

## ADVOCACY AND RESOURCES

### **Arc Kent County**

[www.arckent.org](http://www.arckent.org) - 616-459-3339

The Arc Kent County advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities. They strive to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire community and influence public policy. Services include: Special education law, representative payee, advocacy, medicaid application assistance info and referral to community resources, educational training on topics of relevance, community participation initiative.

### **Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired**

<https://www.abvimichigan.org> - 616-458-1187

ABVI provides all types of Vision Rehabilitation training and services in west Michigan. ABVI has two programs that work directly with students age 14 and above: STEPS and Summer in the City.

### **Autism Society of Kent County**

<http://www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org>

Autism Support of Kent County, Inc. (ASK) is a non-profit organization of parents, school staff, and others who actively seek to support and advocate for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

### **Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services**

<http://www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org> - 616-732-7358

A full-service agency for the Deaf and hard of hearing communities in West Michigan, they fill 3,000+ interpreter assignments annually, and provide further services through American Sign Language classes, Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity training, equipment assistance and advocacy, and a children's educational and social skills program in West Michigan

### **Disability Advocates of Kent County**

[www.disabilityadvocates.us](http://www.disabilityadvocates.us) 616-949-1100

The mission of Disability Advocates of Kent County is to work alongside people with disabilities as they seek to lead self-directed lives and to advocate for accessible and welcoming communities.

- Youth Transition Services- Provides one on one peer mentoring and facilitates workgroups covering Pre-employment skills, Independent living skills, and Self-advocacy skills.
- Family Support Services- Assist, guide and empower families and persons with developmental disabilities in regards to navigating resources and government agencies.
- Information and Referral Services- Provides information and resources spanning a wide variety of disability related issues.

### **Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWN)**

[www.dsawm.org](http://www.dsawm.org) - 616-956-3488

We are a support, advocacy and resource group for persons with Down syndrome, their families, and friends. The DSAWM provides recreational and therapeutic programming, financial assistance, support groups, educational workshops, and more.

### **Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan**

<http://ldaofmichigan.org>

Mission is to enhance the quality of life for all individuals with learning disabilities and their families through advocacy, education, training, service and support of research.

### **National Stuttering Association (NSA) – Local Chapter**

<http://www.westutter.org/find-nsa-meeting-near/michigan/> - 616-481-6569

The NSA provides support, friendship, and information to the stuttering community, instilling the sense of self-worth so often missing in the lives of those who battle this disorder. Nationwide NSA provides information about stuttering, increases public awareness of stuttering, serves as a support and advocacy group, and is a referral organization for speech therapy sources throughout the United States.