



NEWS YOU CAN USE

What's new in events, resources, public policy, and happenings at The Arc of Aurora and in our local community.



As we head into summer, we're excited to share what's ahead—from upcoming Member events, to Membership updates, to our big 50th Anniversary celebration this fall. Keep reading to see what's in store and how you can join us this summer!

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Spotlight On



We're Turning 50 — Let's Celebrate! □

The Arc of Aurora is celebrating 50 incredible years of advocacy, inclusion, and community—and you're invited to the party! Join us the evening of **Thursday, September 25** for a special celebration honoring our legacy and the amazing people (like YOU!) who make our work possible. We're pulling out all the stops with games, entertainment, food, and family-friendly fun for all ages! More details coming soon—but for now, mark your calendar. You won't want to miss this golden celebration!

Membership Made Simple

Membership can be confusing, but we're making it simple for 2025 and beyond!

If you're currently receiving advocacy from The Arc of Aurora or have in the past, you're already a **Core Member**. That means you're at the center of everything we do. And the best part? Core Membership is automatic! You don't have to do a thing. You'll get a separate email soon with a quick reminder about the benefits available to you.

Those who choose to contribute and give back to The Arc of Aurora — through financial

donations, pantry or hygiene items, or volunteering — are recognized as **Supporting Members**. Supporting Memberships renew each year and help us grow our impact. As a thank-you, they receive additional perks, including a discount at the Arc Thrift Store, Arc of Aurora swag, and organizational voting rights.

Anyone can become a Supporting Member of The Arc of Aurora! It's a simple and meaningful way to contribute to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities right here in our Aurora community. *We'd love it if you would share the opportunity to become a Supporting Member of The Arc of Aurora with those you know and love!*

Become a Supporting Member TODAY!

If you'd like to become a Supporting Member by donating a pantry or hygiene item or volunteering your time, contact Lisa at ltownsend@thearcofaurora.org.

New Supporting Member Raffle

☐ **Become a Supporting Member & Win!**

Whether you're brand new or upgrading from Core Membership, we've got a summer surprise for you!

Everyone who becomes a **Supporting Member** during the 2025—2026 membership year (starting July 1, 2025) will be entered to win one of several **Amazon Fire Tablets or Echo Show devices!**

How to Qualify: Support with a gift of **\$5 or more**, donate a pantry or hygiene item, or volunteer your time. It's a small act with a big impact, and you'll enjoy exclusive perks all year long *plus* a chance to win big!

Bonus: We've got **three upcoming member events** where you can bring a pantry donation or lend a hand — easy ways for Core Members to **upgrade their membership!**



Don't wait, the giveaway ends August 31, 2025!

Upcoming Member Opportunities

MEMBERS, keep an eye on your inbox—RSVP links are coming soon for these FREE exclusive summer events, including:

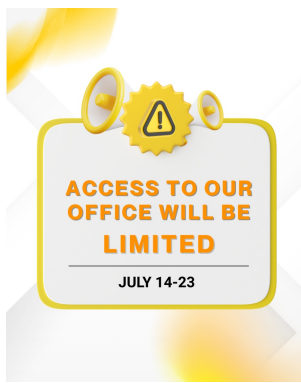
☐ **Music and a Movie in the Park** (*Recommended for teens & adults*)
Bring a blanket and enjoy a summer evening with your Arc of Aurora community.

☐ **Private Movie Theater Experience** (*Family-friendly*)
Relax with a private screening just for members (popcorn included!).

☐ **Arcade Fun** (*All ages welcome*)
Get your game on with classic arcade favorites and friendly competition!

Announcements

Notice: Temporary Office Closure



We're getting a new look! Our parking lot and walkways are getting a *much-needed* makeover, which means access to our office will be limited from **Monday, July 14, through Wednesday, July 23**. Please contact the staff by phone or email, *as the office may not be accessible during this time!* We appreciate your patience as we work to improve access to our space to serve you better.

Arc of Aurora in the Community

Staff member Erica Dennison recently had the opportunity to speak about decision-making options for individuals with IDD as they reach adulthood. She discussed the differences between Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making (SDM), encouraging attendees to explore all options, because Guardianship isn't the only choice, and it shouldn't be the first once considered. Thank you to Developmental Pathways and Easter Seals for the invite to share this important information!



BONUS! [Check out this helpful handout](#) outlining decision-making options available at age 18. It's a great resource for making sure folks know their rights, choices, and options!



Individual Advocates Anna, Petri, and Rachael facilitated an all-day training for Aurora Public Schools interpreters focused on the Special Education and IEP process. The session aimed to strengthen interpreters' understanding of key terminology and procedures to support clear, culturally responsive communication. With this foundation, interpreters are better prepared to help families confidently participate in IEP meetings and understand their child's educational plan.

Our staff recently attended Disability Law Colorado's Champions of Disability Justice event celebrating the recently passed Olmstead bill in Colorado (House Bill 25-1017). This legislation protects and strengthens the rights of people with disabilities to live independently in their communities, advancing equity and inclusion across our state. We're proud to stand alongside fellow advocates in supporting this important step forward!



Policy Profile

Dear Members,

We know that many of you may have questions or concerns about the recent passage of the recent Federal Budget and Legislation and how it might impact people with disabilities in our community. Change — especially at the policy level — can create uncertainty, and that's

completely understandable.

We want you to know that The Arc of Aurora is here to help cut through the noise. We are closely monitoring how this legislation will be implemented and will continue to elevate the voices and needs of people with disabilities every step of the way. We are already in communication with partners and decision-makers and will advocate to ensure that the real-life impacts on individuals with IDD are both seen and addressed.



While it's too early to know exactly how all of this will unfold, please know this: we will share clear, timely information with you as we learn more — and we'll always focus on facts, not fear. Our mission hasn't changed, and neither has our commitment to you.

We're in this together.

In Solidarity,
Hanni Raley
Executive Director, The Arc of Aurora

Training and Education

Providing solutions-focused education to expand knowledge and attitude around disability.



Access to quality healthcare is essential for a stable, healthy life – but for many people with disabilities, it's still out of reach. Our most recent **Health Equity & Disability** educational package highlights innovative solutions in medical accessibility and equips people with disabilities, and the people who support them, with the knowledge and strategies to navigate a complex and often inaccessible healthcare system. We encourage you to check out these valuable resources!

- [Raising the Bar for Disability Medical Care](#) (a 15-minute documentary)
- [Becoming Empowered at the Doctor's Office](#) (microlearning in 3 parts)
- [Making Medical Appointments Easier](#) (downloadable PDF checklists)

We were thrilled excited to spotlight actors with disabilities who joined us in filming the microlearning videos!

Want to be part of a future podcast, video, or project? We'd love to share your voice and experience. [Fill out this short THINK+change survey](#) and use the last question to tell us you're interested!



Take a look at the latest [THINK+change newsletter](#)! If you don't receive it yet, we invite you to [sign up](#) today to get helpful information, trainings, and tools you can use.



Colorado Arc Chapters, including [The Arc of Aurora](#), are supported by arc Thrift Stores. Every donation and sale goes to help individuals in your community. Donate and [find a location near you](#)!



Have questions about anything in this newsletter? Contact Lisa Townsend:
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