



ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

The Arc Serving Boulder & Broomfield Counties

Current board members talk about why they serve on the ACL Board of Directors

I want to stand up not just for my community, but with them.

I serve on the ACL Board to help people. I want to help grow an important and unique community, one that makes the world a better place; a community based in empathy, understanding, compassion, and love. I want to stand up not just for my community, but with them. Being a person with disabilities myself, my individual, nuanced experience is an important viewpoint that adds to the board's diversity. I try to use my training as a poet to best speak out in a way that is concrete and honest. The inclusion of my story helps fulfill part of the ACL's mission of meaningful representation of a population whose history has been largely marked by marginalization. My connections with other board members expand my own understanding of the spectrum of others' experience, which is essential to my value and enrichment as a board member and as a person.

Lindsey Anderson

...because of the focus on social justice and equity.

ACL's vision and mission compels me to contribute to the organization because of the focus on social justice and equity. The compassionate commitment that Ailsa and the staff exudes on behalf of our IDD community continues to amaze me. Even the pandemic does not stop them from providing significant support and connection to the folks they serve.

For 25 years (1/4 century) I worked for DDC/Imagine! in a variety of roles. ACL consistently emphasizes the person centered advocacy that we envisioned during my time serving our community.

I enjoy collaborating with the other members of the Board of Directors because each one is dedicated to the ACL vision and mission and brings a unique perspective and skill set to support this outstanding organization. Our meetings are meaningful and our camaraderie is sincere. I look forward to helping nurture ACL's strong community partnerships and public policy influence.

Juli MacKenzie

...the depth of expertise of all our employees continues to amaze me on a regular basis.

I recently returned to volunteer with the ACL board having previously served from 1997-2009. I suppose I "found my way back" to the ACL from my work on the Arc of Colorado board, over the years it made perfect sense to just re-join the ACL as their representative. Coming back, I'm so happy to see some of the incredible staff are still with us, the depth of expertise of all our employees continues to amaze me on a regular basis. At the end of the day, one of the most deeply satisfying things for me is to be a contributor to such an immensely worthwhile organization, and have a voice in planning for the future. It's a future which will very likely require strong and focused advocacy just to maintain current service levels. Simply put, we do this for the people who rely on us to every day to make their lives better.

Ben Rhodes

I saw my daughter in a whole new way.

When our daughter, Erin, was born and we realized that she was not going to be "normal", I went through sadness, anger, grief, etc. Finding the ACL and connecting with many of the visionary thinkers and dreamers about the way it could be, I saw my daughter in a whole new way. I connected with other parents and learned about inclusion, Circle of Friends and saw the impact and gifts that Erin had, not just for me, but also those around her. I saw how she made our community a better place.

I went to work for the ACL and later joined the Board of Directors because I want to make sure that others have the opportunity to learn the same lessons I did and that together we can create a world that welcomes and values the participation of ALL its members.

The ACL is currently recruiting new board members and we are hoping to find parents of young children with IDD, siblings and self advocates.

Cynda Collins Arsenault

This is even more important to me because as a Latina woman...

I am a mother of an adult son with developmental disabilities. I serve on the ACL board of directors because the board plays a very important role in an organization that has a mission statement that promotes attitudes, practices, programs, and policies which enable all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities along with their families/guardians to be included and become an integral part of community life. This is even more important to me because as a Latina woman, I am very proud of ACL's Caminando Juntos and the outreach that has been accomplished to Latino families by having a strong understanding of cultural values. Caminando Juntos has taught Latino families leadership, community involvement, and helped them create a very strong network. I am proud of all the individuals and families who have found their voices."

Angie Staiger

Esto es aún más importante para mí porque, como mujer Latina...

Soy madre de un hijo adulto con discapacidades del desarrollo. Soy miembro de la junta directiva de ACL porque la junta juega un papel muy importante en una organización que tiene una declaración de misión que promueve actitudes, prácticas, programas y políticas que permiten que todas las personas con discapacidades intelectuales y del desarrollo, junto con sus familias / tutores, sean incluidas y se conviertan en una parte integral de la vida comunitaria. Esto es aún más importante para mí porque, como mujer latina, soy muy orgulloso de Caminando Juntos de ACL del alcance que se ha logrado con las familias latinas al tener una sólida comprensión de los valores culturales. Caminando Juntos ha enseñado a las familias latinas liderazgo, participación comunitaria y les ha ayudado a crear una red muy sólida. Estoy orgulloso de todas las personas y familias que han encontrado sus voces."

Angie Staiger