



**The Arc**  
of San Antonio

Serving People With  
Developmental Disabilities



# Milestones

## Endless Possibilities

Terrilee Tatum is a fabulous tennis player, avid marathon runner, and enjoys making sushi for her family. She also has Asperger's syndrome. The Mayo Clinic defines Asperger's as, "a developmental disorder that affects an individual's ability to socialize and communicate effectively with others," so Terrilee was somewhat relieved when she was diagnosed at age 17. "I guess it was not too surprising since I had realized how socially awkward I was at the time and previously. Asperger's put a name on what I was experiencing."

High school can be awkward at times for anyone, so as a senior, Terrilee was finally able to make some sense of her condition. Understanding the reason why she felt uncomfortable in social situations made it easier for her to seek help coping with the disorder. She has since been actively involved in group sessions that help her manage and improve her social skills, and she works very hard at presenting herself in a way that most people assume would be second nature.

Asperger's Syndrome has not affected Terrilee intellectually, however. She has a degree from the University of Incarnate Word in Kinesiology and Fine Arts, and she wants to become certified to teach adapted P.E. Terrilee has overcome many of the symptoms that make Asperger's Syndrome difficult and awkward to live with, and she enjoys sharing what she has learned with others who have similar problems and experiences.

Last year, Terrilee's mother emailed Pam Stephens about possible services for Terrilee, and immediately a unique relationship was formed. Pam asked Terrilee to volunteer for the Teen Titans, a social skills training class for young people with autism sponsored by The Arc of San Antonio. Yvette Elmendorf, the Lead Autism Specialist at NISD who organized the group said, "Terrilee was delightful. She mixed with all of the kids and gave us a few suggestions for our future classes."

Terrilee has continued to become more involved in different activities at The Arc. She was paid to teach art classes using clay at the Pam Stephen's Center in August 2009. This was an opportunity for her to use her Fine Arts degree, as well as work with other people with Asperger's Syndrome. After teaching a yoga class to the Arc participants, she became interested in starting a Pilates class in the evenings. Recently, Terrilee was accepted into graduate school at TWU in Denton, Texas, to get her degree in Adapted Physical Activity. With her determination and dedication, the possibilities seem endless for Terrilee. The Arc would love to work with her again in the future. "Hopefully," Terrilee says, "if I am back in San Antonio I could continue to do more work with The Arc of San Antonio. It is what inspired me to seek this graduate degree."

While The Arc has been a great resource for Terrilee to make new friends and explore community services, it has also been an opportunity for Terrilee to share her skills and experiences to help others. She will continue to be a role model for young people with autism and Asperger's and a great friend to The Arc of San Antonio.



*Terrilee Tatum volunteering her art skills at a Teen Titan class for youth with autism.*



*Terrilee conducting an evening yoga class for adults with developmental disabilities.*

If you would like to volunteer to teach a class for people with developmental disabilities, contact Pam Stephens at (210) 490-4300 ext. 120 or [pstephens@arc-sa.org](mailto:pstephens@arc-sa.org). To see a calendar of The Arc's scheduled events and activities, visit [www.arc-sa.org](http://www.arc-sa.org).

## The Arc of San Antonio Staff

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Jack Minter, President & CEO

## The Big Picture

Each October The Arc of San Antonio hosts the Achiever of the Year Awards Banquet to honor people with developmental disabilities for their accomplishments. Some Achievers are recognized for making a big step in their life - like getting a job for the first time. Other Achievers are nominated for smaller steps such as learning to shake hands or improving their table manners. Whether the strides they make seem big or small to us, all of their accomplishments are important and worthy of recognition.

Below are a few of the 2009 Achiever of the Year winners and their accomplishments.

