



Dear Arc Participants and Circles of Support,

We hope that you are all staying safe and well as we move into the holiday season. With Thanksgiving just a day away, our teams have been reflecting on our gratitude for this wonderful community. Though we haven't seen each other in person in many months, the engagement of our participants, families, supporters and partners continues to grow as we connect in new ways.

Phase 1 Reopening

Phase 1 of our reopening plan continues. With increased COVID-19 cases and potential for people gathering for the holidays, we are scaling back in person supports between Thanksgiving and the end of the calendar year. We look forward to ramping back up in January and serving even more of our participants in person in 2021. We anticipate that Phase 1 will last through the end of the winter and we will explore delivering services in small groups based on public health guidance in spring of 2021.

Holidays at The Arc SF

The holidays are a special time at The Arc SF and although we can't celebrate in person, we will be hosting holiday events on zoom as well as delivering meals and holiday treats to our participants. On Tuesday, in partnership with Rotary San Francisco, we delivered Thanksgiving meals to over 150 participants followed by a Thanksgiving celebration hosted on zoom. We look forward to celebrating the holidays in fun, engaging and most of all safe ways! Check out [The Arc SF Hub](#) for upcoming holiday activities.

Advocacy

November has been a busy month with the election. We are proud of our many participants who made their voices heard in this last election as well as the many people with disabilities throughout the country who showed up in record numbers. We will be partnering with The Arc CA and Arc US on opportunities for advocacy and partnership in the first 100 days of the new administration. Jordan Lindsey, Executive Director of The Arc CA, will be meeting with the members of our Client Advocacy Committee in December to share legislative updates and where our participant advocacy is needed most. We look forward to sharing updates with you in January.

On November 19, we hosted our monthly Participant Town Hall meeting where our CAC members delivered a fantastic presentation on the types of advocacy and why advocacy is so important, now more than ever. Hearing our participants lend their voices to the needs that they and their peers have is incredibly impactful. These meetings happen monthly and all participants are encouraged to join.

November Pacesetters Salon

On November 18, we welcomed Arc SF Board Member Alex Locust to our Pacesetters Salon series. This month's salon, Cross Movement Solidarity, focused on advocacy efforts for marginalized communities in solidarity with one another, and with our Client Advocacy Committee posing questions of the panelists, it was a lively discussion. This month's salon is [posted on our website](#). *Pacesetters Salons are an ongoing series of discussions about topics of interest to our participants, families and staff, in honor of our upcoming 70th anniversary in*

2021.

Giving Tuesday, 12/1/2020

Tuesday, December 1, is Giving Tuesday! This is the day that we kick off our Holiday Campaign for Participant Gift Cards. [Please support this effort](#) and help us reach our \$10,000 goal, which is needed this year more than ever, and THANK YOU!

December Families & Circles of Support Town Hall

On Thursday, December 3rd, we will be hosting our last Families and Circles of Support Town Hall of 2020. This is an opportunity for attendees to ask our team questions about continued service delivery and updates of importance to our community. *Please see the links below to attend.*

DDS Self-Advocate & Family Survey, due 12/18/2020

The Department of Developmental Services is asking for our help in distributing this important survey below to all self-advocates and families members. The survey will inform DDS, as a system, how COVID-19 has impacted our community and changed services and identify what is important to self-advocates and families. The survey [here](#) includes fifteen questions and is available in 10 languages. Please complete this short survey by December 18.

Be well and Happy Thanksgiving!

Kristen

Kristen Pedersen, Interim Executive Director

Upcoming December Events:

[12/1/2020 Giving Tuesday](#)

[12/3/2020 Families & Circles of Support Town Hall, 5:30 PM](#)

[12/18/2020 DDS Survey due](#)

Take Action!

[Advocacy](#)

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