The Arc of Cass County Annual Award Descriptions

NEW! Award winners chosen to receive an award (or organization) are eligible to win a $250 Visa Gift Card!

BILL SACKTER CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Purpose: To recognize an outstanding individual with a developmental disability who is an accomplished member of society.

Eligibility: Any person with a developmental disability in the Fargo-Moorhead Community

Basis for Selection: An individual considered for this award must have:

- Builds friendships and connections across the community
- Steps outside their comfort zone to create new opportunities.
- Maintains a positive attitude when facing challenges

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To recognize an individual employed in community disability services who has demonstrated the ability to provide outstanding support resulting in increased independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: Any person employed in a field of services to people with disabilities who is having a positive impact on the social, vocational, psychological, medical, therapeutic, or other aspects of community living for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Basis for Selection: An individual considered for this award must have:

- Demonstrated a high degree of competence in his/her chosen field;
- Influenced others by a positive attitude and performance of duties; reflected in The Arc's mission and Position Statements.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To confer special recognition on employers having exceptional records of providing inclusive competitive employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: Any employer who has employed adults with developmental disabilities a minimum of one year is eligible for nomination. Employers that emphasize natural supports receive special attention.

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(EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR CONTINUED)

Basis for Selection: An individual considered for this award must have:

- Demonstrates excellence and commitment to creating and maintaining opportunities for people with disabilities
- Encourages independence, confidence, and skill-building
- Fosters a sense of belonging and community

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To recognize an educator who has demonstrated excellence in working with students who have developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: A nominee must have been actively employed as a paraprofessional or member of school faculty during the year the award is made. The nominee must also work regularly with students with developmental disabilities.

Basis for Selection: An individual considered for this award must have:

- Positively influenced the attitudes and thinking of other educational professionals as well as the general public regarding the education of students with intellectual disabilities;
- Assisted in furthering The Arc's goal of full educational opportunities for all students with intellectual disabilities;
- Fostered inclusion of students with disabilities in the educational process;
- Exhibited practices and beliefs consistent with The Arc's Mission Statement and Position Statements.

DIRECT SUPPOR PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To recognize DSP employed in community disability services who has demonstrated the ability to provide outstanding support resulting in increased independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: Any person employed in a field of services to people with disabilities who is having a positive impact on the social, vocational, or other aspects of community living for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Basis for Selection: An individual considered for this award must have:

- Strived to help individuals with intellectual disabilities reach their highest degree of independence;
- Demonstrated a high degree of competence in his/her chosen field;
- Influenced others by a positive attitude and performance of duties; reflected in The Arc's mission and Position Statements.