**SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE:**

**HEADLINE:** **Autism Acceptance is…**

**COPY:** This year, in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month, [The Arc](http://www.thearc.org) and The [Autism Now](http://autismnow.org/) National Autism Resource & Information Center 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 changes have been 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, 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.

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 online and on [Autism Now’s blog](http://autismnow.org/blog/), and read the personal stories of people with autism in a series of guest posts during April.

Possible sidebar story for your use: **Amy Goodman**

Amy was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome in her 30’s and decided to enroll in graduate school at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia to pursue a master’s degree in special education with an emphasis in autism. While earning her master’s, she participated in the College Program for students with Asperger syndrome at the Autism Training Center (ATC) at Marshall University.

Amy now works at The Arc of The U.S, as Director of Autism Now and lives in Charles Town, West Virginia. Since having gained employment at The Arc in 2011, she has been able to become more independent by moving out of her parents’ house, buying her own home, paying off her car loan, her school loan, and getting married. She enjoys what she does and in her spare time, likes to square dance, go hiking, and go birding.

You may use Amy’s story, or highlight a person connected to your local chapter.

Check back throughout the month of April as we showcase how autism acceptance is integrated into four national initiatives offered by The Arc: [Wings For Autism®](http://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism), [HealthMeet](http://www.thearc.org/healthmeet), The Arc @ Work & [The Arc’s National Center for Criminal Justice & Disability](http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD).

We want to hear what you think! Online, use the use the hashtags #AcceptAutism, #WingsforAutism, #Healthmeet, #TheArcatWork, and #NCCJD to inspire discussion about the steps we can all take towards autism acceptance.