

empower

REAL PEOPLE, REAL PROGRESS

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The Arc®



SHAPING THE FUTURE

2016 National Convention & International Forum



OCTOBER 27 - 29, 2016 ORLANDO, FLORIDA
SEMINARS • TRAINING • NETWORKING • INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS

AN EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED!

Meet us in Orlando for a global disability event that is sure to inspire. A lineup of thought provoking speakers, awe-inspiring self-advocates, sessions, and more—all taking place in the most magical place on Earth. You'll take away information that will have immediate **impact in your world.**

SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- The Catalyst Awards • Global Self-Advocacy Leadership Summit • Film Festival • Entrepreneur Alley • NCE Silent Auction • Club Inclusion

Featuring the cast of **A & E's BORN THIS WAY**



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



"I greatly value giving back to the community, and it was particularly inspiring to see our chapters embody the spirit and heritage of Dr. King."

It's hard to believe summer is here! Nationally, The Arc has a lot to share about new developments and reports on our work thus far in 2016.

One of my favorite new initiatives of The Arc is our work with The Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that leads the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. I greatly value giving back to the community, and it was particularly inspiring to see our chapters embody the spirit and heritage of Dr. King. I hope you enjoy reading about the work of our chapters through this new grant (p 2), as much as they enjoyed "rolling up their sleeves" and showing what The Arc can do!

As always, the Disability Policy Seminar (DPS) was a rousing success, bringing advocates from across the country to Washington, D.C. to engage about the current events in the intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) community. This year's program was filled with dynamic speakers and timely sessions on topics including voting rights, Medicaid and other federal supports, and how to prepare for your Hill visits. Most importantly, the event gave

advocates the opportunity to network and share best practices.

One young man—Noah Seidel—who embodies what it means to be an advocate is sure to inspire you (p 4). Noah Seidel is a powerhouse when it comes to organizing advocates. In fact, he leads a 250-person self-advocate group in his home state of Washington. Noah's account of his first time attending DPS is the perfect pitch for those who have not attended but are thinking about it. We thank Noah for joining us and look forward hearing more about his accomplishments in the future.

Lastly, I couldn't be more excited for The Arc and Inclusion International's 2016 National Convention & International Forum. While I am thrilled that we will be playing host to the cast of A&E's hit docu-series *Born This Way* (p 4), I most look forward to connecting with many of you in person.

As always, if you need to reach me please do not hesitate to email me at president@thearc.org. ●

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Brown, President

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Real People, Real Progress

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Throughout this publication the term intellectual and developmental disabilities may be replaced with the acronym I/DD.

SPREADING INCLUSION THROUGH SERVICE



“It’s good to be thankful and helping others makes me feel good about myself.”

—Arielle G.,
a volunteer from
The Arc Nature Coast

Service is an integral part of civic life. Through helping others, we strengthen our communities and ourselves. That’s why throughout January and February, 10 chapters nationwide participated in service projects made possible through a grant from The Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that leads the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Chapters partnered with local service organizations to carry out projects in communities, where people with I/DD volunteered alongside people without disabilities.

TARC in Tulsa, Oklahoma had volunteers work with students at a University of Tulsa basketball game to accept and transport canned donations to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Additionally, they packaged and served meals at the Kendall Whittier Elementary School, and conducted a

food drive at the University of Tulsa and the True Blue Neighbors office.

The Arc of the Glades in Belle Glade, Florida had forty volunteers give 385 hours of their time, serve 2,468 meals, and distribute 5,686 bags of food to those in need, in conjunction with The Church of The Harvest and Lighthouse Food Pantry.

The Arc of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia assembled 230 meals for distribution between volunteers and chapter staff. The endeavor was supported by Virginia Delegate Kaye Kory, members of the Virginia General Assembly, and assembly staff.

The Arc of Walton County in DeFuniak Springs, Florida partnered with their local Anchor Club and The Matrix Community Outreach Center to provide food to those in need.

The Arc of the Midlands in Lexington, South Carolina fed nearly 200 people at an event with live music, a basketball scrimmage,

special guest State Representative Chip Huggins, and Indianapolis Colts football player Kelcy Quarles.

Genesee Arc in Batavia, New York conducted food drives at 12 different locations for donations to 200 children at the United Way of Genesee County's Backpack Program.

The Arc of Greater Twin Cities in St. Paul, Minnesota worked with Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank to deliver emergency food aid to at least 180 people in need. Thrift stores operated by the chapter engaged volunteers to collect canned food.

The Arc of Big Bend in Madison, Florida hosted a free lunch for 250 people at a local park. Volunteers from the local Kiwanis club, Aktion Club, local health department, and nursing school hosted free health screenings, fire rescue demonstrations, and performances from a local boys' choir.

