



The Arc[®]

Cass County

Director's Corner

Community Safety - The Impact of Real and Perceived Increase of Crime

I have been wanting to write about community safety in Fargo for months but have avoided doing so for a number of reasons. I did not want to appear alarmist, judgmental, or intolerant. Safety and crime are topics discussed daily with my Arc coworkers at our downtown office. Our store donation bins and storage units are targeted multiple times per month at both thrift store locations. Common shoplifting occurs hourly and brazen grab and dash incidences are common and leave our employees fearful of the next event. Our employees are fearful walking to their vehicles after closing the store.

I have found myself avoiding Broadway, the panhandling has gotten more aggressive. One recent trip to grab lunch resulted in one person blocking my vehicle at a stop light while another began banging on my side window. When I refused to roll down my window- he began to punch my mirror, door, and window and screaming for me to comply. **Read on**



WE WANT YOUR AWARD NOMINATIONS!

- Bill Sackter Citizenship Award
- (Self-Advocates)
- Professional of the Year (DSPs, Case Managers, Support Staff)
- Employer of the Year (Companies Employing People with IDD)
- Educator of the Year (Teacher or Para for students with IDD)
- Lifetime Achievement Award (Excellence in a Career Serving People with IDD)

arccassnd.org/upcoming-events

Did you know about?

Spread Your Sunshine
Interview with Addie Loerzel
Co-Founder and Director
Spread Your Sunshine



This month our *Did You Know About* article is about Addie Loerzel. She and her family created Addie's Royal Cupcake stand more than 11 years ago to raise money to make children's dreams come true. She has continued to build on this idea and has created an organization called Spread Your Sunshine. She works to ensure that every child, no matter their circumstances has the chance to create happy memories, feel included, and know they matter. Addie has accomplished all of this at 20 years old! Addie was born with Spina Bifida, but she and her family are not going to let that define who she is or limit what she can accomplish. She shows us with hard work and support, people with disabilities will thrive when they can create their own paths into adulthood.

What are your initiatives at Spread Your Sunshine?

What are your initiatives to spread your sunshine?

We do things that make kids and families feel included and happy. We throw free parties, surprise kids with birthday gifts, and even run a mobile ice cream cart. Everything we do is about spreading joy.

What do you have to say to people with disabilities about following their own unique dreams?

I would say go for it. Your dream is special because it's yours. Don't let people's low expectations stop you.

Do you think more people with disabilities should pursue starting businesses?

Yes, I do. A business can give you freedom and a way to show the world what you can do.

Have you ever felt like quitting? What made you keep going?

Yes, I have. Sometimes it's really hard. But then I think about the kids we serve and how happy they look. That always makes me keep going.

What do you think has made Spread Your Sunshine successful?

Kindness. People see we really care about kids and families, and they want to help us.

You have accomplished so much, do you have an even bigger dream?

Yes! My dream is to own my own restaurant one day.

Do you have any events coming up?

Yes, we have the Sunshine and Sprinkles Celebration this October 11th. It's a big family party with pizza, cake, games, and characters. Every penny goes back to helping kids and families.

What else do you want people to know?

I want people to know that every child deserves to feel loved, celebrated, and included. And anyone, no matter who you are, can help spread sunshine.

Spread Your Sunshine Website Facebook

If you or someone you know with a disability is interested in starting a business or nonprofit, there are many resources available! Good places to start [Business.com](https://www.business.com) [USchamber.com](https://www.uschamber.com)

Program Opportunities at The Arc



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



Grow With Us
Adaptive Gardening

Location: 3201 43rd St South
*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

Please register by emailing arcassistant@arccassnd.org

The Arc
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Monday, September 15th

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 making paper bag monsters with Kay Hilde!
Please RSVP by Thursday, September 11th by emailing arcassistant@arccassnd.org or call (701)293-8191.

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Opportunities in our Community



Spread Your Sunshine

Sunshine & Sprinkles Celebration
OCTOBER 11TH, 2025
2-4 PM @ Trinity Lutheran Church Moorhead, MN



The Behavioral Health & Children and Family Services Conference

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Good Reads

North Dakota News

- Behavioral Health and Children Family Services Conference, Bismarck October 20-23
- Public feedback needed on ND Medicaid waiver for IID/DD services

US Disability News

- Ed Department Preparing to Cut Millions in Special Education, Advocates Say
- Help shape disability news at The New York Times - What Do You Want to Read About Disability?
- Check out new videos from The Arc of The US



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 25% OFF YOUR PURCHASE ALL DAY	 SHIRTS BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	 SENIORS 55+ 20% OFF	 SHOES 50% OFF	 TEACHERS, STUDENTS, & FIRST RESPONDERS 20% OFF	 BOOKS, MOVIES, MUSIC & TOYS 50% OFF	 EARLY BIRD 10-11:30 20% OFF & MYSTERY SALE



Kris Langlie
**Special Education
Classroom Grants**

Apply for \$100 grants to support
Special Education classrooms!



Email director@arccassnd.org for more information or to apply for a grant.

[Visit our Website](#)

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