

@The Arc

Fall 2023



INSIDE

Page 2.....From Our CEO
 Page 2/3.....Strategic Plan/65th Anniversary Celebration
 Page 4.....Strategic Plan cont.
 Page 5.....Program Updates
 Pages 6-7.....Program Updates cont.
 Page 8/9..... Welcome Home/DSP Week

Page 10/11..... Donors/Volunteers
 Page 12/13.....Community, Volunteer & Employee Awards
 Page 14.....Tenure Recognition
 Page 15.....Membership Meeting
 Page 16/17..... Awards & Achievements/In the News
 Page 18/19.....Road to Annapolis/Grants

Connecting people of all ages and abilities with their communities to build inclusive and fulfilling lives.

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www.TheArcMontgomeryCounty.org



From Our Chief Executive Officer

65 years! What an incredible legacy The Arc Montgomery County has created! An organization with humble beginnings of passionate and dedicated family members advocating for rights and better lives for their loved ones living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Each year that passed, change was made, creating the programs that thousands of Montgomery County residents have come to know, love, and rely on for 65 years. I feel fortunate to have spent my career (more than half of those 65 years!) with The Arc and to watch our offerings

and mission grow. As you will read throughout this newsletter, progressive change is in the air! There is new life breathing at The Arc in ways that I haven't seen in all my years here—much of that is thanks to you, key supporters invested in our mission and growth, and champions of building a more inclusive Montgomery County. It was with your input that we formed the new strategic plan, detailed in the article below, that is guiding our work in six key areas over the next three years. I am looking forward to the plan taking tangible shape and sharing those details with you as they unfold!

—Daria Cervantes, CEO



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS COMING ALIVE!

Three work groups launched this spring, a fourth group launched over the summer, and the final two will be launching soon. Each group is focused on two objectives in a particular opportunity area and includes people from both inside and outside of our organization. The groups meet twice each month for 75 minutes and are tasked with providing concrete tactics to support identified goals, objectives, and strategies.

Over the course of the three-year strategic plan, all goals and objectives will be submitted to work groups in rotation for development of strategies and tactics. Short summaries of the recommendations made by each group will be shared on our website: <https://TheArcMontgomeryCounty.org/who-we-are/strategic-planning/strategic-plan-implementation.html>.

Recommendations will be reviewed by the CEO, COO, and in some cases, the Leadership Team, before implementation. Not all recommendations will be immediately implemented, as some require additional resources (funding, staff). Quarterly progress updates will also be provided on the website.

Continue on page 4



ANNIVERSARY

The Arc has been providing vital support services to the residents of Montgomery County, MD for 65 years—and that deserves a celebration! People supported, their families, employees, and supporters from all walks came out to the Barrie School in Silver Spring on Sunday, June 25 to kick-off a year of festivities and reflection.

The afternoon was filled with joy as everyone caught up with friends, danced, sang, played games, took pictures in the photo booth, and of course hit the buffet! It was so nice to gather for an in-person bash, for the first time since the pandemic.

During the celebration, special guests from the Montgomery County Council cut the anniversary cake and Councilmember Will Jawando presented a proclamation honoring our historic anniversary. Thank you to all those who participated in this incredible event and for your continued support of The Arc and inclusion!

Thank you to our Sponsors!





OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS COMING ALIVE! continued

Workforce Crisis had a focus on increasing applications for DSP positions and implementing new flexibilities that are valued by employees. This group submitted recommendations in June, which may be reviewed in detail on our website.

Communication & Connection focused on creating and addressing questions, resolving communication issues, and creating new opportunities for people to connect on a personal level. This group submitted their recommendations in July, which may be reviewed in detail on our website.

In addition, thanks to our Comcast Technology Coaching grant (see pg. 19), we piloted a series of workshops for groups of families and people supported to improve their technology skills, which in turn will allow them to be better connected with other people and with our organization.

External Funding Security focused on developing two pathways to generate revenue by supporting people without IDD, utilizing existing expertise and resources, and social entrepreneurship. This group worked through the summer.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging launched over the summer. This is the first group to utilize an outside consultant, who were tasked with organizing DEIB efforts and initiatives, starting with defining DEIB for The Arc Montgomery County through survey questions. This group will finish in autumn.

