Building a Better Board — Andrew Sawnson

Eight Essential Functions of a Charitable Nonprofit Board—

1. Establishing and achieving the mission of the organization.
2. Determining mission-related goals and major organizational policies.
3. Raising and managing the organization’s funds.
4. Employing the staff.
5. Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the CEO.
6. Appointing committees.
7. Holding property.
8. Leadership development.

Did you know the vast majority of board members for charitable nonprofits serve as volunteers without any compensation.

A board of directors does not exist solely to fulfill legal duties and serve as a fiduciary of the organization’s assets. Board members also play very significant roles providing guidance to nonprofits by contributing to the organization’s culture, strategic focus, effectiveness, and financial sustainability, as well as serving as ambassadors and advocates. Beyond fulfilling legal duties, board members can be important resources for the organization in multiple ways.

Susan Teas retiring from The Arc Board after more than 15 years

We will greatly miss Susan’s dedication and enthusiasm to The Arc of Story County!

Susan Teas (right of photo) retiring Board Member participating in the 2019 Annual Arc March.

Arc of Story County Board Members (L to R), David Orth, Kapil Arora, and retiring Board Member Susan Teas.
Letter From the Director

When I wrote my letter for the Spring Newsletter, I never would have guessed that a few short weeks later, our busiest time of year, would end so quickly. It has been difficult to adjust to the past two months, I hope we can all look forward to brighter days ahead and getting to be with one another again. Though, I think our “new normal” will be a bit different, there will be a future when our athletes and self-advocates can look forward to being together again. I hope we can look forward to our Fall sports schedule, the annual barbecue, ice cream social and the start of a new class of Project SEARCH.

As The Arc Board of Directors gets ready to vote on a new Slate for our Board at the June Board meeting, we added an article about the importance of the Board for a nonprofit. Without the dedicated leadership of the volunteers who unselfishly give of their time and talents to The Arc, we would not be the strong organization we are today. And able to weather the recent storm we are going through both financially and organizationally. Susan Teas is “retiring” from The Arc Board after more than 15 years. Susan has served as Board President and most recently as Board Secretary. Susan was instrumental in The Arc gaining our Standards of Excellence certificate in nonprofit management. We will greatly miss Susan’s dedication and enthusiasm to The Arc of Story County.

The Arc will continue to abide by the regulations set forth by the State Special Olympics office with regards to our activities. When we can gather again, we want it to be as safe as possible for everyone.

Happy Summer!

Tricia Crain
Executive Director

Special Olympics Iowa Activities Suspended Through June 30

All Special Olympics Iowa training and in-person activities are currently suspended. The suspension will affect all sport training, practices and competitions, including all upcoming Spring Games and the Summer Games. Also included in this suspension are all Polar Plunges and fundraising events. We encourage athletes, families and fans to be vigilant as Iowa works to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).
Intern Photos from May 27th Project SEARCH Drive-by Graduation Parade

The end of the year for Project SEARCH ended rather abruptly due to COVID-19.

As a way to celebrate the interns’ success Project SEARCH staff, participants and board members held a drive-by Graduation parade on May 27th.

Project SEARCH serves young adults (18-30) with disabilities who have graduated from high school or the equivalent with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Generally there will be 6-12 individuals enrolled in a Project SEARCH program. Project SEARCH interns complete three different workplace rotations over the course of the program.
From The Ames Foundation Website: The Ames Miracle Playground and Field is a two part project. Part one is the All-Inclusive Playground, which includes 100% accessible playground features on a rubberized surface, catering to children with physical, cognitive, and sensory disabilities. The second part of the project is a custom field made of cushion, rubberized turf, accessible by wheelchair and other assistive devices. This feature will have options for competitive and noncompetitive athletic events, specifically targeted towards children and adults with disabilities.

Swing Alley

The Miracle Field waiting for rubber surfacing.

Inclusive play structure for 5-12 year olds
Welcome to Holland

When you’re going to have a baby, it’s like planning a fabulous vacation trip—to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It’s all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, “Welcome to Holland.”

“What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I’m supposed to be in Italy. All my life I’ve dreamed of going to Italy.:

But there’s been a change I flight plan. They’ve landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is they have haven’t taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It’s just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It’s just a different place. It’s slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you’ve been there for awhile and you catch your breath, you look around...and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills...and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy...and they’re all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say “Yes, that’s where I was supposed to go. That’s what I had planned.”

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away...because of the loss of that dream is very very significant.

But...if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn’t get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, very lovely things...about Holland.

By Emily Perl Kingsley
The Arc of Story County
130 S. Sheldon #302
Ames, Iowa 50014
515.232.9330 phone
413.798.2735 fax

Service and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

www.thearcstory.org

Inside:

Building a Better Board
Susan Teas retiring from Arc Board
Letter from the Director
Special Olympics Iowa Activities Suspended
Project SEARCH Drive-by Graduation Parade
Photos Ames Miracle Playground
Welcome to Holland

Keep up to date on all of The Arc happenings!

www.thearcstory.org