



*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release, Please – February 22, 2022**

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## ***The Arc of the Capital Area and Divine Canines Host "BARK FOR THE ARC" Art Show on March 2, 2022***

**Austin, TX** — The Arc of the Capital Area is once again joining forces with its dog therapy partner, Divine Canines, to host [Bark for The Arc](#), an art show featuring original pet-inspired art created by local artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Artwork sales will benefit the student artists, as well as programs and services provided by The Arc of the Capital Area to Central Texans with disabilities. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to Divine Canines to help them continue free dog therapy services to tens of thousands of people in need around Central Texas, including the clients of The Arc of the Capital Area. You can browse and purchase merchandise and artwork (including custom commissioned portraits of our furry friends!) at [Hopsquad Brewing Co.](#), 2307 Kramer Ln, Austin, TX 78758 on March 2 from 5:00pm-8:00pm (CST). Adding to the festivities of the evening, Hopsquad will be offering \$1 beers paired with a specialty pizza, and proceeds will go to The Arc. This event also will kick-off The Arc's participation in Amplify Austin Day, the city's 24-hour online fundraiser for 700 of Austin's favorite nonprofit organizations. Donations to Amplify Austin can be made at Bark for The Arc.

COVID-19 has disrupted social activities for everyone, but fear and anxiety are heightened in people who experience I/DD. Behavioral issues are exacerbated by anxiety, and parents have seen their loved ones revert to self-harmful behaviors not seen in years. Proving nimble and adaptable, within one week's time from sudden closure of The Arc's physical offices in March 2020, its dedicated staff developed, implemented, and launched vital services virtually to its clients through inclusive health, adult education curriculum, and case management. Partnering with Dell Technologies, The Arc distributed laptops to its clients to access health and education programming, support, and case management from the safety of their own space, combating social isolation and unhealthy coping. While The Arc's art studio has reopened, virtual classes continue to be offered to those wishing to participate online, and satellite locations are being opened to expand the organization's reach to those in need.

Some of the artwork featured in **Bark for the Arc**:

**Bark For The Arc**



Bad to the Bone by Gene H.



Happy Dog by Allen E.



Watercolor Dog by Glenn N.



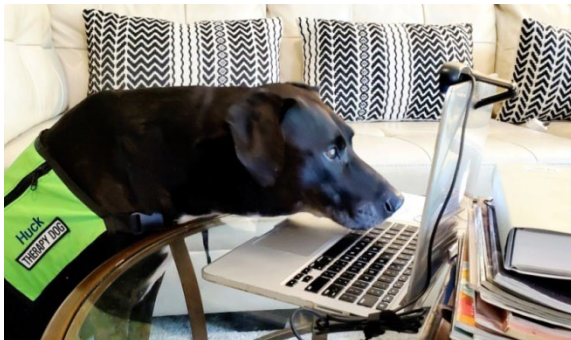
Hound Dog by Henry M.



Astronaut Dog by Glenn N.



Shy Guy by Cindy A.





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### **More About The Arc of the Capital Area**

The Arc of the Capital Area is one of Austin’s oldest operating nonprofits. The Arc of the Capital Area was founded in 1949 and, for more than 70 years, has empowered Central Texans with intellectual and 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. We connect individuals and families to education, work, recreation, and lifelong services so they achieve lives of joy, dignity and independence. Currently The Arc of the Capital Area serves over 1,000 children and adults with I/DD and their families in 17 counties throughout Central Texas.

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

Hashtag: #ArcAustin

FaceBook: @thearcofthecapitalarea

Instagram: @thearcaustin

Twitter: @thearcofthecap

LinkedIn: thearcofthecapitalarea

***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.***

### **More About Divine Canines**

Divine Canines was formed in 2004 by a group of dog lovers who wanted to share the unconditional love of dogs with people in special needs facilities in Central Texas. They began with five dog-and-handler teams, one large client – the Austin State Hospital – and a professional dog trainer who generously donated his time. Founded on the belief that every dog can be a source of healing and motivation, their model is based on two principles: there exists a powerful bond between humans and their dogs; and volunteers are dog enthusiasts who care deeply about their community and want to share the gifts of joy and unconditional love their dogs so freely give. Divine Canines now has approximately 110 active dog-handler teams who visit more than 120 facilities and thousands of children, adults and elderly persons on a regular basis.

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

FaceBook: @DivineCaninesTexas

Instagram: @BarksforBeer

Twitter: @divinecanines

LinkedIn: divine-canines