As groups complete their work around specific objectives, new groups will be created to address additional objectives. If you are interested in making The Arc Montgomery County a stronger organization, please join a work group! Contact Deborah Mark, DeborahM@arcmontmd.org or 301.984.5777 x1245 for more information.

Help shape the future of The Arc Montgomery County

Implementing our FY2023–FY2025 Strategic Goals Now!

We are launching our 5th and 6th Strategic Plan Work Groups and invite you to participate!

Support Beyond Caregiving • Voice of the Customer

All work groups include about 12 people (employees, external stakeholders, and people supported).

Each group will meet twice monthly via Zoom for 75 minutes each.



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INCLUSIVE LIVING SERVICES

The investment in our Direct Support Professionals has brought to our attention the need for separating our adult services programs to provide a more personal experience for people supported and their families. Efforts have been focused on reestablishing Personal Supports and Community Living Services as individual divisions. We are looking forward to watching these programs grow and thrive as we build out staffing to support each division.

PERSONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Personal Supports is honing in on the individual needs of each person supported. This has been seen by helping secure part-time work for a person newly supported, as well as securing staff for people supported who have been waiting for a long time for assistance.

COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES

People supported in Community Living have been enjoying being able to go on vacations again! People have enjoyed trips to New York City, NY filled with musicals and double-decker bus tours, Florida, and Ocean City, MD for some fun in the sun, and even an international trip to Israel!



Hires & Promotions:

Kari Borgealt, Director, Community Living Services; Malcolm Heyward, Coordinator, Community Living; Kiauna Alston, Medical Coordinator, Community Living; Amaechi Chinaka, House Manager, Community Living; Essivi, Messan, House Manager, Community Living; Omorinsola Turner, House Manager, Community Living; Irene Djidjou Ngueyon, House Manager, Community Living.

Empowering Partners

Self- Advocacy Meeting for people with IDD living in Montgomery County

STAND Together

Second Wednesday each month
4 pm on Zoom

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
EMPOWERMENT - OPPORTUNITY - INCLUSION

The Arc Maryland

People for Maryland

Strengthening Self-Advocacy Groups in MD

EMPLOYMENT & MEANINGFUL DAY SERVICES

Employment Services has developed a new Employment track for incoming Transitioning Youth as well as a resume-building and interview workshop for people supported. We are also happy to welcome Mindy to the employment crew at the Potomac Library and Keduse to the crew at the Public Safety Training Academy.

Meaningful Day Services has increased community partnerships, establishing two new volunteer sites. All people supported have completed the process of obtaining passes with Montgomery County Recreation Centers.

We are happy to be getting back out into the community, participating in local resource fairs. "We have rolling admissions so we're always accepting and looking for new people," said Dwayne Johnson, Assistant Director, Meaningful Day, Employment & Meaningful Day Services. "We'll be active this year at a lot of school career fairs, just introducing our services to Montgomery County."

Hires & Promotions: Dwayne Johnson, Assistant Director, Meaningful Day; Ruth Magino, Assistant Director, Employment; Taylor Bell, Community Employment Specialist; Nick Sainvilier, Coordinator, Employment.



CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES

The staff at KFICCC have been hard at work, propelling the center to reach Level 5 accreditation with Maryland EXCELS! This is the state's highest possible quality ranking. After All has partnered with local schools where teens with IDD have social experiences with their typically-developing peers. Both C&YS programs had a fun-filled and enriching summer providing plenty of educational opportunities, special guests, and field trips. A big thank you is in order to Jordan (After All) and his father Hacene, who submitted The Arc for a GEICO "Fast Pitch" grant. Hacene was given the stage for five minutes to share what makes The Arc so special, securing an additional \$5,000 for our programs for youth!

Hires & Promotions: Doreen Engel, Director of Children & Youth Services; Niambi Heyward, Childcare Center Director; Breanna Tavernier, Program Administrator; Laquoia Brown, Program Coordinator, After All; Marie Rousseau, Groupe Aide; Brandon Hentrel, Substitute; Emily Bloch, Associate Teacher; Arlen Aquino, Part-time Nurse; Susan Anderson, Pre-K 3 Teacher; Laura Nogales, Childcare Teacher.