- Kamari made significant progress toward all her learning plan goals. She overcame her fear of walking without a lot of support. *Kamari Daniels, age 6, nominated by TEAMability.*
- Emmanuel has shown improvements in his verbal communication. He can pronounce his name and answer his parents. *Emmanuel Mireles, age 14, nominated by One for Autism.*
- Nash went from a little boy who could not walk, speak well, or socialize with other children to one who now runs down the hall, speaks in two to three word sentences, and loves to socialize with his classmates. *Nash Pils, age 2, nominated by Brighton School.*
- Angela accomplished something that was very hard for her. She lost 50 pounds in one year and managed to stick to her diet plan. *Angela Vechhio, age 38, nominated by Premieant.*
- Rolando took a giant step – he moved out of his family home into a group home. He attends day programming regularly and interacts well with his peers. *Rolando Saavedra, age 42, nominated by Mission Road Developmental Center.*

The Achiever of the Year Awards Banquet is only held once a year, but you can give encouragement and support to people with developmental disabilities every day. Volunteer your time or make a donation to one of the nominating nonprofits in honor of an Achiever or someone with a developmental disability who has made a difference in your life.

*You can read about all of the 2009 Achiever of the Year award winners and their accomplishments at [www.arc-sa.org/achievers.htm](http://www.arc-sa.org/achievers.htm).*

## Community Connections

### Shooting for the Stars

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, The Arc of San Antonio and the San Antonio Silver Stars hosted a basketball competition for 50 children and youth with special needs. The Silver Stars Fox came by to entertain the crowd and player Megan Frazee handed out tips and a helping hand at the free throw basket. Each competitor received a certificate of achievement and a chance to win an autographed Silver Stars or Spurs basketball. Our thanks to Megan Frazee, the San Antonio Silver Stars, Norm Arias with Special Olympics and our Broadway Bank volunteers for making our first Shoot for the Stars event a huge success!



### Let's Go Fishing!



In early August, children from The Arc's case management programs spent a fun day fishing with volunteers from the Texas Game Warden's Association. Each child left with trophies, prizes and an unforgettable experience. A special thank you to Captain Randi Wayland with Texas Parks & Wildlife and all the game wardens for their hard work.

# 2009 Achiever of the Year Awards Banquet

October 7, 2009



Achiever of the Year, Nash Pils (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with Gordon Hartman, Honey Pils and Chef Michael Flores.

Achievers of all ages and abilities were recognized at The Arc of San Antonio's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Achiever of the Year Awards Banquet on October 7, 2009. Forty children and adults with developmental disabilities were nominated for their accomplishments by 25 nonprofit and group home organizations.

Co-emcees Gordon Hartman and Chef Michael Flores presented the awards and posed for photos with each Achiever. More than 550 people attended the event which was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.



Jilliann Benitez, Achiever of the Year (center) with Gordon Hartman and Chef Michael Flores.

Our thanks to Gordon Hartman, Chef Michael, our sponsors and the wonderful volunteers who helped make this an extra-special evening for our Achievers and their families.

