

Board Member Spotlight

Our board of directors actively supports the day-to-day work of The Arc of South Carolina, establishing the long-term vision and stability of the organization. They are enthusiastic and passionate ambassadors, always eager to invite folks to know more about our work in the community and public policy. They bring their expertise and engagement to the table and are wonderful co-pilots in our mission to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. We are very grateful for our amazing board of directors! We'd like to put a spotlight on our board members and highlight the great work they are doing.

Meet **Dave Moen**. Dave grew up in Montreal Quebec. He is child 4 of 5 to his parents, John from Decorah, Iowa, and Margaret from Wisbech, England. They were all raised to be free thinkers and to learn all they could about everything. His oldest sister, Doreen, is a Jazz singer in Canada and was hired to record the official version of their national anthem when it was made bi-lingual in the late 80s. They are a very musical family. Dave was a music major in College. He attended Humber College in Toronto as a performance major. He wasn't able to finish because of an illness.

After that, Dave spent many years working in the hospitality industry from the bottom to the top, in every role. This is what brought him to the United States. He managed a few resorts in Myrtle Beach for many years before turning to his real passion, computers, and networking. To this day, he works at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as a Systems Administrator.

Dave is a single parent, having raised his kids alone since his youngest was 8 months old. They are now 19 and 23 and are his pride and joy. This year, his oldest daughter made him a grandfather for the first time, a role he embraces to its fullest.



We asked Dave a few questions and we'd like to share his responses with you.

What prompted you to serve as a board member at The Arc of South Carolina?

I had met and worked with the current director at a previous event and we clicked immediately and became quick friends. We then planned and worked several events together, so when the opportunity to serve on the Board for The Arc of South Carolina came up, I was all in for that. I had learned what The Arc was really about and fell in love with the organization.

What is The Arc of South Carolina doing that you are most excited about?

I particularly love the advocacy side it's an area I find myself drawn to. With all the families that are already struggling, just knowing there is someone in their corner guiding and helping them, how can you not appreciate that? It's what I would do. I also love their approach to developing programs to address needs. These are some amazing people and I am humbled to serve with them.

What experience do you have related to our mission?

Over 14 years ago, God led me to serving in my church. Where I was placed changed my life forever. We had a vision to help families with special needs be able to attend church. To do that, we needed a special team to step into that position. The leader of that program had recently left and they asked me to fill that role. As my parents instructed from birth, I then learned all I could about this environment and community so I could serve them the best I could. We then took the program its next steps and created our version of Joy Prom - a prom for those with a special need, a night to forget for one night and just have fun. That event grew from 50 in the first year to almost 1100 by the 8th year, with people attending from all over the country. It's been an amazing experience.

From that grew our Parents' Night Out Program. This allows us to meet the families where they are and give them a well-deserved night off. This has become my heart's desire to serve in this manner. I've come to love this population and can't imagine not being with them. I am also an IT professional and by nature a master at planning and organizing, so this all just seemed to fit.

What do you want your legacy to be?

This is a hard question. I have never served or helped in order to get any thanks or accolades from it. In essence, I saw a need and did something about it. So, if I had to put my finger on it, I would say I loved people genuinely, and I really do. Everyone has value. I love hearing what makes someone happy or their passions about things. It's never been about me.

What do you like most about being a board member?

I get to work with some amazing people who are all so genuine. In the chaos of the day, we get together and try to make a difference and I think we have all grown through the process. I've come to look forward to our meetings because it matters. The Arc staff are nothing short of amazing, seeing how they worked through the pandemic like warriors and got the job done. I am honored to know them. Absolutely amazing people.