RESPITE SERVICES

The Respite Coordination contract has been successfully renewed with Montgomery County for another three years. The contract includes additional funding which equips our team to support more families throughout the county than we ever have before. Our team welcomed all-consortium members to headquarters to receive orientation and learn more about The Arc beyond the respite program. This will equip them to share about our support services when providing much needed respite to primary caregivers.



ENGAGEMENT

This talented team of fundraising and event planning professionals are bringing in new program opportunities and funding to strengthen The Arc's vital services to the IDD community and their families. Throughout the pages of this newsletter you will see some of the many programs they are behind like the 65th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration, Welcome Home, grant-funded programs, volunteer opportunities, and more!

Hires & Promotions: Stephanie Benedetti, Chief Development Officer; Laura-Kate Perez, Community Engagement Manager



Stephanie Benedetti



Adrienne Gude



Joan Drebing



Laura-Kate Perez



WELCOME HOME

Corporate Partnership

For 65 years, The Arc Montgomery County has been providing service to the community, supporting more than 4,000 people annually with a broad range of comprehensive services. Currently, over 100 residents with disabilities live in our network of 30+ single-family homes, townhomes, or condos spread across the county. At these homes, there is an emphasis on individualized support, including personalized care, use of community services, recreation, meal preparation, financial management, and more.

Newly launched in 2023, Welcome Home is The Arc's corporate social responsibility partnership initiative, bringing together area businesses with our homes for an ongoing annual volunteer commitment.

Here are a few reasons to say YES!

Program Goals

Build relationships and community between corporate groups and people who reside in The Arc's homes.

Benefits

We work with you to create an individual corporate volunteer strategy that leverages the unique skill sets of your employees with the needs of people living in our homes.

Participation Requirements

A commitment to inclusion and a willingness to commit to quarterly activities that support building connections between your employees and people living in our homes.

Employees will...

Build a better connection with their co-workers and form a sense of community.



For more information, contact Stephanie Benedetti, Chief Development Officer at Stephanie.Benedetti@arcmontmd.org or 301.984.577 x1274.

Direct Support Professional APPRECIATION WEEK

Monday, September 11–Friday, September 15 marked Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week across the nation! Each year, this week is designated to celebrate the important role that DSPs play in the lives of the people we support and their families. In preparation for the festivities, employees from all divisions of The Arc Montgomery County gathered in "Thank You Central" to package gift boxes, create decorations, and handwrite thank you notes to DSPs. Throughout DSP Week, employees, board members, and supporters delivered gifts to worksites and shared their appreciation!

Thanks to the generous donations of partners and board members, we were able to raffle off amazing prizes including restaurant gift cards, theater tickets, a pizza party, and cash!



Thank You for Supporting The Arc Montgomery County!

These individuals and organizations generously donated from January 1–June 30, 2023

