

Press Release Press Release Press Release
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***Some of Austin’s Finest Executives from Corporate America and
Central Texas’ Nonprofits Are Among New Board Members at
The Arc of the Capital Area***

Austin, TX — The Arc of the Capital Area is pleased to welcome four new Board Members boasting impressive credentials from area corporations and nonprofit organizations: Korina Delapena, Ryan Jacob, Yael Lawson, and Patrick Poljan.



KORINA DELAPENA earned her BA degree in Arts/Television/Film/Public Relations from Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, and Associates degrees in Journalism and Digital Media. She worked for multiple television stations, IM projects, and media campaigns early in her career. Korina worked in a variety of production management roles before transitioning over to become a Real Estate broker where she focused on helping others. After the birth of her second daughter Cati, who was born with Down Syndrome, her desire to always help others turned into what became a life advocacy project. At the age of six, her daughter Cati lost her life due to drowning, and Kori has transformed the tragedy to advocacy to focus on helping other families by advocating for changes through Texas Legislature. Through her nonprofit, Live Like Cati, she will continue to advocate for Texas childrens’ lives and strive to educate others about the need for inclusion, focusing her efforts with love. She currently lives in the Texas hill country with her beautiful daughter Cairi and supporting husband John. When asked

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why she wanted to be involved with The Arc of the Capital Area, Korina replied "When my daughter was born with Down Syndrome in 2012, I knew it would be my lifelong mission to empower her to succeed and be treated equally as her peers. As she is not here physically, I have made it my life mission to focus and advocate for others as I did for her. There is a fire in my belly that I cannot explain. It ignites every day as I advocate some way for another adult or child with an intellectual or developmental delay. I would like to bridge the gap between parents who have young children and adults who have broken the barriers. I would like to further that mission by connecting the two by educating parents about the endless possibilities their children can have. By doing so, I believe we can gain additional support from the community of young parents and work in partnership to open doors and opportunities for employment and awareness of these possibilities."



RYAN JACOB is the Chief Executive Officer for CAE, a global software and information-driven trading firm addressing the semiconductor market. Additionally, Ryan is a chairman of Jacob Family Holdings and serves as a director for numerous private companies. Prior to CAE, Ryan worked in venture capital and private equity at Summit Partners, Endeavour Capital and Celerity Partners. He's a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles. Throughout his career, Ryan has been focused on investing in and helping to grow private companies and conveying those beneficial practices to nonprofit organizations. When asked why he wanted to be involved with The Arc of the Capital Area, Ryan replied "I have always been engaged in philanthropy, but it wasn't until my son Grayson was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome that I became more involved with The Arc of the Capital Area. Since then, I have strengthened my involvement in service-based and nonprofit organizations. I have made advocating for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals and their families a primary philanthropic focus. I appreciate the work that The Arc of the Capital Area has accomplished thus far by providing resources for intellectual and disabled individuals to live more independently. I look forward to contributing to the mission of providing new resources and independence for these individuals and their families."

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Yael Lawson is currently the Chief Operations Officer at Workforce Solutions Capital Area, but she started on the front lines serving clients directly and has been with the organization for 20 years. She considers it a privilege to be able to work for an organization that changes peoples' lives by providing them tools to further their careers. When asked why she wanted to be involved with The Arc of the Capital Area, Yael replied "My work has always involved helping the community and people in some way. I have friends and family members that have intellectual and developmental disabilities, and I love that there is an organization to serve people and families in creative ways."



PATRICK POLJAN is a Finance and Operations Expert with extensive senior executive experience at Dell Technologies and GE. He served as Executive Sponsor for Dell's neurodiversity hiring program and TrueAbility ERG, supporting team members and families impacted by special needs/disability. He is now onto his next chapter which includes working with employers and community partners to further employment opportunities and support for neurodiverse individuals and advocating for further disability inclusion in the workplace. Being personally impacted with a son with autism, he knows that there are tremendous opportunities to build awareness, access to resources, foster an inclusive culture, and create more opportunities to help people achieve their full potential. As part of this, he was Executive Sponsor for Dell's Neurodiversity (Autism) hiring program and continues to partner

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with Dell and other employers on their neurodiversity and broader disability inclusion efforts. Patrick was born in Michigan, and studied in Boston and New York City. He is a husband and father of three great kids, lover of good food, wine, golf, family adventures, and college football. When asked why he wanted to be involved with The Arc of the Capital Area, Patrick replied "The Arc has been an important community partner for Central Texas including Dell Technologies. They have a strong mission and a terrific team. I have met and employed several talented individuals who have utilized The Arc's services. I see significant further opportunity to expand and grow services and support for many more individuals and to partner with the growing number of employers in the Austin area and beyond that value a diverse and inclusive workforce."

Founded in 1949, The Arc of the Capital Area is one of Austin's oldest operating nonprofits and empowers Central Texans with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and their families through compassionate case management and innovative programs. Examples of I/DD include Autism, Spina Bifida, seizure disorder, Cerebral Palsy, learning disabilities, and Down Syndrome. The Arc connects individuals and families to education, work, recreation, and lifelong services so they may achieve lives of joy, dignity and independence. Currently The Arc of the Capital Area serves more than 1,000 children and adults with I/DD and their families in 17 counties throughout Central Texas.

The Arc of the Capital Area is currently selling raffle tickets for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the winner and seven guests to enjoy a weekend getaway from Austin to anywhere in the lower 48 states via luxury private plane. Tickets are \$100 each, and only 2,500 are being sold. The drawing will take place on Friday, June 25, 2021 at 12:00pm (Noon) CST and announced via social media. For more information, visit www.arcaustin.org/raffle.

For information about The Arc's programs and services, to make a tax-deductible contribution, or for volunteer opportunities, please call (512) 476-7044 or visit www.arcaustin.org.

Website: <https://www.arcaustin.org>

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Editor's Note: The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.

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