



September 19, 2025

Dear ARCH community,

I am writing this letter as the Board President of ARCH, on the occasion of ARCH's 50th anniversary. It is also the 50th anniversary of serving ARCH for Kip Murray, our terrific Executive Director, who is largely responsible for its current success. Kip's sister, Vera Martinez, is our very talented Program Director. Their long and great work for ARCH is a fitting tribute to their mother that founded ARCH, in honor of their disabled sister, now of blessed memory.

As a member of the board, I have had the honor to take part in three very major projects for ARCH. They are purchasing the land under ARCH's facilities, building the ARCHKids wing, and building the Health and Wellness Building, which is now underway. All of these important projects for ARCH were started under the exceptional leadership of Cynthia Bennett, my predecessor and ARCH's long-time Board President. These projects also were made possible by our many generous philanthropy partners, who have provided strong and steady support for ARCH.

To help us with the present construction of the Health and Wellness Building, we have the able assistance of our "three amigos" board members, Frank Rosales, John Szafran, and Paul Kalkbrenner. They all have long experience with construction, and are helping to guide us through this development project. When completed, this building will provide critical space for health and wellness services for ARCH participants, including vital medical and dental screenings.

I was introduced to ARCH by my son Robbie, who got his start as an ARCH participant over 20 years ago at ARCH's satellite location at 40th Street and Bell Road. He was overseen by a new staff member, Derrick Martinez. Both were teenagers, and this was Derrick's first job. More than 20 years later, they are still together at ARCH's main campus. Robbie is still a very happy and enthusiastic ARCH participant, and Derrick is now in charge of the entire ARCHKid's program.

Countless other talented ARCH staff and board members deserve shout-outs as well, as do the great ARCH participants, who all make ARCH such a successful and special place. ARCH is so special, in fact, that it is not unusual for numerous staff, board members and participants to spend several decades each at ARCH.

If you open this time capsule and letter 50 years from now, it is possible you might find Robbie still around, as he would be 87 years old by then. You might also find a few of the current staff, who could tell you firsthand why ARCH was such a wonderful place in 2025. We hope it still is in 2075 and beyond!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Lustiger". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Lustiger" clearly legible.

Richard Lustiger
Board President