A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, Srimal Abeyesundere, ALCO Pharmacy, Daniel Alderman, Douglas Alexander, Amazon Smile Foundation, AMR Commercial, LLC, Anonymous, Sarah Argoud, Kathleen Asmussen, Constance Battle, Carolyn Behram, Christopher Bendel & Tabitha Huntermann, Bernard Family Foundation, Bonnie Bigenho, Tatum Birdsall, Michael Bradley & Ginny Colten–Bradley, Frank Bruffey III, Marcia Buehner, Mary Cadden, Margaret Campbell, CarePlus Home Health, Inc., CARS (Charitable Adult Rides and Services), Sarah Cato, Daria Cervantes, Mary Ann Christensen, Copper Canyon Grill of Rio, Costco Wholesale Corporatio, Stephanie Crissman, Spyros & Drena Damascos, Dave & Busters, Raymond Davidson, Bettina Del Sesto, Helen Dickison, John & Eileen Dillon, Mary Dingwall, Elizabeth Doherty, Daniel Ebbert, Hilda Ederer, Charles Eggleton, David Eisenmann, Melinda Ellsworth, David & Donna English, Facebook, Inc., Peter & Karla Farrell, Flavia Favali, Aurelia Federighi, Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Charles Franklin, Cheryl Geske, Kathy Ghiladi, Giant Food of Bethesda, Giant Food of Derwood, Giant Food of Potomac, Giant Food of Rockville, Margot Gibson–Beattie, Give A Hoot Comedy Club, Roslyn Godfrey, James & JoAnn Goedert, Philip & Janet Golrick, Sharon Goozh, Gorfine, Schiller & Gardyn, P.A., Karen Goyak, Janet Grabill, Neil Greenberger, Eric & Elizabeth Grimshaw, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, Daniel Gutkin, Tadelu Hagos, Jean Hamilton, Phillip Harmon, Allen & Pamela Harp, Maureen Hassett, Jill Hayes, Geoff Heuchling, Mike & Kim Hope, Robert Howe & Tamara Baker, Karen Hutchison, JCPenney, JK House of Grace, Robert & Carla Johnson, Terrence Judge, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid–Atlantic States, Inc., James & Winnie Kao, Stephanie Katz, Dennis & Mary Keyser, Knights of Columbus, Rock Creek Council #2797, Patricia Kolar, Robert & Lori Krolkowski, David & Margaret Kuhlow, Gerald Kurihara, Charlene Lacovaro, Jeffrey & Mary Laizure, Stephanie Lamassa, Joshua & Angela Lapier, Tony Lashley, Lester Poretsky Family Foundation, Cesar & Lucy Lopez, Claire Louis, Ahmad Maaty & Sarah Mitwalli, Julian Mabe, Roger & Carol Marcotte, Eugene & Deborah Mark, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Maryland Charity Campaign, John Masciantonio, Crystal Max, Julia McClung, Betsey McCoy, Sean McVey, Barbara Anne Miller, Elgin Mones, Ralph Monte, Montgomery Connects, Montgomery County Chapter of the Autism Society of America, Teresa Murray, National Aquarium, National Charity Services, Inc., Jeffrey Neher, Fred & Carole Newman, Hanh Thi Nguyen, Joshua Nodell, John & Gina Olenick, OneLife Fitness of Rockville, Parkway Deli, Paul Passolano, Karen Pate, PBG Best Care, Lisa Peacock, Olaf Pedersen, Vijaya Peters, Doug & Kelly Phillipy, Planet Depos, LLC, Albert & Helen Pollin, Colette Prentice, Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, Melissa Riesco, Mark Rigsby, Varinder & Shashi Rishi, Robert & Paula Jenson Fund, Rosie Rosenberg, Philip & Liz Rosenberry, Greg & Jasmin Rydzak, Adrienne Sacco, Carla Salazar, Sandy Spring Bank, M. Claudine Sassa, Saul Ewing LLP, Sheila Schell, Scout Flagship Store, James Seaton, Mary Sesso, Dana Simpler, Elisabeth Smith Shuey, Debra Soltis, Joseph Spaniol, Strathmore, Target at Wheaton Plaza, Top Golf of Germantown, TowerCares Foundation, Allen & Marilyn Trainer, Joshua Tripp, Diane Ty, Uncle Julio's, Linda Vause, VPC, Inc., Bertram Weintraub, Michael & Colleen Williams, Linda Wood, WorkSource Montgomery, Inc., Gabriela Yonker, Christina Young, Barbara Zikos ■

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and make a difference in
Montgomery County!



Every Gift Counts

Tributes

In Honor Of Mark Cloherty, Hilda Ederer, Viveca Sandstrom's Birthday ■

In Memory Of Anne Minahan Brown, Denise Cotton, Robin L. Jones, Mary Jane Krolkowski, Raymond Marcotte, Edward Matthew McGuire, Andrew J. Roth ■



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!

Opportunities for individual people, families, groups, or businesses to volunteer. Go to www.TheArcMontgomeryCounty.org



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FY23 Community, Volunteer, & Employee Awards

Going beyond expectations. Rising above obstacles.

On June 25, 2023, special awards were presented to community partners, volunteers and employees who demonstrated their commitment to supporting people and families affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities. These inclusion champions are making a difference in people's lives and we extend our thanks to each of them!

SELF-ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR Katherine O'Connell

Katherine has become the facilitator of STAND Together, The Arc Montgomery County's advocacy group for people with IDD and completed Partners in Policy Making with The Arc Maryland. She proudly advocates that her disability does not define her.