The Arc Nature Coast in Brooksville, Florida had volunteers deliver and distribute fresh produce to nearly 300 families at four community food banks.

The Arc of Luzerne County in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania partnered with the Wilkes Barre Kiwanis and Pittston Rotary Club to box food for over 150 low-income seniors at the Commission on Economic Opportunity. Volunteers also served in the kitchen to prepare 800-1000 lunches daily for local low-income children.

This experience was invigorating for everyone involved, particularly the people with I/DD who gave back and participated in making their community a better place. ●



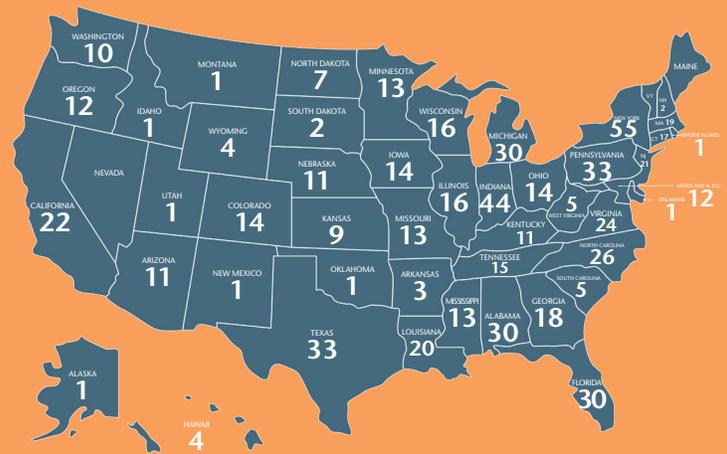
Participants at The Arc of the Glades package food baskets for the hungry.

TOGETHER, WE ACHIEVED

We made remarkable progress and strides towards a brighter future for people with I/DD and their families in 2015. That's largely because of YOU—our donors. Together we are able to empower individuals with I/DD to fully participate in their communities.

Shaping the Nation

The Arc's family impacts your local community and many communities across the nation. Because of your support, nearly 700 chapters around the U.S. serve people with disabilities daily through direct supports, services and advocacy.



Changing Lives

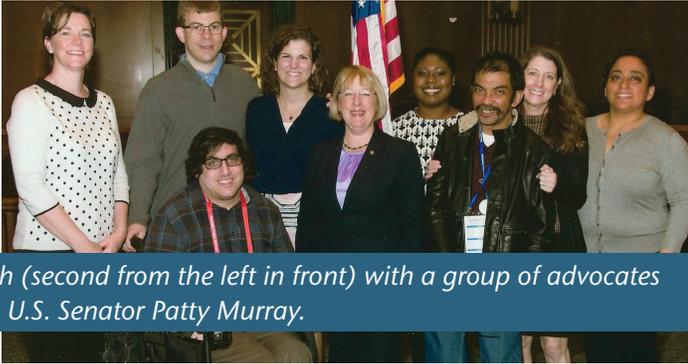
Combined, over 1 million individuals and their families (of the 4.6 million in the U.S.) were impacted through substantive programs and advocacy like Wings for Autism®, The Arc@Work, and Center for Future Planning™ to name a few. The Arc strives to support people over the arc of their lifetime.



There's more to do! Please donate today at thearc.org/donate

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, FROM WASHINGTON STATE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



Noah (second from the left in front) with a group of advocates with U.S. Senator Patty Murray.

At this year's Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C., The Arc was able to help fund the travel of advocates from five chapters of The Arc! One of those advocates, Noah Seidel, from Washington state, attended the event for the first time, connecting with advocates from across the country, and meeting with his federal representatives.

"The Disability Policy Seminar is an opportunity for I/DD advocates from across the country to learn and share beliefs on how to best support our community. People with disabilities need to be active and supported in advocacy because the policies being discussed directly affect our lives and our community. People with disabilities are taking larger leadership roles in the I/DD civil rights movement and the Disability Policy Seminar was a place where many of them could learn about federal issues and how that connects to the work they are doing in their state. While there I was able to connect with people from other states that have passed legislation that I want to work on in Washington. Meeting other advocates at the Seminar was a great experience and helped me create a network of people that I hope to work with for years to come!" said Noah.

Noah is well known in Washington, leading a 250-person self-advocate group that is a powerful force at their state capital. We are glad he could join us, learn from others, and share his expertise with fellow advocates!

This experience was made possible by The Arc's national office to support advocacy efforts at our chapters. Along with Noah from The Arc of Washington, we helped bring advocates, including people with I/DD, parents, and chapter leaders from The Arc of Arizona, The Arc of Nebraska, The Arc of North Dakota, and The Arc of Tennessee. ●

NATIONAL EVENTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE—A GATHERING OF DISABILITY EXPERTS AND ADVOCATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We are thrilled to partner with Inclusion International to host the 2016 National Convention and International Forum in Orlando. Our last collaboration, in 2012, was a huge success, and we expect this year to be no different!

