

Outstanding Community Volunteer Service

The Arc of Greater Beaumont



Spindletop MHMR Services has partnered with The Arc of Greater Beaumont since they were established in the fall of 2004. As The Arc's mission is to improve the

quality of life for individuals with disabilities and to support families, professionals, and people who surround these individuals, a common bond was forged—especially since Spindletop considered many of the members as part of our own “extended” family.

Through the years, The Arc has focused on four tracks of service delivery. The first of these, Education and Leadership Development, facilitates the Self Advocate Group. Monthly meetings promote self-advocacy, leadership, and education. Meeting topics broaden self-awareness and empower adults to be active in community leadership. The group also attends an annual conference and participates in community service projects such as collecting and delivering Thanksgiving canned goods for a local service organization. The second track, Recreation and Socialization, includes The Arc Adult Social Club program of dances, field trips, and community service projects. Events are designed for members to socialize with peers and experience recreational activities in a safe, supervised environment. This track also includes Summer Day Camps for school-aged children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Fitness and Fun is designed to help Arc members stay in shape while having fun. These events are designed to keep members active and include activities such as dance classes, bowling, putt putt, and more. Lastly, Family Programs promotes networking, support, and information sharing for families and/or providers of adults and children with disabilities. Programs include a quarterly family event, annual parent workshops, parent mentoring, legislative advocacy and community service programs such as Christmas caroling.

Of all the activities offered through The Arc of Greater Beaumont, two annual events more than others have promoted the abilities—rather than disabilities—of individuals in our community. Every fall The Arc Holiday Cards for A Cause is a partnership between The Arc of Greater Beaumont and local businesses, including Spindletop, that sponsor holiday and all-occasion greeting cards. The cards are created by Arc members and sold throughout Southeast Texas. Card artists are showcased by local media, thus giving artists a sense of pride while promoting this fundraising endeavor which supports programs for The Arc members.

In May, The Arc of Greater Beaumont presents *The Stars of The Arc Celebrity Style Show and Annual Dinner*. This event spotlights Arc members as hosts or models during the evening. Dillard's has partnered with The Arc to provide the latest fashions for all the children and adults who model. Hosts and hostesses wear their red, Arc aprons and seat guests for the dinner and style show. This past May, over 50 models and a dozen hosts and hostesses participated in the event—not to mention that two of The Arc members were given special recognition for their excellence in leadership and self-advocacy. The Arc members who are “stars” of the evening stole the hearts of the 450 in attendance especially with their grand finale of singing and signing to John Lennon's “Imagine”.

It has become apparent that the increasing presence of The Arc of Greater Beaumont has promoted an awareness of the contributions and capabilities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Not only has The Arc of Greater Beaumont had a positive affiliation with Spindletop MHMR Services, but it has also been an asset to the community of Southeast Texas. Because this award is in honor of Frank M. Adams who was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of Spindletop MHMR and who was an advocate for individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, and intellectual disabilities, it is a pleasure to congratulate The Arc of Greater Beaumont as the 2010 Frank M. Adams Award Recipient for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Community category.

Nominated by Spindletop MHMR Services