



ABOUT THE ARC OF GREATER CLEVELAND

The agency was founded in 1962 by a group of parents, frustrated by the lack of support services and quality education available for their children. And while many services are now available for families today, the system is far from perfect. That is where The Arc of Greater Cleveland provides desperately needed assistance. Whether you call The Arc as an advocate, ombudsman, mediator or referral service, The Arc works with and on behalf of families to ensure that their family member with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities receives the services he/she needs to ensure quality of life.

For more than forty years, The Arc of Greater Cleveland has been an independent advocate fighting for the basic needs, safety and rights of children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities by helping families secure support services, financial assistance, housing, employment, healthcare and much more. The Arc is the only independent voice fighting for equal rights and equal access to services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

WHAT THE ARC DOES

- Helps families get the support they need to ensure quality of life for their family member with intellectual and/or developmental disability.
- Helps families navigate the confusing public and private service systems.
- Acts as an ombudsman when families are having issues with service providers.
- Guide individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to become their own advocate.
- Watchdog for any agency or organization which provides services for individuals with special needs.

SERVICES

- **Systems Advocacy** – The Arc works towards achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities. The Arc of Greater Cleveland's Partners in Policymaking® educational program is a leadership-training program designed for adults with disabilities and for parents of young children with disabilities. The program teaches leadership skills, and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other individuals who make the policy decisions about services.
- **Individual Advocacy** – Help families and individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities solve problems, provide information and service linkage. The Arc also manages a few special programs such as the People First Advocacy Group which empowers young adults with intellectual disabilities to be their own advocate.
- **Public Awareness Education** – Seminars and public forums which educate families and inform the community regarding important issues facing families affected by developmental disabilities. One example is the popular Making Choices / Opening Doors session on financial planning and residential options.

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The Arc is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

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