

Our Mission & Vision

Our mission is to advocate for the right of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to be regarded as valued citizens with the same entitlements as non-disabled individuals, including the right to lifelong opportunities for personal growth and full participation in the community.

NEWSFLASH!

Lawson's Finest Liquids Sunshine Fund Awarded to ARC Rutland Area



ARC was honored to have been chosen to be the partner "On Tap" Sunshine Fund award recipient at **Lawson's Finest Liquids Taproom** during December 1 - 15, 2025. During that time, 100% of the donations received from Taproom guests were allocated to ARC Rutland Area.

In January, the staff of Lawson's Finest, presented ARC with a check for \$8,323.83! We are beyond grateful for this incredible support.

A huge thank you to Lawson's Finest Liquids and to everyone who donated at their Taproom!

Member Happenings...

ARC 2025 Annual Membership Meeting & Holiday Dinner Dance



We had a wonderful time at our 2025 ARC Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Dinner Dance on Sunday, December 14th, at the Rutland Elks Lodge #345. We enjoyed a delicious pasta meal followed by a wonderful dessert. Santa and his reindeer passed out gifts to ARC members and enthusiastic dancing followed.



Exec. Dir., Diane Drake, reported on ARC's 2025 financials and new developments including the hiring of a Program Director, Tia Poalino, and the offering of six life skills courses this spring.

Jordan Jankus, Melissa Stevens, Jess Corey, Stephanie Lovelette, Terry Stevens, Bobby Poquette, Stacy Shields, Aaron Lethbridge, and Jeanne Bradley all received certificates of appreciation for their volunteer work at ARC this year.



The membership approved the 2026 Board officers: Melissa Stevens as President, Tim Wing as Treasurer, and Jennifer McNeil as Secretary, along with John Wing and Loren Roth as Board members.

Special Valued Partner Certificates were awarded to the Rutland Elks Lodge #345 and The Bus. ARC Board and staff extend our sincere appreciation to Rutland Elks Lodge #345 for hosting this event and providing the meal. We also want to thank all those who helped at the dance and appreciate the great dance photos that were shared us.

Valentine Dance



ARC's 2026 Valentine's Dance was held on Sunday, February 8th at the Rutland Elks Lodge #345. The Elks provided a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, macaroni salad, and chips. Cake and dancing followed. Again, thank you to the Elks for their generous support. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted at the dance and to all who braved the frigid cold weather to attend.

SABE-R & AKtion Club Activities

2025 GMSA Mini Conference *Know Your Rights! Speak Up!*

Some ARC members and staff attended this GMSA Mini Conference in Manchester, VT on Tuesday, November 18th. The conference reviewed 12 rights of those living in a home-share or in housing run by an agency. All enjoyed the conference.



The SABE-R group is now preparing to present their stories at Disability Advocacy Days at the VT State House on February 11th and March 11th and at the Fair Haven Police Dept. on March 24th at 5:30 PM.

ARC AKtion Club and SABE-R Group Give Back to the Community



ARC's AKtion Club and SABE-R group were pleased to give back to the community by donating \$250.00 to the **Rutland Boys and Girls Club** and \$250.00 to the **Rutland Humane Society** in December.

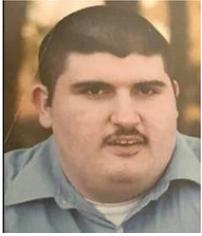
The groups worked hard to raise this money through various fundraisers throughout the year - a car wash, an art show and sale, and making sun catchers and snowflake wreaths to sell.

The AKtion Club made and sold 30 Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix Jars for Valentine's Day as their first fundraiser of the new year!

Life Skills Courses

In December, our ***Movement – Why and How You Need It*** course was successfully completed. **REGISTER NOW** for upcoming Spring courses!

- ***Budgeting – Part 2*** on Thursdays March 5 - April 2nd from 4:30-5:30 pm. - Jen McNeil teaching. This is an advanced course following the first course last spring
- ***Feeling Thru Art*** on Wednesdays, March 4 - April 1st from 4-5:30 pm - Tia teaching
- ***Reading for Joy*** on Wednesdays April 8 - May 6 from 4:00-5:00 pm – Leah teaching
- ***Eating Well for Myself*** on Thursdays, April 9 - May 7 from 3:00-5:00 pm - Diane teaching
- ***Holistic Health*** on Thursdays May 14 - June 11 from 4:30-5:30 pm – Lisa Lynch teaching
- Potential for a **Dance** course – Wednesdays May 13 – June 10 from 4:00-5:00 pm



In Remembrance

We were deeply saddened by the passing of ARC member Paul Brown Jr. on November 13, 2025. Paul was an active member of our SABE-R group and Aktion Club and attended many of our social events. He will be greatly missed by the entire ARC community.

ARC Rutland Area

**Event Calendar
MARCH – APRIL 2026**

March 2026 is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Tues. March 3	VT City/Town Election Day <i>Please Vote YES in support of ARC Rutland Area Funding</i>		
Wednesdays March 4,11,18, 25	3:00 – 4:30 PM	Feeling Through Art (Pre-Registration Required)	ARC Office
Thursdays March 5,12,19,26	4:30 – 5:30 PM	Budgeting- Part 2 (Pre-Registration Required)	ARC Office
Tues. Mach 10	6:00 – 8:00 PM	SABE-R & Aktion Club Meetings	ARC Office
Wed. March 11	All-Day	Disability Advocacy Day	VT State House Montpelier
Tues. March 24	5:30 PM	SABE-R Disability Advocacy Clinic	Fair Haven Police Dept.
Wed. March 25	6:00 – 7:30 PM	ARC Board Meeting	ARC Office
APRIL 2026			
Wed. April 1	3:00 – 4:30 PM	Feeling Through Art (Pre-Registration Required)	ARC Office
Thurs. April 2	4:30 – 5:30 PM	Budgeting- Part 2 (Pre-Registration Required)	ARC Office
Wednesdays April 8, 15, 22, 29	4:00 – 5:00 PM	Reading for Joy (Pre-Registration Required)	ARC Office
Thursdays April 9, 16, 23, 30	3:00 – 5:00 PM	Eating Well for Myself (Pre-Registration Required)	ARC Office
Tues, April 14	6:00 – 8:00 PM	SABE-R & Aktion Club Meetings	ARC Office
Wed. April 22	6:00 – 7:30 PM	ARC Board Meeting	ARC Office



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Here are some ways you can support ARC Rutland Area!

- ***Become a Member today! – Join our **Aktion Club** and **SABE-R Self-Advocacy group!*****
- ***Hit the donation button on our website at www.arcrutlandarea.org***
- ***Patronize our Sponsors and thank them for helping ARC Rutland Area!***
- ***Volunteer your time to support our activities.***

There are so many more ways that you can help us! Please reach out to:

Diane Drake
802-775-1370
execdirector@arcrutlandarea.org

ARC Rutland Area is a 501(c)3 charitable organization