



**The Arc
of San Antonio**

Serving People With
Developmental Disabilities



Milestones

A Common Cause

How local groups are using the Pam Stephens Center to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities

From 7:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. each weekday, the Pam Stephens Center is the home of The Arc of San Antonio's Life Enrichment programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities. In the evening and on the weekends, however, the Stephens Center becomes a multi-purpose community building hosting a wide range of sports activities, social events and educational opportunities for people with all types of disabilities and their families.

Since opening in August 2008, the gymnasium and classrooms at the Pam Stephens Center have been used by 6 other nonprofit organizations for 16 events attended by more than 1,400 children and adults with disabilities, parents and professionals. The Arc of San Antonio makes the Stephens Center available to nonprofits free of charge for activities that benefit people with disabilities.

Some of the evening and weekend activities at the Pam Stephens Center are recreational, such as the dances sponsored by Eva's Heroes and Down Syndrome Association or the Kinetic Kids' basketball program. Other organizations, including Camp CAMP and Special Olympics, have used the free space to hold training sessions for staff and volunteers. Special Olympics also used the gymnasium for their annual awards dinner in May. The Arc and Any Baby Can co-hosted a Summer Recreation and Resource Fair at the Stephens Center in January that brought out more than 200 parents and professionals to learn about programs and services from 30 local agencies.

The Down Syndrome Association has held two dances for their new Teen Club at the Pam Stephens Center. Executive Director Terri Mauldin is looking forward to hosting many more activities at this location. "Because we are a small nonprofit," she says, "we do not have a facility to hold these events. The Pam Stephens Center gives us the ability to provide dances and other types of recreation for children and adults with Down syndrome."



Kinetic Kids used the gymnasium at the Pam Stephens Center to finish out the season for their wheelchair basketball program.



Gabriel Hey and Billy Cade at the Valentine's Day Dance for the Down Syndrome Association Teen Club.

Tracey Fontenot of Kinetic Kids has been especially glad to have access to a place they can schedule exclusively for their activities. "It was wonderful to have a facility not being utilized by other occupants at the same time who often serve as a distraction to the kiddos in our programs." Tracey has also enjoyed working with The Arc staff to set up events. "From scheduling to hosting to helping accommodate our variety of requests, everyone at the Pam Stephens Center has been a pleasure to work with. The facility itself was perfect for our basketball program. Our end of the season basketball championship and awards ceremony was the best yet!"

If your nonprofit would like to schedule an event for people with disabilities at the Pam Stephens Center, contact Jinx McCombs at (210) 490-4300 or jinxmcombs@arc-sa.org.

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Jack Minter, Exec. Director

The Big Picture

The Arc of San Antonio has a long history of helping other nonprofits develop new programs and services in our community. When we opened the Pam Stephens Center last August, it just made sense to invite other organizations that serve people with disabilities to use the gymnasium and meetings rooms when they weren't being used by The Arc. We could not be more pleased with the response and the number of different activities that are now taking place throughout the week at this location.

One of the most exciting outcomes from opening the Pam Stephens Center to other groups has been the synergy that has developed between organizations. Sharing common space has given us opportunities to look at other ways we can work together to fulfill our individual missions and serve more families. When it comes to providing services to people with disabilities, the sum of our parts is truly greater than the whole.

By making the Pam Stephens Center available to nonprofits that share a common purpose, The Arc has increased the number of people who benefit from every donation made to our programs and facilities. As new partnerships and collaborations develop, we will discover even more ways to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities in our community.

Community Connections

Thanks to the help of our volunteers, The Arc's Annual Gala was a wonderful experience for our guests. We appreciate all their hard work and the time they donated to help us raise money for programs that improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

What a Team!

Volunteers from Broadway Bank invested their time and energy the day of the gala to get everything ready for *A Magical Evening*. What a team!

Front row from left: Carrie Jett, Terri Bonn, Chong Elrod and Vicki Belcher. Top row from left: Lorry Houtman, Joshua Rodriguez, Mark Henson and Darla Peek.



The Night Was a Great Success!

The night of the gala, volunteers from Broadway Bank, KCI and the community helped make *A Magical Evening* fun and successful!

From top: Luis Leal, Lynn Walsdorf, Anna Felton, TJ Eshelman, Carlos Torres, Mark Henson, Francisco Rosales, Amber Garcia, Gloria Henson, Audrey Felton, Lydia McLamb, Ginger Chappell, Sanjuanita Cooley, Maggie Garcia and Maria Machado.