YOUTH VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR Madeline Xu, Vicky Shan

In the past year, Madeline and Vicky took initiative to host two fundraising events that raised more than \$5,000 for The Arc Montgomery County. They are community-minded and represent the care of the next generation.



COMMUNITY PARTNER Chris Watson

Chris has provided maintenance services to The Arc Montgomery County for 20 years in our inclusive living residences. His work is outstanding, as is his knowledge.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Rebuilding Together Montgomery County

Rebuilding Together coordinated home renovations, repair, and landscaping to three of The Arc Montgomery County's homes, transforming them for the people we support.



COMMUNITY INCLUSION Montgomery Parks Program Access

Montgomery Parks Program Access fosters inclusive environments for people of all abilities within the county parks system. They take a thoughtful approach to inclusion, when creating new programming.



BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR Sarah Cato

Despite leading an extremely busy life, Sarah meets deadlines, makes herself available for in-person meetings, always answers calls, and is ready to tackle any challenge. She has served as the Treasurer on the Board of Directors and her dedication and devotion is unmatched.



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
EMPLOYMENT & DAY SERVICES**

Loretta Howell

Loretta has an eagerness to provide guidance to her volunteer crew. She has helped their confidence to self-advocate and learn about employment in a professional office setting, which has created new paths towards their employment.



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES**

Cindy Lopreiato

Cindy is a team-player whose energy brightens up KFICCC. She is enthusiastic, caring, charismatic, and always willing to jump in to help. Her experience provides knowledge and understanding of the children she works with.



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT**

Solomon Merugu

Called to step into the Assistant Director role unexpectedly, Solomon has worked tirelessly to support his team, increase his knowledge, and ensure support services for people are delivered in the best possible way. He always goes the extra mile.



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR INCLUSIVE
LIVING SERVICES**

Ayoola Oluyumi

Ayoola is a passionate advocate for the people she supports. She brings empathy and genuine commitment to her work, every day. She recently transitioned into a House Manager role, where her sense of duty and passion continue to shine.



RISING STAR

Beth-Ann Carter

Beth-Ann is always willing to jump in and help. She has shown great dedication in her first year of employment. Her commitment to furthering The Arc's mission is clear and she goes out of her way to help in other departments.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Clyde Agnew, Jr.

Clyde exemplifies professionalism at its highest level. He shows qualities of leadership, demonstrates the organization's mission, and sets a standard for others to follow. After 40 years, two things have stayed the same: his commitment to The Arc and his big, infectious laugh!



PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Lydia Finegold-Swift

Lydia has volunteered over 100 hours of service to The Arc Montgomery County. First bestowed by the President of the United States in 2003, this award was established to honor volunteers that give hundreds of hours per year helping others.



EMPLOYEE TENURE RECOGNITION

On Wednesday, February 5, 2023, we recognized 44 employees for their dedicated service to people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, in five-year benchmark periods ending December 31, 2022.



Ann P. Campbell
Mark A. Cole
Sherry D. Ruiz



Frances L. Crusoe
Barbara A. Freeman
Keith D. Heinrich
Princess C. Odinga



Emmanuel Ansah
Aloysius C. Chongwa
Ruth Magino
William A. Mfotieg
Laura S. Nogales
Godwin A. Nwani
Frank N. Okafor
Brenda Y. Powers



Akua Boasiako
Jacqueline M. Combs
Rosa A. Cruz
Cheryl David
Greta S. Frey-Jones
Carolina Harp
Jermaine L. Moore
Krystel K. Tchatchou



Jandora J. Bemah
Teresa L. Carter
Hing M. Chan
Julie A. Croker
Delah E. Crusoe
Taiye Daniel
Janice Y. Davis
Christophe Dogbe
Theodate P. Dubuche
Mabinty S. Fofanah
Tadelu N. Hagos

Shawnetta N. Henderson
Joseph C. Howard
Lydiene D. Kadji
Kimberley A. Njowusi
Dauda O. Onifade
Afefa A. Siekro
Rebecca U. Thliza
Simon M. Toh
John F. Winkelman
Solomon S. Yon





MEMBERSHIP MEETING & BOARD INSTALLATION

Members of The Arc Montgomery County gathered on Sunday, June 25 for the annual meeting as part of the 65th anniversary kick-off celebration. CEO Daria Cervantes delivered the State of The Arc address, reflecting on the past year and highlighting some of the initiatives to look

forward to as we enter The Arc's 65th year. COO James Gipson shared the progress of our programs before the swearing in of the board of directors. We were honored to have Montgomery County Council President Evan Glass installed the 2023-2024 Board of Directors, and County Executive Marc Elrich delivered thoughtful remarks about our community impact.

