

# The Arc of Rowan Annual Report

## March 2006 ~ March 2007

### The Arc/Rowan Board of Directors

2006 - 2007

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Renita Ritchie

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Jane Jackman & Shela Sapp

Eddie Gill, Linda Mercado &

Travis Walker

## The Arc of Rowan County

Thanks to members of the Board of Directors for their leadership and commitment to The Arc goals, to the entire membership of The Arc of Rowan for encouragement, to all the teachers, trainers, and other staff who work directly with our individuals, to the churches, community civic groups, and foundations that have provided essential funding, to the United Way of Rowan County for their sustaining support, and to the hard working, dedicated staff of The Arc of Rowan County. It is an impressive, collaborative effort!

## [www.thearcrowan.org](http://www.thearcrowan.org)

We are thrilled to announce that The Arc/Rowan now has an Internet "website"! The Arc/Rowan's new website, [www.thearcrowan.org](http://www.thearcrowan.org), contains a tremendous amount of information about The Arc/Rowan and its services. A sampling of the information available on the site includes:

- \* History of The Arc/Rowan.
- \* Description of local programs.
- \* Links to other websites that may be of interest to the developmentally disabled community.
- \* A listing of The Arc/Rowan's Board of Directors.
- \* Upcoming events of interest to the developmentally disabled community.

The Arc/Rowan has long wanted an online presence to allow more people in our area to learn about our services, and this goal is now a reality! The website is a work in progress and will someday be a resource for all of Rowan County's developmentally disabled community.

Ron Hunter, a member of our Board of Directors, is acting as the "webmaster" for the site and would love to hear your suggestions on how to make the site better. Please send him any comments you have about the site to: [Arcwebmaster@carolina.rr.com](mailto:Arcwebmaster@carolina.rr.com)

## New Housing News

The Arc/Rowan has continued to work with The Arc of North Carolina Housing Development Office for the creation of quads for supportive living. This will allow people with developmental disabilities to live in their own apartment. The Arc of North Carolina has purchased two lots in Salisbury. The Section 811 HUD grant for the two apartment units has been **APPROVED**. Each Unit will have four apartments. Construction will start later this year. Call The Arc Rowan office if you are interested in this project or would like to be considered as a potential tenant.



#### Mission Statement

The Arc/Rowan is committed to improving the quality of life for children & adults with developmental disabilities



## Strategic Planning

There are so many needs; sometimes it is hard to decide which should take priority. Following a tradition established several years ago, the Board of Directors met in October to determine the goals & objectives that would be their emphasis for the next twelve months. Plans were developed to achieve the goals.

Organizational Development.....Peggy Mekebak

Resource Development.....Gary Rhodes

Program Development.....Robert Ritchie

Public Awareness, Advocacy, Education.....  
.....Beth Dixon

*Plan to join hundreds of other members of The Arc at the annual convention of The Arc of NC September 14-15, 2007 in Durham NC. There will be lots of useful information, as well as updates on the state and national issues that affect us locally.*

The Arc/Rowan  
Local Award Winners  
2005 - 2006

Distinguished Service Award  
Ann Medlin

Parent Volunteer of the Year  
Linda Mercado

Teacher of the Year  
Gayle Wilson

Volunteers of the Year  
Dr. Charles Lockert

Employer of the Year  
Food Lion, LLC

Professional of the Year  
Renita Ritchie

Innovations Award  
David & Kathy Pulliam

Communicator's Award  
Peter Bader

Direct Care Professional  
Jacob Champer

Unsung Hero  
Jim Sapp

## Special Gifts

The following individuals and organizations deserve recognition for their special gifts during the past year.

Food Lion, LLC

Faith Civitan Club

Charity League of Salisbury

Harold B. Jarrett Post

Knights of Columbus

Speedway Children's Charity

Phillip Morris Employee Community Fund

The Margaret C. Woodson Foundation

The Blanche & Julian Robertson Family Foundation

First Baptist Church of Enochville

Cheerwine Corporation

The Sara Lee Foundation

Alcoa

F & M Bank

Millbridge Ruritan Club

Dr. Pat Whitley and her Catawba College Students

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Summit Civitan Club

Civitan Club of Salisbury

RHA Health Services

The Cardinal Squares

Trinity Wesleyan Youth Group

Rowan Salisbury Schools EC Department

Rowan Salisbury Schools Transportation Department

Learn of Rowan Junior Civitan Club

Dr. Lyn Boulter & Catawba Students

Hills Bassmasters Fishing Club

Calvary Baptist Church

Mr. Steve Jarrett



**The Arc of Rowan receives  
State Awards at The Arc NC Convention  
September 2006**

**The Arc/Rowan received the  
2006 Distinguished Affiliate Award  
& Communicator's Award**

**Food Lion, LLC received the  
Employer of the Year**

# Services Provided by The Arc/Rowan

## The Employer of Record

We contract with The Arc of NC to provide this family directed service. This was our 5th year, and we continue to be excited about the opportunities for families to have more choices than ever before for obtaining the services they need.

## Dream Catchers Service Club

Members with developmental disabilities have focused on a choral group. The message of abilities is given with each performance.

## Operation Santa

Many friends, area merchants were instrumental in making Christmas a happy one. Thanks to Lea Ann Jernigan for volunteering her time to shop this year. Gifts were provided for 12 residents at our state institutions (Western Carolina and O'Berry Center) and for approximately 122 local adults and children.



