



Part of a national member-supported movement, The Arc of Atlantic County is a private not-for-profit agency that has been making a positive difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since its founding in 1961.

Our mission is to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities in our community. Through direct services, advocacy, education and prevention activities, we work in partnership with individuals and their families to make choices possible about how and where they live, learn, work and play.

Our team of over 200 full and part-time workers receives the highest quality training covering the essential knowledge, skills, ethical principles and practices necessary for effective direct support. Every staff member is committed to the mission and vision of The Arc of Atlantic County:

Vision: People with developmental disabilities have the opportunities and supports they need to live the lives they choose.

Your Membership Supports These Vital Services & Programs

- RESIDENTIAL LIVING
- VOCATIONAL SERVICES
- FAMILY SUPPORT
- RECREATION PROGRAMS
- CASE MANAGEMENT
- INFORMATION & REFERRAL
- LIFE SKILLS TRAINING
- GROUP COUNSELING
- ADVOCACY
- PREVENTION & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Arc of Atlantic County

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Helping People Live The Lives They Choose

Membership Guide

Learn More at
www.ArcAtlantic.org

Because all people deserve the opportunity for a full life in their community where they can live, learn, work and play alongside each other through all stages of life.

The Arc is the world's largest community based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. With a strong network of members and affiliated chapters, The Arc is able to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire communities; and influence public policy.

Membership begins in your own backyard! The Arc of Atlantic County has been active in your community since 1961, and currently supports over 700 individuals and families who are dealing with the challenges of developmental disabilities.

A small portion of your membership contribution supports advocacy at the national level, and the rest helps to provide quality direct services to individuals and families right here in Atlantic County. Your membership helps to ensure that your neighbors with disabilities have the supports they need to grow, develop and live in the community.

When you support The Arc, you are supporting:

Individuals

The Arc believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have strengths, abilities and inherent value; are equal before the law; and must be treated with dignity and respect. The Arc represents, supports and acts on behalf of individuals and their families regardless of level of disability or membership in The Arc. The Arc believes in self-determination by empowering people with the supports needed to make informed decisions and choices.

Families

Currently in the United States, almost all children and about 75% of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities who need significant levels of ongoing supports receive most or all of their supports in the context of the family home. Most or all of the supports are provided by a family member. Often, families do not have the information or support they need. The Arc provides information and support to families of individuals with developmental disabilities across the country and at the local level.

Human Rights

For centuries, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been abused, neglected, segregated and treated as less than human. As the oldest and largest non-profit serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, The Arc is a defender of human rights, advocating for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they may be full citizens of the United States.

Benefits of Membership

The most important membership benefit is knowing that your support helps improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities; your membership gives The Arc the strength to be an effective advocate.

Additional Membership Benefits include:

- Participation in the affairs of the local, state and national chapters of The Arc.
- Reduced cost at conventions, conferences and special trainings.
- A subscription to The Arc of the United States' national newsletter, *The Arc insight*, with information on the organization and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- A subscription to The Arc of Atlantic County's newsletter, *Achieve*, with inspiring stories of personal success and achievement, and all the news of our chapter.
- Inclusion in The Arc of Atlantic County's Special Events and Membership Activities.
- Voting privileges at The Arc of Atlantic County's Annual Membership Meeting.

**Please Become a Member
of The Arc Today at:
www.ArcAtlantic.org**