

empower

REAL PEOPLE, REAL PROGRESS

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The Arc®



A large, white, stylized '2017' with an orange outline, set against a background of palm leaves and a city skyline.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

SAN DIEGO, CA | NOVEMBER 2-4

Once a year The Arc's network comes together in full force—don't miss your chance to join in on the excitement at the premier disability event of the year! Join us in San Diego at our 2017 National Convention for an exciting lineup of speakers, remarkable self-advocates, networking opportunities, and fun evening events!

Special Events Include:

The Catalyst Awards (now open to ALL attendees)

The Catalyst After-Party & Red Carpet

NCE Professional Development Seminar – “Appreciation! Excitement! Enthusiasm! The Engagement Clinic is Open” presented by Acknowledgment Works founder Chris Littlefield

The Arc & Sprout Film Festival - A favorite to Convention attendees

Anchors Away! Opening Event presented by our Local Host Committee

LETTER FROM THE CEO



YOU HAVE POWER – MEDICAID MATTERS

**Peter Berns, CEO,
The Arc**

Since the beginning of this fight to save Medicaid, I've been reminded time and time again of

why The Arc has stood the test of time. It's the power of the people behind every one of our more than 650 chapters across the country. You fought at every turn to stop cuts and caps to Medicaid, just like earlier generations of advocates of The Arc fought against institutionalization, isolation, and discrimination and for better life opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for your efforts to protect Medicaid, and the home and community based supports built up over the years.

No matter what happens in Congress in the coming months, we know this fight isn't over. Just this year, Congress and the Administration have proposed over a trillion dollars in budget cuts to Medicaid. People with disabilities, their family members, friends, and support staff must rise up and educate their elected officials and the general public about why Medicaid matters – how it leads to independence, dignity, and life in the community.

Your stories paint that picture in powerful strokes. It's been incredible to see the outpouring of response to our calls to action to personalize the Medicaid program. In a weekend emergency letter writing campaign, The Arc was honored to collect nearly a thousand personal letters from across the country, and deliver them to your Senators and the Senate leadership. Your ongoing calls, tweets, social media shares, and in person interactions are making a difference. You even got the national media to recognize that the people who rely on Medicaid are a potent force, driving the resistance in this fight.

Whether it's at a rally at the U.S. Capitol, or in the heat of an online advocacy engagement, volume matters. So please encourage your family and friends to join us in this fight. Go to thearc.org/joinourfight to sign up for email updates, or follow us on social media ([facebook.com/thearcus](https://www.facebook.com/thearcus) and [@TheArcUS](https://twitter.com/TheArcUS)) to be a part of this incredible movement.

This is the civil rights fight of our time, and we need your help to save all that The Arc has built over the last six decades – real life opportunities for people with I/DD to live in and be a part of their communities.



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

KEEPING THE PROMISE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: THE ARC@SCHOOL



Check out The Arc's
newest initiative in
special education
[@thearcatschool.org](http://thearcatschool.org)

In 2016, The Arc created **The Arc@School** - a program designed to build the capacity of The Arc's nationwide network of chapters to provide individual advocacy to help students with I/DD and their families navigate the special education system. As one of its first initiatives, **The Arc@School** conducted a study of existing special education advocacy practices, which included an academic literature review on special education advocacy, identification of existing

advocacy training programs, conversations with key special education advocacy stakeholders and outreach to special education advocates in The Arc's chapter network. The report describes the information obtained from this multi-faceted investigation and concludes with comprehensive program recommendations for **The Arc@School**, some of which are already being implemented. ●

The report is available at <http://thearcatschool.org/best-practices/>

SUPPORTING AGING CAREGIVERS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO FUTURE PLANNING

Many of the nearly 900,000 families in the U.S. that include an adult with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) living with aging caregivers are disconnected from the disability community and the disability service system. Barriers—including lack of knowledge, fear, difficulty navigating the disability service system, lack of affordable housing and public transportation, and difficult family dynamics—prevent families from planning for the future. The Arc's Center for Future Planning® is committed to connecting with these families, supporting them to overcome these barriers, and providing them resources to create future plans.

With the generous support of The Retirement Research Foundation, the Center for Future Planning is strengthening the capacity of local communities to support these families to plan. Last year, The Arc was awarded a grant to engage caregivers over the age of 65 who are providing direct support to



an adult son or daughter with I/DD in the future planning process. The Arc trained over 90 human services professionals in Tennessee and North Carolina to conduct outreach to aging caregivers and to support families to plan. These professionals engaged nearly 200 families in the future planning process.

Additional funding will allow the Center to build on this work in Arizona, Washington, and Wisconsin. The Arc will support families to create roadmaps for the future while working closely with state and local chapters of The Arc in these states, the National Council on Aging, and local organizations serving seniors. The Arc will also continue to broadly disseminate information about the importance of future planning and project results on the national level. ●

Can people with I/DD Depend on you?

The world is changing. You can make sure that it changes for the better for people with I/DD.

