

Our Mission

To advocate with and for all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to promote active citizenship, self-determination and full inclusion.

Key Initiatives

Advocacy for children with disabilities · Advocacy for adults with disabilities
Support for families · Youth Leadership Ability · AmeriCorps Ability! HealthMeet
School to Adult Life Transition

Our Guiding Principles

Integrity and Excellence - we fulfill our mission with integrity and transparency and are committed to quality and excellence in all we do.

Participatory Democracy - we commit to the principle that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and other citizens have meaningful opportunities to inform and guide the direction of The Arc.

Visionary Leadership - we lead by articulating a positive future for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Collaboration - we work with individuals and organizations in a collaborative fashion that promotes effective partnerships.



2350 W. Westmoreland St.
Philadelphia, PA 19140



215.229.4550



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ACHIEVE WITH US.

Key Alliances

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
City of Philadelphia Department of
Behavioral Health
and Intellectual disAbility Services
Coleman Institute
Comcast
Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania
Drexel University
First Presbyterian Church
Fun and Function
Governor's Advisory Committee for People
with Disabilities
Hispanos Unidos Para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE)

Liberty Resources
Mission First
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
PA Assistive Technology Foundation
Philadelphia Foundation
Philadelphia Local Task Force
Philadelphia Special Education Coalition
of Advocates
Public Health Management Corporation
Special Olympics of PA
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
TechOwl
The Arc of Pennsylvania
The Arc US
The School District of Philadelphia/ IU 26

History of The Arc of Philadelphia

Founded in 1948 by parents who sought better services for their children with developmental and other disabilities, The Arc of Philadelphia is one of the first of now more than 700 Arc chapters in the United States. The parents who created The Arc labored tirelessly for the equal rights and human dignity of people with disabilities at a time when institutionalization of newborns with intellectual disabilities was the norm.

For more than 70 years, The Arc of Philadelphia, through its volunteer board, staff and membership, has become a powerful voice in shaping the service landscape for people with disabilities. As an early pioneer, The Arc of Philadelphia advocated for the right to education for school-aged children, the closure of Pennhurst Asylum, and promoted integrated, community and school based services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At every step in the struggle for equal rights, The Arc of Philadelphia has been a vibrant catalyst for change at the local, state and national level. Our relationship building with our state and national legislators is noteworthy and we are seen as a leader regarding disability-related system issues.

The Arc of Philadelphia promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

For more info about The Arc of Philadelphia contact
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The Arc of Philadelphia is a nonprofit corporation qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and operates as part of the *SpArc Philadelphia family of organizations.



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