

The Arc Nature Coast is entering its 42nd year in Hernando County, where we have continued to enjoy the stability, strength & leadership of our current Executive Director, Mark W. Barry for the past 22 years. We employ 53 full-time and 18 part-time employees in Hernando County.

We have gained the respect from and are supported by many; businesses, churches, services clubs, foundations individuals and more over the years, with more than 400 supporters in 2013 alone.

We currently have more than 350 active members that subscribe to the mission of The Arc Nature Coast: *to provide individually tailored quality supports and advocacy for persons with disabilities and their families to promote their self-determination and inclusion in community life.*

The Arc Nature Coast has been providing services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Hernando County since 1972! We serve approximately 200 individuals annually; with approximately 100 of these individuals having secured employment in the community through our employment services programs. Some of our employment partners are Micro-Matic, Alumi-Guard, Accuform, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Publix & Carrabba's.

Sponsoring one of our events is a great way to promote your business, club or organization while supporting an upstanding, worthwhile cause in your community! Please contact our development department at (352) 544-2322, extension 109 for additional information on ways you can participate.

EVENTS

Dances-We host 5 dances per year; the Sweetheart's Dance in February, the Spring Fling in May, Summer Sizzler in August, Halloween Costume Dance in October and a Christmas Dance with Santa in December. Attendance averages 150 individuals of all ages with and without disabilities. The dances are held on Friday evenings from 7-10 PM at the Education Center (6495 Mariner Blvd.) in Spring Hill.

Hurricane Hoopla- The Annual Hurricane Hoopla was established in 2012 and is held at our Education Center & Regional Evacuation Shelter. Each year the theme will be different and unique. This event is a fun-filled, relaxing evening with entertainment, food and libations. This event is attended by 250-300 business professionals and local community members and the next Hoopla will be held on April 18, 2015 at sunset.

Spring Lake 5-K-This annual event, which was established in 2006, is held on the Saturday before Memorial Day. This event is a 5-K run and two mile fun run/walk, is family-friendly and attracts approximately 200 attendees and observers. This event has been dubbed as 'Florida's Toughest 5-K', as it takes you on some of the most challenging hills in Hernando County!

Family Night-Family Nights are held on occasion to provide free, informative educational opportunities to family members of individuals with disabilities. The Arc Nature Coast provides a dinner and a guest speaker is invited to discuss various topics, including: *Special Needs Planning, Guardianship, Social Security* and more.

Community Holiday Open House-Our annual open house is held each December, and we invite the entire community to visit our Education Center and Regional Evacuation Shelter and meet those we serve, as well as to learn more about our programs and services.