

What a great program!

I'm Lesley Dahlkemper, and I'm delighted to ask you to join with me as a supporter of The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties.

Many of you know me through my past role on the Jeffco school board – you know that I believe passionately in the power of education for *all* children.... including children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Right here ... in our own backyard... **The Arc is making sure everyone has the opportunity to achieve his or her dreams.**

Today... we've heard several stories of people whose lives have been transformed by The Arc.

As donors, don't you just love hearing the many ways our contributions are creating positive change?

I know I personally appreciate that **100-percent of the today's gifts will go directly to The Arc's life-changing programs.**

It's important to note that everything The Arc does for people with disabilities and our community – everything is privately funded by donors like you.

I'm repeating myself, but I want you to hear me: The Arc does not receive any government funding for their programs, instead we rely on our friends and neighbors for support.

While our hosts are passing out the giving forms... I'd like you to take a moment to consider what donation feels right to you. Is there a number you're thinking of? Now ask yourself – *can you do more? Can you stretch?*

We've talked a lot about community today, and each one of you is part of The Arc's community – whether you're a relative or someone with a disability, or one of the professionals we collaborate with, or one of our many allies who share our vision of a world that values and includes people with disabilities– each and every one of you is a vital part of our community.

Without your support today and in the future, we won't be able to continue as we are.

Here's the bottom line. We need to raise \$100,000 today – right now – to keep our programs going. **With all of us here today, if every one of us commits to at least \$25 a month**, together we can help people with disabilities achieve their dreams.

So now you should all have your giving form.

The first section with the three boxes is all about Monthly Giving.

I want to take a minute to talk to you about the simplicity of recurring monthly gifts. You decide how much you want to donate on a monthly basis, and your donation will process automatically for as long as you want.

Not only is it easier for you, but it helps The Arc plan for the future knowing that we have a reliable and sustainable base of support.

There's no risk and no long-term commitment. If your situation changes and you would like to modify your donation, it's as easy as contacting us.

You can select one of those top three boxes, or underneath that, you can choose to make a donation of any amount, whether one-time or monthly.

So now that you've decided how much you want to give and how often, I want to call your attention to the next line.

Most of us have smartphones and you can easily and securely make a donation from your phone right now, just by texting the word "arcdonate" to 50155.

These instructions are also in the back of your program.

You'll get a text telling you to reply with the amount you want to donate, and then it will take you right to a simple and secure donation form.

We know that many of you will prefer to make your donation by text, so if this is you, please just check the box on your paper form and tell us your name so we can match up your donation later.

Moving on to the next section, if you have attended this event before and already have a monthly gift or pledge, thank you!

This next section labeled "Donors with Current Gifts or Pledges" lists some options just for you.

The final box near the bottom of your form is for your payment information.

Unless you texted your donation, we need you to complete this section!

If you have chosen to make a recurring gift, we ask that you make the first donation today. You can enter your credit card information on the lines provided, or you can check the box for EFT and include a voided check for automatic deductions from your bank account.

If you have any other questions, please ask your table captain or jot a note or question for us right on the form.

Finally, the last section is for your contact information... so we can properly account for and acknowledge your donation.

When you are finished filling out your form, tear off the pink copy for your records, put the original in the envelope provided, and hand it back to you host.

It's important that we have all of the forms returned before you leave. We promise that your information will be kept confidential.

Thank you for being a part of improving the lives of people with disabilities in our community.

Your generosity makes it possible for The Arc -- through advocacy, training, outreach, community-building, and policy change – to build a community that truly welcomes and values all people.

That's a cause I believe in and want to support. I hope you will too!