



March 2011

**ArcMail**

**Dear Douglas,**

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month and we encourage you to participate in grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). You can:

- Contact your policy makers and legislators to speak out on issues impacting people with I/DD.
- Reach out to employers or businesses and ask them to hire people with I/DD.
- Encourage people to get involved by volunteering or making a donation to The Arc.
- Educate people you meet about ending use of the term "mental retardation."

**[Click here to locate names and contact information for your local, state and federal representatives.](#)**



### Important Membership Meeting!

Again this year, the state of Maryland must close a huge budget gap. Our quarterly membership meeting on **March 30 at 7 pm** will focus on the status of the state's budget for funding I/DD services and pending legislation which could affect how we provide services to our program participants.

We will also host **Montgomery Exceptional Speaker's Bureau**. This program is being piloted at Walt Whitman High School, with the goal of forming a county-wide speaker's bureau of students with disabilities. Four students will address our membership, focusing on disability awareness and self-advocacy.

Light refreshments will be served. We hope you join us!



### Register now for The Arc Maryland Convention

We look forward to seeing lots of our members at The Arc Maryland convention on April 29 in Annapolis. "Celebrating our Achievements, Embracing our Future" is the theme and the focus will be on Rosa's Law and The Arc rebranding process.

**[Click here for more information and registration form.](#)**

### Our Mission

The Arc of Montgomery County's mission is to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work and play with dignity, freedom and full inclusion in the community.

### Donate Now!

Your charitable donation will bring us another step closer to our goal.

**[Click here to donate.](#)**

### Contact Us

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**End the Wait. Check Line 38**



Children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities need vital services NOW. You can help by donating part of your income tax refund to the Maryland Waiting List Fund. Your donation will help provide services for families, job training and employment, opportunities to live in the community and crisis intervention.

**[Click here for more information about the Developmental Disabilities Waiting List Fund tax check-off.](#)**



### Thank you, Georgetown Prep!

Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda raised \$725 for The Arc from its Oasis concert in February. The students want the money to support children with disabilities who participate in an inclusive gymnastics classes.

Oasis is an annual event which features student musical performances. A total of 18 bands performed, some with teacher and parent musical support.



### Save 20% at the Thrift Store Every Day

Are you a member of The Arc of Montgomery County? Our employee? Then claim a 20% discount on your entire purchase at our Thrift Store. Are you a senior citizen, member of the military, teacher, student, or Wheaton Plaza employee? On Wednesdays, you receive a 20% discount.

Cleaning out your basement or attic for spring? Donate your unwanted items to us! The store is located at 2658 University Boulevard West, Wheaton, MD 20902. Stop by and see what's new today.

### Spring Breezes will blow in change for The Arc

Beginning April 1, The Arc of Montgomery County will change it's look to match the national and state rebranding effort. We will also debut our new mission statement and begin introducing new program initiatives. Stay tuned!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS--Visit our website calendar for full details!

**Transition Times**, Wednesday, March 16

**The Band Performance**, Tuesday, March 29, Three Brothers Restaurant

**Quarterly Membership Meeting**, Wednesday, March 30

**Junior Volunteer Orientation**, Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3

**Sibshops**, Sunday, April 3

**Administrative Offices Closed**, Friday, April 22

**[www.thearcofmontgomerycounty.org](http://www.thearcofmontgomerycounty.org)**

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