

FEATURED

ARC of the Shoals to host open house

By Tom Smith Senior Staff Writer Oct 24, 2018 Updated 10 hrs ago



Mike Stamps is the director at the ARC of the Shoals in Tusumbia. [File/TIMESDAILY]

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What: ARC of the Shoals Open House

When: Thursday, 4-6 p.m.

Where: ARC of the Shoals, 100 Lamar St., Tusumbia, off Old Lee Highway.

TUSCUMBIA — For 60 years, the ARC of the Shoals, which started as Hope Haven, has been providing services to adults with developmental disabilities.

“There have been many changes in the way we offer services since we were founded,” said Mike Stamps, director of the ARC of the Shoals.

He said the ARC of the Shoals provides services to adults with developmental disabilities.



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In 1975, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act established a right for all children to attend public school.

Stamps said when children with disabilities began being involved in the public school system, Hope Haven became an Adult Training Program, serving people 21 and older.

In 1994 Hope Haven was changed to ARC of the Shoals, with a new focus on “people’s abilities not their disabilities.”

The ARC of the Shoals currently serves 74 clients from the school at 100 Lamar Street in Tusculum and 17 homes the ARC oversees.

Stamps said the ARC of the Shoals serves clients in Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties.



Thursday night, the public will get a chance to see and learn more

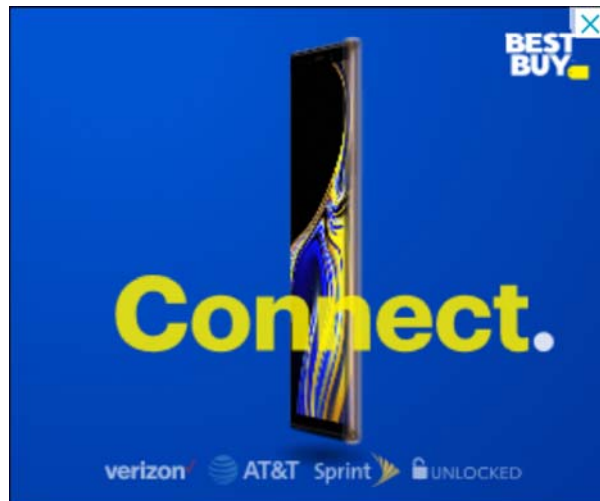
about the ARC of the Shoals as it hosts an open house from 4-6 p.m. at the offices off Old Lee Highway in Tusculumbia on Lamar Street.

“A lot of people remember the old Hope Haven, but they really don’t know what we are all about,” said Marvin Meek, president of the ARC of the Shoals Board of Directors

Meek said the ARC provides a day program that offers training and gives clients a place to go.

“We are an advocate for people with disabilities,” Stamps said.

He said the program offers training and help to get the clients jobs as well as help them develop social skills.



“We do vocational skills and pre-vocational skills,” Stamps said.

“The last year or so the focus from the state is trying to get incorporated back into the community. Get them trained and help them find jobs.”

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Meek, whose son has been involved in the program, said the open house is a chance for the public to “see what we are all about.”

“We still provide a day service and a lot more,” he said.

Tammy McDaniel, director of Community Action of Northwest Alabama, works closely on programs with the ARC of the Shoals, especially its gardening project.

“There is a need for the services provided by the ARC,” McDaniel said. “The ARC of the Shoals is a valuable resource to the clients they serve.”

tom.smith@timesdaily.com or 256-740-5757. Twitter @TD_TomSmith.



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