**SAMPLE BLOG POST**

**SUBJECT: Autism Acceptance is…**

This year, in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month, [The Arc](http://www.thearc.org) [and The Autism Now National Autism Resource & Information Center](http://www.autismnow.org/) invite everyone to tell us what Autism Acceptance is to them. How does the world look to you when people with autism are fully included and embraced for who they are? What progress has society made already, and what still needs to be done? With the CDC declaring that 1 in 68 children may be impacted by autism spectrum disorders (ASD), it’s a fair bet that each one of us knows someone with autism or someone who has a family member or friend with autism. As we continue to advocate with and empower people with ASD, we want to show you what Autism Acceptance means to The Arc.

**Autism Acceptance is**…

*Being able to travel and live life to the fullest* **-** In 2014, The Arc expanded the national initiative, [Wings for Autism®](http://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism), to ten major airports across the country. Programs like [Wings for Autism®](http://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism) provide families with the opportunity to prepare their children for travel across the country, or around the world.

*Having a healthy and active lifestyle -* [The Arc’s HealthMeet](http://www.thearc.org/healthmeet) program aims to reduce the health disparities that occur within the disability community through access to free health screenings and assessments provided by community based medical providers.

*Obtaining and keeping gainful employment-* The Arc and Autism NOW’s TalentScout: Unlocking the Talents of Employees with Autism Spectrum Disorders toolkit was created to not only help employers access the hidden potential of their current employees who have ASDs, but to also help employers adequately recruit, hire, and retain employees with ASDs.

*Advocating for victims with disabilities in the criminal justice system-* Through the [NCCJD](http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD)’s Pathways to Justice training program, first responders, attorneys, and victim’s services providers are able to become better suited to prevent victims, witnesses, or offenders with I/DD from falling through any cracks in the justice system. This year, we are spotlighting NCCDJ with Crime Victim’s Week.

To promote awareness and acceptance, we want to know- what does Autism Acceptance mean to you? Let’s start an open and honest conversation! Follow us on social media at @TheArcUS and use the hashtag #AcceptAutism to generate discussion about autism acceptance, and visit [Autism Now’s blog](http://autismnow.org/blog/) to read the personal stories of people with autism in a series of guest posts during April.