Our theme, "Shaping the Future", gives way to the conversation of how we can, collaboratively, impact the I/DD community globally for good. We share so many struggles and victories with our counterparts in countries around the world. This year's event will give us the unique opportunity share our experiences and find lasting solutions together. We look forward to



The cast of *Born This Way* hanging out on the set of their show.

hearing from experts and advocates, creating lasting partnerships and connections, and, of course, having some fun!

This year, we are excited to host the full cast of A&E's hit docuseries *Born This Way* as our keynote speakers! *Born This Way* follows a group of seven young adults born with Down syndrome along with their family and friends in Southern California. Cameras follow the young men and women of *Born This Way* as they pursue their passions and lifelong dreams, explore friendships, romantic relationships and work, all while defying society's expectations. In their willingness and courage to openly share their lives, through a lens that is not often shown on television, we learn they have high hopes just like anyone else. The series also gives voice to the parents, allowing them to talk about the joy their son or daughter brings to their family, and the challenges they face in helping them live as independently as possible. Attendees will also have the opportunity to mingle with the cast and get autographs at a variety of events. ●

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE: KNOW IT!

Do you know how to register to vote? What should you do if you feel like your right to vote is being violated?

These are important questions. Not only do the answers to these questions affect you—they affect disability community as a whole. Voting enables you to use your power to participate in the democratic process. Join with The Arc from now until the November election in the Your Right to Vote campaign to help people with I/DD, family members, chapters of The Arc, and the public learn about and exercise their right to vote. For additional resources and materials, see organizations like Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN). Also, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission has a voter registration information map, tips for voters with

disabilities, and more. All of these resources are available at thearc.org/vote! Take control of your rights and get educated!

This campaign is made possible by MediSked, which provides software solutions for provider agencies.

The Arc is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, that neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for elected office. As a 501(c)(3) we are prohibited from campaign interventions but are allowed to engage in a wide variety of nonpartisan election related activities including voter registration and education. The materials are intended to encourage civic participation and to provide information to our chapters so that they can engage in educational and related activities. ●

FEDERAL AGENCY COMMITTED TO HIRING, AND PROMOTING, EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

Eighty-five percent of working-age individuals with disabilities are either unemployed or underemployed. Of the 15% that are employed, only half are working in inclusive jobs in the community. Fortunately, new government regulations are focused on changing these grim statistics. A recently proposed rule would require federal agencies to achieve a workforce participation rate of 12% for people with disabilities. One proactive agency, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), is already leading by example, implementing an initiative dedicated to individuals with disabilities working in competitive and inclusive positions. The Arc's employment division, The Arc@Work, has been supporting the FCC with their hiring efforts.

After working seasonal and part-time jobs for years, Keith Coburn was ready for the stability and security that comes with full-time employment. So, he reached out to his local chapter, The Arc of Prince George's County in Maryland, where he was connected through The Arc@Work to an opportunity at the FCC. A year and a half on the job, Keith performs a variety of tasks that range from sorting mail to updating and maintaining the database of licensing sales and transfers. As a problem-solver and a "master of Excel", Keith's responsibilities have grown steadily at the FCC and he is in the process of receiving his second promotion.

The quality of Keith's work and his strong work ethic have made, and continue to make, a huge impression

on all those who have had the opportunity to work with him. When asked to describe Keith, his supervisors, Annette Smith and Lisa Scanlan, expressed nothing but high praise. "Dependable", "great team member", and "great work product"



Keith at his desk at the Federal Communications Commission.

were only some of the ways they described Keith's performance.

"When Keith is assigned work, he always completes his task on time," commented Annette. Lisa summed it up by adding: "He always steps up to the plate. He is the ideal employee." Keith attributes his success to his determination. His advice? "Stick with it. Be flexible and be persistent," said Keith.

The Arc@Work is a social enterprise that supports employers to successfully locate, hire, and support employees with I/DD. To learn more, visit our website at thearc.org/thearcwork or contact Katherine Murphy at Murphy@thearc.org. ●



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You Hold the Key to Independence



Do you have an old or unneeded car, truck, boat or other vehicle taking up space? Give someone with I/DD the key to their independence by donating it to The Arc today. Proceeds benefit your local chapter. We accept any vehicle with a title and arrange free pick up or towing. Plus, your donation is tax-deductible! Call 1.877.ARC.CAR.0 or donate online by visiting thearc.org/donate-my-vehicle.

Achieve with us.®



bbb.org/charity

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance National Charity Seal carries a lot of meaning for both donors and charities. After undergoing a rigorous evaluation by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, The Arc is proud to have received their seal for meeting the Standards for Charity Accountability!