Officers: Constance Battle, President; Christina Young, Vice President; Kim Hope, Secretary; Sarah Cato, Treasurer; Stephanie Katz, Past President

Directors: Raymond Davidson, Flavia Favali, Charles Franklin, Flor De Amelia Hoffman, Kamryn Holley, Claire Louis, Ben Lopez, Kate O'Connell, John Olenick, Mark Rittenberg, Karen Saunders, Jim Seaton, Dana Simpler, Julie Yang



The Board of Directors of The Arc Montgomery County are proud supporters of the 65th Anniversary Picnic Celebration!

Health isn't an industry. It's our cause.

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Congratulations to The Arc Montgomery County on their 65th Anniversary!





AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It has been quite a busy year with employees and people supported making waves in the public eye!

The Arc Montgomery County was chosen as the National Association of Business Owners & Entrepreneurs (NABOE) Nonprofit of the Year.

Katherine O'Connell graduated from The Arc Maryland's Partners in Policy Making program.

Dauda Olanrewaju Onifade was recognized as The Arc Montgomery County's DSP of the Year at The Arc Maryland's annual conference.

Ruth Magino, Assistant Director of Employment, Nicholen McGougan, Assistant Director of Community Living, and Lauren Peirce, Senior Manager for Communications graduated from the Maryland Conference of Executives (MCE) Leadership program, a program sponsored and led by The Arc Maryland.

Daria Cervantes, CEO, and Deborah Mark, Director of Strategic Initiatives, took to the podium at The Arc of the United States' Summer Leadership Institute in Las Vegas, NV to deliver "Inclusion Reimagined: Delivering Support Services in the Community," a presentation they developed to help industry peers reframe what inclusion can look like.

Doreen Engel, Director of Children & Youth Services, was appointed to the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center (CYDC) advisory board.

CEO Daria Cervantes was elected as Secretary for the FY 2024 Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) Board of Directors. She was also selected as among a handful of local leaders to participate in Leadership Montgomery's 2024 CORE program, focused on building thriving and inclusive communities in Montgomery County.



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IN THE NEWS

You may have caught The Arc Montgomery County on your TV screen, featured on 7 News DC (WJLA) and Montgomery Municipal Cable TV (MMCTV)! Robert Burton visited KFICCC in late August to read to the children. It was such a treat to have him share a beloved Pete the Cat book with the students and share The Arc’s mission of inclusion with the greater DMV on such a large platform. As you can see by the smiles, we had some big fans in attendance and a good time was had by all.

CEO, Daria Cervantes and CDO, Stephanie Benedetti sat down with Cheryl Hawkins at the MMCTV studios in Kensington for a taping of their new show Solutions, where local nonprofits are given the floor to share about their mission and how Montgomery County residents can support it.

Didn’t catch either segment live? That’s okay! Both features can be found online – scan the QR code to the left to watch now.

We teamed up with long-time community partner Maryland Works for an educational video for State procurement and elected officials. Our Lawncare Solutions crew shared what it was like working with Maryland Works and what future employers can expect with hiring and working with people with IDD.



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Calendar Day

The Arc Montgomery County joined the other Maryland chapters of The Arc to kick off the legislative session with a trip to Annapolis for Calendar Day! Board members Flavia Favali and Flor De Amelia Hoffman joined us on January 12 to hand deliver the "Belong"-themed calendars to all Montgomery County representatives. They caught up with friendly faces, welcomed newly elected officials, and talked about the policies that mean the most to the IDD community.