Medicaid is the main source of funding for over 77% of the supports and services that individuals with I/DD use to live equal and independent lives in our communities. This year with proposed cuts and changes to Medicaid, Social Security, and other important federal programs, we've not only seen the equality and independence of people with I/DD threatened—but also, their very lives.

The Arc has worked tirelessly this year to ensure the rights of those with I/DD are protected. We have rallied our troops, we have advocated both in Washington, D.C. and alongside individuals with I/DD across the country. In fact, through our work we ensure the equality and independence of individuals with I/DD every day.

But, we cannot do this work without dedicated champions like you.



Activists from chapters of The Arc from Virginia at the U.S. Capitol

DONATE TODAY

Because your gift is key to creating the solutions that people with I/DD rely on to reach their fullest potential and live equal and independent lives.

Together, with your support, we are building a better, more equal world for people with I/DD.

THANK YOU.

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

THE ARC OF LANE COUNTY STARTS BUILDING THE ARC PARK ON COMCAST CARES DAY



This past May, The Arc of Lane County in Oregon partnered with their local Comcast NBCUniversal team during Comcast Cares Day, the largest single corporate volunteer day in the country. This year, the chapter focused on an idea from one of its own families, the Dahills – parents Laura and Rob, and their 12-year-old twins, Ethan and Jackson. Ethan has autism and often runs away, leaving Jackson alone while Laura chases Ethan. There are no parks in the area that are fully gated and can provide the boys a safe area to play. Ethan is not alone – there are over 800 children in the area with intellectual and developmental disabilities who would benefit from an enclosed park. Having a gated park in the area could free each of these children, as well as their families, of risks posed by traffic. Thus, the vision of The Arc Park was born.

On April 22, more than 150 Comcast NBCUniversal and community volunteers banded together to build a fence around the site of a future three-acre park that will be available to kids of all abilities. That Saturday was a flurry of nail hammering, paint flying, and garden beds being planted. Comcast NBCUniversal employees, staff from The Arc, and community volunteers put up fences and planted dozens of flowers. But the day's greatest accomplishment was knowing Ethan, Jackson, and countless kids in Eugene, Oregon will soon play safely. In fact, that day may be closer than you think: Comcast NBCUniversal and The Arc are already planning the next big phase of the project, and will be assembling the play structure during Comcast Cares Day 2018. ●



NATIONAL INITIATIVES

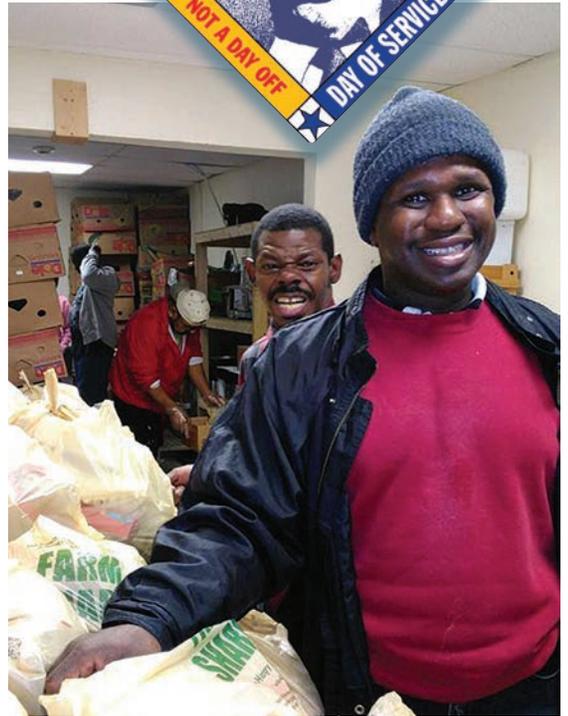
EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SERVICE: MLK DAY 2017

This year, we were delighted to once again engage 10 of our chapters in community service projects across the country for MLK Day of Service. The grant, made possible by The Corporation for National and Community Service, enabled the chapters to empower the individuals they serve, as well as strengthen their local communities and help those in need.

Many perceive people with disabilities as the ones in need of service – but in reality they are often a part of local, state, and national civic engagement. The chapters executed projects related to healthy food access—such as working with food banks, soup kitchens, and canned food drives—in their communities.

To date, the chapters have collectively engaged 331 volunteers, served 4015 hours, and served 4034 people. Many chapters will continue their projects through the completion of the grant period in August 2017.

We would like to thank The Arc of Hanover, The Arc of the Glades, The Arc of North Texas, The Arc of Northeast Pennsylvania, The Arc of Luzerne, TARC, The Arc of the Nature Coast, The Arc of Davidson & Greater Nashville, The Arc of South Carolina, and The Arc of the Tri-Cities for participating in the 2017 Day of Service with us! ●





For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

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This year the
Catalyst Awards
will be **open to
ALL attendees**
at The Arc's National
Convention.

Don't miss your chance to attend
this signature event and hear
from amazing and inspirational
award winners. Learn more at
catalystawards.org. ●



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!