## Summer Camp

Arranged for and transported 11 adults to the United Church of Christ Assembly Grounds in Blowing Rock for a special summer camp experience for individuals with developmental disabilities.

## Summer Day Program

The Summer Day Program has expanded to two locations! Provided training and recreation for 101 children for eight weeks between June - August. Rowan Salisbury Schools provided the buildings (Knox Middle School and China Grove Elementary School), school bus transportation, 2 teachers, and daily food service. The Arc provided the training and supervision of 37 paid employees and 17 teen volunteers.

## Resource Library

The Arc of Rowan collection of educational materials has continued to grow. Located at the Catawba College Library, where anyone can check them out. Books about the IEP process, Autism, Down's Syndrome, FAS Syndrome and much more are included in the collection.

## Transportation

Transported 7 consumers daily to Rowan Vocational Opportunities. Also, transportation weekly to Friday Recreation Program, work sites, Special Olympic out of town meets

## Recreation

Assisted in coordinating monthly Shaker's Dances and Teen Night with Park & Recreation Special Population Program. Recruited & advised community sponsors & volunteers. Assisted with Bass Masters Annual Fishing Tournament. Sponsored Christmas Party for The Arc Rowan families.

## Working with Others

To achieve goals, The Arc/Rowan works daily with other service providers and agencies. Many thanks to the following groups with whom we have worked cooperatively to identify needs, coordinate, and strengthen services.

Abundant Living  
The Arc of North Carolina  
Easter Seals  
Head Start  
Catawba College  
Preschool Interagency Coordination Committee (PICC)  
PBH (Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare)  
Rowan Social Services  
Rowan Homes  
Rowan County Senior Services  
Rowan Partnership for Children/Smart Start Rowan  
Rowan - Salisbury Schools  
Rowan County Special Olympics  
Rowan County Special Populations  
Rowan Vocational Opportunities  
Waterworks Visual Arts  
YMCA  
Adolescent Family Enrichment Council  
Rowan Partnership for Community Health  
Local Community Collaborative Committee of Rowan Co.  
RHA Health Services  
Prevent Child Abuse Rowan  
Focus Support Group Home  
Surrogate Parent Program of RSSS  
NC District West Civitan Clubs - Area 4 West  
The Hispanic Coalition

# Public Awareness, Education, & Advocacy

## Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Program (FAS)

Begun with an initiatives grant from the United Way of Rowan County, this new visual presentation will teach young people about the dangers of taking drugs (including alcohol) during pregnancy. It is being presented primarily to middle and high school students, but has also been presented to community groups. Dr. Lyn Boulter has helped recruit Catawba College students who will also make presentations. In 2006, this program was presented to 1292 individuals. Call The Arc office to schedule a program.

## MR Sabbath Sunday

Designed to foster awareness & understanding of persons with disabilities among religious groups, over 17,250 bulletin inserts were distributed last year to churches in Rowan County.

## Kids on the Block

The Learn of Rowan Home School Association has adopted our puppets and are keeping busy. In 2006 the puppets performed to 93 students.

## Educational Seminars

Periodic seminars held at The Arc/Rowan Office included: Piedmont Updates, Future Planning for Beneficiaries with Special Needs, SSI, Challenger Baseball League

## Festival of Trees

The Third Annual Festival of Trees was a GRAND success. This has turned into a "Must See Event". Not only a wonderful fundraiser it also provides great public awareness about The Arc/Rowan and our mission. Tree sponsors, tree decorators and many, many volunteers transformed the F&M Trolley Barn into a magical winter wonderland. The net proceeds of approximately \$12,000 were used to supplement our program budget. A Great Big Heartfelt ***THANK YOU*** to Keith Gapen, Chair of our 2006 event. He organized all the committees and made all the detail plans for the wonderful event.

Mark your Calendars for  
The Arc/Rowan Festival of Trees  
December 1 and 2, 2007  
F&M Trolley Barn

## PBH (Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare)

Many changes have occurred this year at Piedmont. Change, even good changes can be difficult. Piedmont is dedicated to providing the best opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Rowan County. Your input is important! Log on to [www.pbhcare.org](http://www.pbhcare.org) and check out the information and make your remarks. They REALLY want to hear from you!

To request a service or obtain information call the PBH access number at 1-800-939-5911

Have a concern? Call 1-888-213-9687

## Surrogate Parent Program

Jane and Shela have continued as Surrogate parent representatives for 35 exceptional children in meetings with Rowan - Salisbury Schools.

## Respite Care Services

We have continued to work with Easter Seals to increase the respite opportunities in the Rowan County. We also provide child care to two supports groups, The Rowan Autism society and The Rowan Down Syndrome Support Group. Also, the YMCA for after school care.

## Individuals with Special Needs

The Arc assisted families in obtaining services—helping to fill out paper work, going with them to file applications, making home visits, helping them

## Sign up for The Arc of North Carolina's E-Alert Network

The Arc of NC has an ambitious agenda designed to increase the availability of services for those on the waiting list and avoid dangerous budget cuts. Your participation in The Arc's E-Alert system is crucial to the success. When you sign up you will receive updates and Action Alerts throughout the legislative session. Ask others to sign up and participate...the more voices heard the better! It is easy, quick and even fun but most of all it is *important!*

Sign up by going to  
[www.arcnc.org](http://www.arcnc.org)  
click on the "Action Alert" tab  
then follow the directions