



## **The Arc's President and CEO Recognized as a Trailblazer**

**Riviera Beach, Fla. (October 5, 2020)** – Taking a chance takes courage. It can be scary and lonely as you wait for people to catch up to your vision. Kimberly McCarten has been there. As the President & CEO of The Arc of Palm Beach County, McCarten knows that leadership involves risk.

McCarten's willingness to try new ideas, challenge the status quo, and inspire others led the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County to select her as a finalist for the 25th Annual Giraffe Awards. The honor is given to local women who "stick their necks out" to make a difference in the community.

"We believe all humans desire the same things – to feel useful, to be accepted, and to be included. So, I began challenging our team to ask different questions and find new ways to go above and beyond for our clients. Our team's innovative solutions continue to build confidence, create friendships, teach job skills, and promote independence," said McCarten. "Witnessing people achieve things they never thought possible is an incredible experience and an honor."

McCarten has served as President & CEO of The Arc of Palm Beach County since October 2014. She leads a team of more than 170 people with the goal of empowering, engaging, and enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Under her guidance, The Arc has expanded its programs, improved client outcomes, and strengthened community and donor relationships. In 2019, The Arc received 11 awards, including a national nod for creating an innovative student mentor program, and statewide recognition for leadership and service.

"If you are not already an advocate for people with disabilities, you will be after meeting Kimberly McCarten. Her enthusiasm is contagious," said Kate Grangard from The Gehring Group, who nominated McCarten for the Giraffe Awards. "Kimberly has a connection with the clients that is immediately apparent. That connection drives her to create a community where people see each other's abilities, not their disabilities."

The Giraffe Awards honor nominees in five categories: Arts and Culture, Education, Government, Nonprofit/Philanthropy, and Business. The winners will be announced on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at a luncheon at the Kravis Center.

**About The Arc of Palm Beach County**

The Arc is changing the conversation around disabilities by defying definitions, inspiring possibilities, and improving the lives of the people we serve. Since 1958, The Arc has envisioned a community where every person feels welcome, connected, and accepted.

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