

Director's Corner

July is Disability Awareness Month! What does that mean? We bring attention this month to encourage all people to acknowledge and celebrate human diversity. The centerpiece of what it means to be human, is to understand and accept that we are all different, unique beings. Though we are genetically 99.9% similar, there are 324 million known variations of the human genetic blueprint that make us different. It accounts for all things from skin or hair color, shape of our noses, our body size, and our propensity to contract or resist various ailments. This slight genetic difference can manifest itself in a number of ways, many of which lead to slight variations that are barely noticeable and others that make a deep impact in a person's ability to experience the world in the same fashion as others. July is a reminder that we ought to encourage all to experience life in their own way-and not be restricted from doing so by the limited thinking of others.

Why is it important? When I think about the miracle of life, it amazes me when I think about the diverse fabric of human life. This awareness of, and appreciation for, human diversity is the reason we celebrate disability awareness in July. For too long, disability has been viewed as a deficit. The focus is on limitations rather than difference. This July let's challenge those outdated perceptions. Shift our focus from what people can't do to what they can do. Let's recognize that disability is not a uniform experience, but a spectrum embracing a wide range of visible and unseen conditions. **Read on**

Did you know about?

Valerie, Kelsi, Miranda and Aaron
Charlie's Place



This month, we are featuring Charlie's Place, a coffee shop and commercial kitchen that employs adults with disabilities in Fargo. Charlie's Place is located in the Beyond Boundaries building off Veterans Street. You have to check it out!

Valerie Olson's son, Charlie, is an adult who has Down Syndrome. He was having mental health struggles after high school and Val wanted to give him and others more opportunities of things to do. Around the same time, she heard about businesses being run by people with disabilities. She decided something like that would be a great opportunity for our community and loved the idea of starting a coffee shop. A nurse by trade, she began learning about coffee and making plans to open Charlie's Place.

Val, Founder (pictured left)

What do your employees with disabilities do?

Everything. From making drinks, food prep, baking, cleaning, to using the cash register, everyone pitches in to run the shop. Shifts are usually 2-3 hours and some people work with job coaches others work independently.

What do you serve?

Everything is local and made by our employees. We serve breakfast sandwiches, baked goods, snack boxes, soups, lunches, salads, coffees, lattes, teas, hot chocolate, ice drinks, smoothies and more.

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What's the best thing you have experienced yet?

A lot of our employees have opened up, gained skills and confidence in themselves. It has been a joy to see how proud of themselves they have become.

Kelsi (Manager, not pictured)

What are the most popular items?

Drink: Latte

Food: All the baked goods or Bento Boxes

What is the best thing you have experienced yet?

Watching people come into their own, realizing what they are capable of doing. I also love how much positive feedback we get from customers. They love to come in and get work done in our bright, cheery environment. Some people come in daily just because it makes them smile.

Aaron (pictured right)

What's your favorite item?

Sugar cookies with M&Ms and chocolate chip cookies.

What job do you like to do best?

Bake and put fruit cups together.

Miranda (pictured middle)

What is the best thing to eat at Charlie's?

Pop.

What things do you do at work?

Prep work, like chopping up food and getting it ready and making the brownies.

What should people know about Charlie's Place?

It is a fun place and people should come eat here!

Charlie's Place 3244 51st St S, Fargo

Website

Program Opportunities at The Arc



200 Years:
Of The Americans With Disabilities Act

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH
11 AM-1 PM

  

HOT DOG, CHIPS, AND A WATER FOR \$3

255 University Dr. N. Fargo, ND 58102 | 3201 43rd St. S. Fargo, ND 58104

50% Off Sale Storewide

***Meet in the donation area behind the store.**

Dates:

- May: 8th, 22nd
- June: 5th, 19th
- July: 3rd, 17th, 31st
- August: 14th, 28th
- September: 11th, 25th
- October: (tentative) 9th, 23rd

Time: 2:00 pm


The Arc.
 Attic Treasures

Please register by emailing
arcassistant@arccassnd.org


The Arc.
 Cass County



Monday, July 14th



YES! I AM CREATIVE!®
 Engaging, Encouraging & Celebrating Your Creative Side
 With Kay Hilde

10:00 am, 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m.
 at The Arc of Cass County

We will be creating self-portraits with Kay Hilde!
 Please RSVP by Thursday, July 10th by emailing
arcassistant@arccassnd.org or call (701)293-8191.


The Arc.
 Cass County

215 N University Drive, Fargo, ND 58102
701-293-8191 • arcassistant@arccassnd.org

 

Express Yourself!
 A Traveling Art Workshop

Is your group looking to have an on-site art class? We would love to talk with you!
 Email Claire at arcassistant@arccassnd.org for more information!


The Arc.
 Cass County



Opportunities for Community Engagement


 North Dakota Disabilities
 Advocacy Consortium

**Disability
 Pride Day**

 

Join us to celebrate the 35th

Join us to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Food Trucks, Vendors, Music, and Fellowship!

JULY 25TH 10-3 P.M.
ND CAPITOL LAWN, BISMARCK

The Lawn is accessible to ALL. Bring your friends and family!

No registration necessary! This event is Free.
Scan the QR Code for the Schedule of events!



Good Reads

North Dakota News

- Inforum - Fedral cuts to North Dakota agencies total 100 million so far analysis shows
- HHS seeks comment on two Medicaid children's waivers that expand access to services for qualifying children due July 27th

US Disability News

- PBS Caregiving - A documentary revealing America's caregiving crisis through intimate stories and expert insight
- Disability Scoop - Supreme Court Makes It Easier For Students With Disabilities To Sue Schools
- CBS - Most states don't require school emergency plans for disabled students. They feel left behind and at risk



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ALL DAY**

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Wednesday



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HOORAY!

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STUDENTS, &
FIRST
RESPONDERS
20% OFF**

Friday



**BOOKS,
MOVIES,
MUSIC &
TOYS
50% OFF**

Saturday



**EARLY BIRD
10-11:30
20% OFF
& MYSTERY
SALE**

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The Arc of Cass County | 215 N University Drive | Fargo, ND 58102 US

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