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Arc Baton Rouge purchases South Baton Rouge property for program expansion

Romig confirmed to lead as new Executive Director

BATON ROUGE, LA – May 1, 2019 – Arc Baton Rouge, a service provider for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has purchased property located at 12616 Old Jefferson Highway near Airline Highway. Formerly Praise Family Church, the 12,000 square foot facility will serve as new headquarters for administrative and program staff, and include a new day program serving persons with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other similar conditions, ages 16 and up.

The announcement was made recently by David Barber, Board President. “The timing is right for us to bring staff and services together into one facility, expand programming and become more visible and accessible to the community,” he commented.

Barber also announced that the Board of Directors confirmed Susanne Romig as new Executive Director at the March 2019 meeting. She had served 4 years as the organization’s Director of Community Relations and Development, and was promoted to Interim Executive Director when Barry Meyer retired in May of 2018.

“Known as the Disabilities Resource for family services since 1954, we are bringing supports and opportunities closer to home for all ages and diagnoses in and around South Baton Rouge,” Romig explained. Currently located at 1984 Wooddale Boulevard, administrative offices and staff from Arc’s community-based programs will operate from this new location: Early Intervention & Children’s Services, School to Community Transition, Supported Employment, In-Home Services and Inclusive Recreation.

A new daytime program at Jefferson Highway site will replace operations of the large facility on Prescott Road known as Metro Enterprises, which has been closed since it flooded in August 2016. Many of those clients were relocated to the Dallas Drive location, which currently supports 77 adults with day habilitation and group employment opportunities. The Arc will continue to operate this facility which has served clients primarily from Mid-City and North Baton Rouge for over 55 years.
A variety of daytime activities will take place in 6,000 SF of the new South Baton Rouge space. “We are creating new opportunities to learn, create, explore and socialize for a growing population of young adults with special needs,” Mrs. Romig added. Participants can continue academics where they left off in high school, take part in transition and job skills training, explore hands-on culinary, arts and makers’ projects and attend inclusive supervised outings in the community. Individual job placement and supported group employment will also be available for participants who wish to work part-time or pursue a career.

All persons are eligible to apply for the program on a full or part-time basis, including waiver and private pay clients. Families new to the Medicaid-funded waiver system, or who have questions about the process, can contact Mara England weekdays at 225-923-3852, or email info@arcbatonrouge.org.

Enrollment for the new Daytime/Employment program will begin Monday June 17. Opening of the new facility and access to all Arc programs is planned for early August 2019.

On Wednesday, May 22, an Open House will be held from 9 am until 2 pm, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Reception of Arc Baton Rouge. The Building Renovation Campaign will be the highlight of the event, and the public is invited to tour the facility, inquire about upcoming programs and discover ways their personal and financial contributions can help complete the project and guarantee the anticipated August opening.

For more information on any of the services provided by Arc Baton Rouge call 225-927-0855 Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm, or email info@arcbatonrouge.org. Visit website at www.arcbatonrouge.org.

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The Arc was founded in 1954 and is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Arc Baton Rouge is one of 22 Louisiana chapters, and serves East Baton Rouge and 7 surrounding parishes.