by The Arc of the Quad Cities Area courtesy of a grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that leads the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, to help plan and execute volunteer projects that unite Americans in service for the MLK Day of Service and throughout the year.

The Arc is delighted to highlight the impact that all of these community partners have made in their local communities this year. We are especially thrilled about these outcomes, and we take great pride in achieving our goals inclusively with the assistance of people with disabilities.



- Local Volunteers -



- Collection Boxes -



- Participating Locations -



- Food Pantries -



# United Way Quad Cities "Day of Caring"

The volunteers from United Way Quad Cities exhibited true dedication and compassion during the "Day of Caring," held on Thursday, April 5th, in resolute support of The Arc and the broader community. A total of **eight group homes** reaped the benefits of their unwavering commitment, as evidenced by endeavors encompassing the trimming of bushes, removal of debris, pruning of gardens, and replacement of mulch. Remarkably, a cohort of **sixty-six volunteers** steadfastly contributed their time and energy throughout the duration of the day. Gratitude is owed to all the volunteers, whose generosity emanates from the very core of The Arc of the Quad Cities, serving as a cornerstone of strength and resilience within our community. Thank you to the volunteers of United Way Quad Cities.



## The Arc Receives \$34,900 Community Grant from Taco Bell

In an amazing stride towards inclusivity and empowerment, The Arc of the Quad Cities Area received a transformative **\$34,900** grant from the **Taco Bell Foundation**. This generous contribution is set to bolster The Arc's **Community Employment Services (CES)** program, dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities in realizing their employment aspirations and achieving financial independence. Through this partnership, The Arc aims to foster a community where diverse talents thrive, enriching local businesses and advancing a vision of inclusivity.

The CES program spearheaded by The Arc serves as a vital link between skilled workers and local employers, facilitating placements that harness the unique abilities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Supported by the Taco Bell Foundation's commitment to youth empowerment, this initiative not only enhances workforce diversity but also underscores the foundation's broader mission to support educational and career readiness nationwide. It also exemplifies our dedication to nurturing potential, empowering individuals to believe in their capabilities, and paving the way for inclusive prosperity within the community.



# Disability Awareness Night

## Disability Awareness Coalition Utilizes Sporting Events to Promote Inclusion

The Disability Awareness Night with the Quad City River Bandits is coming up on July 26th and there's still time to get your tickets. Tickets are available by visiting The Arc's website: <https://arcqca.org/events/disability-awareness-night/>. Bonus, everyone who brings a non-perishable food item will help feed families and will be awarded a ticket voucher for any future River Bandits 2024 home game.

Enjoy an evening with some amazing disability organizations in a celebratory and inclusive environment while cheering on the Quad City River Bandits vs the Cedar Rapids Kernels.

The QC Disability Awareness Coalition is energized by community, inclusion, and empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Their work elevates, values, and respects people with disabilities.

All proceeds will benefit the QC Disabilities Awareness Coalition. Game starts at 6:30 p.m. This is a cashless event.



Friday, July 26th

All proceeds from raffles will benefit the QC Disabilities Awareness Coalition. Game starts at 6:30 p.m. This is a cashless event. Ticketing available at: [arcqca.org/events/disability-awareness-night](https://arcqca.org/events/disability-awareness-night)

# Disability AWARENESS NIGHT


## Quad Cities Disability Awareness Coalition



### QC Disabilities Awareness Coalition

Community • Inclusion • Empowerment





# CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Monday, June 9th | Oakwood County Club

**"Take a swing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities"**

Save the Date: Monday, June 9th 2025 at Oakwood Country Club.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the golfers who joined us for a memorable day on the greens, raising crucial funds for The Arc of the Quad Cities Area. Congratulations to our outstanding teams; in first place was **Mike Stopulos, Tom Garside, Bill Tank, and Steve Anderson** with a score of 54, and in second place was **Merle Irving, Kevin Irving, Dee Pollard, and John Spaulding**. Your participation and generosity ensure the The Arc can continue its vital work in our community.