Our thanks to the 2009 Gala Committee for *A Magical Evening*

Dwayne Ham, M.D. and Becky Pence-Thomas
2009 Gala Co-Chairs

Lisa Abodeely, Melanie Cawthon, Mae Foster-Williams, Roz Gordon, Mark Henson, Barbara Johnson, Nancy May, Kristy Moore, Dr. Deb Morgan, Ann Marie Morrow, Martie Noll, Carlos Peña and Ellen Weiss

The Arc of San Antonio's 21st Annual Gala Sets a New Record!

Gordon and Maggie Hartman honored at *A Magical Evening*

Thanks to our sponsors, guests and Fund the Magic donors, The Arc of San Antonio raised a record \$220,000 in net proceeds at our annual gala on Saturday, March 28th at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel. Gordon and Maggie Hartman were selected as the 2009 Gala Honorees in recognition of their philanthropic work and commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities in San Antonio.

The money raised from *A Magical Evening* provides operating support for The Arc's direct care and case management programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities. These funds account for 50% of the total amount The Arc must raise each year to fulfill our mission for more than 6,000 individuals with disabilities, their family members and caregivers annually.



Gordon and Maggie Hartman with their daughter, Morgan (center), at *A Magical Evening*.

Thank you to our 2009 Gala Underwriters!

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Viva Fiesta!

The Arc of San Antonio was proud to be part of the Texas Cavalier River Parade on April 20, 2009. Our special thanks to Jo Ann Boone and Rio San Antonio Cruises for sponsoring the barge, to Tony and Gene with Ambiance Floral and Event Designs for donating the decorations and to The Court Jesters, for keeping everyone rockin' and rollin' along the parade route!



Above: Arc participants and family members who helped represent The Arc included: Susan & Kathryn Avenell, Richard Flint, Tommy Flores, Karen & Leah Meyer, Rosa & Mary Ellen Morris, Neil Polunsky, Tyler Stipek, and Rob & R.J. Villarreal.

Left: The Court Jesters rocked the house at The Arc's annual gala on March 28th and then volunteered their time and musical talents to be with us in the River Parade on April 20th. Thank you, Court Jesters! Band members from left to right are: Mike Jackson, Doug Walsdorf, Mark Luitjen, Sol Casseb, Brett Rowe, Steve Barrera, Joe Casseb, Jim Frost, Rubeen Barrera and Bobby Trevino.



Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

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have a change of address, please fill
out the reply envelope enclosed in
this newsletter.*

*Please note: The Arc of San Antonio
does not sell or release names to other
organizations or businesses.*

For additional event information, visit www.arc-sa.org and click on Calendar.

Trainings

To register, contact Heather Long at (210) 490-4300 ext. 113 or
hlong@arc-sa.org.

Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts

Saturday, June 27, 2009

8:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
The Pam Stephens Center – 6530 Wurzbach Rd.

Guardianship at the age of majority (18 years old) and Special Needs Trusts are essential parts of the planning process to ensure that adults with disabilities are safe and cared for when they are unable to care for themselves. Join us for an overview of these issues including why Guardianship might be appropriate for your loved one, how and why to set up a Special Needs Trust, and the processes involved in both. Presented by K.T. Whitehead, Certified Elder Law Attorney.

Recreation Activities

Open to youth and young adults with developmental disabilities ages 16 and older. Must complete general registration form to participate in recreation program. Must RSVP no more than 30 days in advance of each scheduled activity. Check our online calendar at www.arc-sa.org for scheduled activities. For information and registration, contact Jinx McCombs at (210) 490-4300 ext. 100 or jinxmcombs@arc-sa.org.

Special Events

**Achiever of the Year Awards Banquet
Wednesday, October 7, 2009**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Catholic Church – 20523 Huebner Rd.
Tickets - \$7.50 per person

This is The Arc's annual awards dinner recognizing the accomplishments of people with developmental disabilities in our community. To purchase tickets, contact Jessica Gutierrez at (210) 490-4300 ext. 104 or jgutierrez@arc-sa.org.



**AccessAbility Fest 2009
Sunday, October 11, 2009**

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
The Institute of Texan Cultures

Free event with recreational activities and resource information for people with disabilities and their families. For more information, visit <http://accessabilityfest.blogspot.com>.