## 2009 Achiever of the Year Award Recipients

### Isaac Beck

*RMI*

### Jilliann Benitez

*Kinetic Kids*

### Julia Brown

*Achievers Center for Education*

### Ronnie Browning

*S.A.L.S.A.*

### Samuel Carrasco

*Hands On*

### Desiree Cooley

*The Arc of San Antonio*

### Julian Cordova

*Enhanced Living Services*

### Stephanie Crane

*Down Syndrome Assoc.*

### Daniel Cruz

*Homelife & Com Services, Inc.*

### Kamari Daniels

*TEAMability*

### Andrew Flores

*R&K Specialized Homes*

### Marianna Garzes

*Community Options, Inc.*

### Robbie Gonzalez, Jr.

*TEAMability*

### David Hernandez

*Eva's Heroes*

### Tonya Jordan

*Complete Life Care*

### Darin Kipp

*Yes I Can*

### Roberta Jean Klich

*Hands On*

### Marilyn Lane

*The Willows*

### Dawn Lenz

*Progressive Life*

### Lauren Louden

*The Arc of San Antonio*

### Jonathan T. Mills, II

*One for Autism*

### Emmanuel Mireles

*One for Autism*

### Daniel Montez

*Community Options, Inc*

### Dornell May

*Mosaic*

### Paul Nunez

*Unicorn Centers, Inc*

### Ryan Pelton

*R&K Specialized Homes*

### Nash Pils

*Brighton School*

### Neil Polunsky

*The Arc of San Antonio*

### Charles Praetorius

*CAMP*

### Kelly Rice

*Mission Road Dev. Center*

### Mark Rich

*Unicorn Centers, Inc*

### Rolando Saavedra

*Mission Road Dev. Center*

### Candido Soto, Jr.

*Welcome Home, Inc.*

### Paul Stuebben

*Unicorn Centers, Inc*

### Gail Tondre

*The Arc of San Antonio*

### Terence Valera

*Nellie Reddix Center*

### Angela Vecchio

*Premieant, Inc.*

### Mario Vela Soto

*NETS*

### Joshua Yzaguirre

*Mission Road Dev. Center*

### Carlos Zuniga

*Mission Road Dev. Center*

## 2009 Achiever Banquet Sponsored By



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### Volunteers Provided By

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2009 CFO Award winner, Susan Henderson (far right) with Jack Minter, Cynthia Hamilton, Andrea Fagarason, Yolanda Fuentes, Pam Stephens and Mary Longoria.

## Congratulations, Susan Henderson!

Winner of the 2009 CFO Award for Charitable Nonprofit

For 17 years, Susan Henderson has served as the Chief Financial Officer for The Arc of San Antonio. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Susan was recognized for her financial management and ethical leadership at the San Antonio Business Journal's 2009 CFO Awards luncheon. According to Jack Minter, The Arc's President and CEO, "Her business practices are of the highest ethical order. She rigorously enforces the rules of nonprofit fund accounting and ensures that all monies designated for specific projects get spent only on those projects. Auditors report that her audits are in the top 2 percent of all nonprofits they audit."

In an interview with the Business Journal, Susan shared her business philosophy. "A non-profit organization, now more than ever, needs to operate like a business to ensure financial sustainability. That business focus, however, must always be in concert with our mission and must provide transparent accountability to our community. We owe that, not to shareholders as in a business, but to the people we serve."

**Thank you, Susan, for your dedicated service and commitment to The Arc's mission!**



Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

The Arc of San Antonio  
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Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 229  
San Antonio, TX

### Donating At The Office

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### Contact Information

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#### For questions or comments:

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chamilton@arc-sa.org

If you would like to be added or removed from our mailing list or 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 information on scheduled events and activities, check out our calendar at [www.arc-sa.org](http://www.arc-sa.org).

## Save the Date

The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation Presents

*A Magical Evening*



The Arc of San Antonio  
Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

## The Arc of San Antonio's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala Honoring Shaun & Debbie Kennedy

March 27, 2010 – Westin Riverwalk Hotel – 6:00 p.m.  
Entertainment by The Rick Cavender Band  
Tickets - \$150/person Sponsorships begin at \$2,500

The Arc's Annual Gala, *A Magical Evening*, generates 50% of the fundraising The Arc must do each year to provide our direct care programs, case management services, training and support to over 6,000 people with special needs and their families.

Join us as we recognize Shaun and Debbie Kennedy, our 2010 Gala Honorees. Shaun, President of Broadway Bank, and Debbie provide volunteer support to several local nonprofits, including The Arc of San Antonio. As the parents of a daughter with Down syndrome, Shaun and Debbie know first hand the value that people with developmental disabilities bring to our lives and our community.

For more information on sponsorships, raffle tickets and online auction, visit [www.arc-sa.org/gala.htm](http://www.arc-sa.org/gala.htm).



From left: Aaron Ahmendez, Louie Montoto, Elizabeth Torres, Celeste Garza and Bethanie Hernandez.

Five middle school students from St. Luke Catholic School and St. Matthew Catholic School took time out of their summer vacation to volunteer at The Arc of San Antonio. After a day stuffing, folding and stamping newsletters, three students came back another day to shred paper. Our thanks to these volunteers for all their hard work!

From left: Alex Torres, Bethanie Hernandez and Celeste Garza.



**GIVING BACK  
HAVING  
FUN!**

If you would like to volunteer with The Arc of San Antonio, contact Annabell Jones at (210) 490-4300 ext. 104 or [ajones@arc-sa.org](mailto:ajones@arc-sa.org).