

A HISTORY OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Arc of Indiana was established in 1956 by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who joined together to build a better and more accepting world for their children. The Arc of Shelby County was established in 1966 by local parents and professionals seeking to obtain a public school education for their children. Some parents also wanted their adult children to have employment or adult day services.

In 1969, the Indiana State legislature passed a law requiring a free public school education for all children. Children living with a disability could no longer be excluded. Unfortunately, it was not until 1973 that sufficient funding was approved to actually begin special education services.

In 1972, The Arc of Shelby County applied for, and was approved for, a federal grant in the amount of \$15,000. This grant was used to hire the first executive director of Handicapped, Inc. It was a small sheltered workshop and served about 10 developmentally disabled adults. In 1974, an executive director was hired and the organization name was changed to Shares, Inc. and that name remains today.

The local chapter continued to operate with various programs until 1996. In 2015, a group of interested parents and others, decided to re-start the local chapter in order to help parents needing assistance in raising their special needs children.

WE WORK EVERY DAY TO:

- > Empower families with information and resources to help their children lead full and meaningful lives.
- > Guide and support people living with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) to be self-sufficient and independent to the greatest extent possible.
- > Inspire positive change in public policy and in public attitudes towards those living with a disability or special need.
- > Promote public awareness of the importance of prenatal care.
- > Serve as a voice and advocate for families and their loved ones living with a disability.
- > Help demonstrate that all persons have value and can contribute to making our community a better place to live a more productive life.



The Unique 24-foot, 6-panel Tactile Wall

SENSES

An indoor sensory playground gym

A Service of The Arc



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(317) 398-6708**

Check us out @

www.facebook.com/sensesgym

www.sensesgym.com

THIS FACILITY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE GENEROUS HELP AND SUPPORT OF THE BLUE RIVER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, THE ARC OF SHELBY COUNTY AND THE SHELBYVILLE VC AKTION CLUB.

WHAT IS SENSES?

Senses is an exciting and safe alternative to typical playgrounds. It is designed especially for sensory recreation. It is great for kids who have Autism, are on the Autism Spectrum, have Sensory Processing Disorders, ADHD, Down's syndrome, Asperger's Syndrome, and all children who need and can benefit from sensory recreation. To kids, this is a giant indoor playground, and as they play, they are getting part of their "sensory" diet.



The light room is just one of several play areas to enjoy.

WHY IS IT "PARENT LED?"

Parents and guardians are expected to work with and guide their children in learning how to safely use the equipment, toys and gadgets. Parents will also help their child engage socially with other children while they experience the various sensory equipment. The Arc volunteers will make every effort to seek input and guidance from professionals in the field and the special education professionals in the local public school system, but parents must play the lead role in working with their children.



The 24-foot tactile wall is a major feature of the gym.

WHO CAN COME TO PLAY?

Senses is open to all children ages 1 to 6. The gym is very beneficial to all children but is especially good for those who have special needs. Senses is a valuable tool for those currently receiving therapy but also those who just need a fun and great place to play, learn and grow. All children will enjoy, and benefit from, what the gym has to offer.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Thanks to a grant from the Blue River Community Foundation, The Arc of Shelby County and the Shelbyville VC Aktion Club we are able to offer sessions in the gym at only a modest per-session fee. The small charge will help pay for the rent, replacement of current equipment and help us keep the gym operating with current and new items well into the future. If a family is unable to pay a partial or full fee, we will work to find a way to help. The gym will sometimes offer "open gym" times that do not require advanced reservations.



The "bean box" seems to attract most children!

HOW CAN MY CHILD JOIN?

Simply call one of the phone numbers on the front of this brochure for a reservation or send an email to collins.don@comcast.net or hforville@gmail.com. You may also drop us a message on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sensesgym. During your first session we will ask that you complete the enrollment forms. That's it. Remember, this gym is beneficial to all children but especially helpful to kids with a disability.



The "handkerchief chute" is also a big favorite!

Reservations may be made (in advance) to use the gym for small-group birthday or similar event parties.