# THE CATALYST AWARDS & AUCTION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH 2024 | 5:30-8:30PM  
 QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

ADMISSION: \$40 PER TICKET (GARDEN CASUAL ATTIRE)  
 ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE ARC OF THE QUAD CITIES AREA

### Catalyst Award 2024 Honorees:

**Rock Island Parks & Recreation** - Community Advocate of the Year Award

**Happy Joes Pizza & Ice Cream** - Business Partner of the Year Award

**IOSSI Construction** - Community Partner of the Year Award

**Steve Loete** - Lifetime Achievement Award

CATALYST AWARDS

The Arc  
 Quad Cities Area

## The Catalyst Awards & Auction 2024



CATALYST AWARDS

Join us at The Arc's annual Catalyst Awards & Auction on **Friday, August 9th, 2024** at the Quad City Botanical Center in Rock Island. We are proud to honor remarkable individuals and organizations:

**Rock Island Parks & Recreation** to receive the Community Advocate of the Year Award. **Happy Joes Pizza** to receive the Business Partner of the Year Award. **IOSSI Construction** to receive Community Partner of the Year Award, and **Steve Loete** will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Guests will enjoy a delightful dinner, awards ceremony, and entertainment throughout the evening. Our event features a diverse array of auction items supported by local businesses.

The Arc's Catalyst Awards are how we recognize and honor the people and organizations that have been champions of inclusion. This event is ignited by our Title Sponsor, Quad City Bank & Trust. Tickets are available at [www.arcqca.org/catalyst-awards](http://www.arcqca.org/catalyst-awards) at \$40 individual or for \$75 for couples. Silent auction bidding opens July 19th and will conclude the evening of August 9th.

To learn more about The Arc's 2024 Catalyst Awards Honorees and the Silent Auction items, see page 0000.

Thank you to our Title Sponsor:



## About Our 2024 Honorees

**Rock Island Parks & Recreation** is the recipient of the **Community Advocate of the Year Award**. This prestigious honor recognizes their commitment to inclusivity through accessible recreational opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through innovative programs, accessible facilities, and dedicated outreach efforts, they have given people with disabilities the chance to enjoy the joy and camaraderie that sports can bring. Their efforts have enriched the lives of countless individuals and created a welcoming environment for all of Rock Island's citizens.



**Happy Joe's Pizza & Ice Cream**, East Moline is the recipient of the **Business Partner of the Year Award**. Happy Joe's has exemplified a commitment to our community by fostering an inclusive workplace environment that has promoted opportunities for people with disabilities for over 25 years. Their dedication exists beyond corporate responsibility to genuine advocacy as a leader in creating an inclusive workforce that values the skills and abilities of everyone. This award celebrates their impact on enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities in the workforce.

**IOSSI Construction** is the recipient of the **Community Partner of the Year Award**. IOSSI Construction has been an unwavering partner providing responsive customer service and quality workmanship to the ongoing operational needs of a growing agency. Their dedicated efforts have complimented The Arc's efforts to provide well-maintained, barrier-free environments for the people we serve. Having a trusted construction partner who is intuitive and receptive to The Arc's unique needs ensures The Arc can keep on mission and ensures everyone has equal opportunities to thrive.



**Steve Loete** is the recipient of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of this profound influence on our community and beyond. This is the first time The Arc has awarded anyone posthumously, but because Steve lived a complete life in the community as a person with an intellectual disability, his life is a pure example of The Arc's mission and purpose. Throughout his life, he actively cultivated a mindset of empowerment and self-acceptance while serving as an inspiration to countless individuals. This award highlights his long-standing impact on staff, individuals served, and the community.

## Want to Bid in the Catalyst Online Auction?

Join us in making a difference by participating in our upcoming online auction! Whether you're seeking unique gifts, fun experiences, or exclusive services, our diverse auction lineup promises something for everyone. Every bid you place contributes directly to our efforts in fostering innovation and positive change. **Auction opens July 19th**. Simply scan the QR code presented for information on how to participate.



Or visit: [www.arcqca.org/events/catalyst-awards](http://www.arcqca.org/events/catalyst-awards)