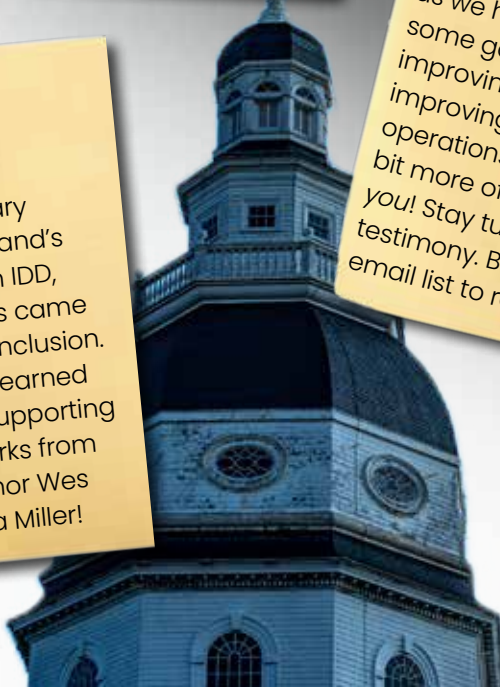


Legislative Session

It was a relatively tame session for the IDD community. The draft DDA and MSDE budgets, as presented to by the Governor, were favorable as we head into 2024. Additionally, there were some good bills this session: bills aimed at improving healthcare and sustaining nonprofit operations. The 2024 session is forecast to be a bit more of a challenge, which means we need you! Stay tuned for calls to action and calls for testimony. Be sure you are signed up for our email list to receive notifications.

DD Day at the Legislature

Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature returned in person on February 22 with an exciting energy! During Maryland's largest day of advocacy for people with IDD, people supported and passionate allies came from all across the state to champion inclusion. Attendees, both in-person and virtual, learned about the latest advocacy initiatives supporting Marylanders with IDD and heard remarks from many special guests including Governor Wes Moore and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller!



GRANTS

The Arc Montgomery County has recently secured several exciting grants, amounting to a total of \$271,300. These grants allow us to further our mission and create inclusive opportunities in our community.

From the Maryland Department of Labor, The Arc was awarded \$50,000 for the Direct Care Workforce Grant. This newly established program supports the development of recruitment and retention strategies for DSPs. The goal is to ensure everyone with direct support needs can be matched with a provider.

Compass Pro Bono has given \$200,000 in in-kind consulting services. Compass will be evaluating the feasibility of expanding our inclusive childcare center, KFICCC.

Worksource Montgomery's GROW Grants program recently gave \$10,000. The Grant Relief for Onboarding Workers Covid-19 financial assistance program provided money to organizations negatively impacted by the pandemic to support the hiring of local employees and rebuild their workforce.

Geico awarded \$5,000 as a part of their employee nonprofit "fast pitch" program. This funding was secured by Hacene, father of Jordan, a youth in our After All program. Hacene submitted The Arc Montgomery County for consideration in the program, where it was voted to top nine from over 400 charities. Hacene then took the stage for five minutes, sharing why he had selected The Arc along with a video of his son playing the drums. He ultimately secured the funding that will go towards programs like those that support Jordan.

These additional sources of funding mean more opportunities for people with IDD. We are grateful to our funders for their generosity and what they will enable for us. Check back in the spring for more updates.



The Arc
Montgomery County

Calendar of Events

October 1, 2023– March 31, 2024

**KFICCC, After All,
Employment & Meaningful
Day Services, Headquarters
Building–Closed***

Thursday, November 23

Friday, November 24

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

Monday, January 1

Monday, January 15

**The Arc does not designate holidays for employees, however select programs and locations are closed on certain holidays.*



Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 28

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY SERIES

Thanks to the generous contributions of The Arc of the United States and Comcast, The Arc Montgomery County offered a series of virtual workshops over the summer to teach strategies to remain safe while engaging socially online. The series covered a wide range of topics including how to manage your settings, and what red/green flags to look for while building online trust. Each session was led by Dr. Mary Jo Krile, an assistant professor at Eastern Kentucky University. Her research and expertise is dedicated to promoting social media use and safety, as well as digital literacy skills for people with IDD. Didn't catch them live? That's okay! You can watch the entire five-part series on our YouTube channel or scan the QR code.



Social Media 101

Social Media Safety Series: Session 2
The Arc Montgomery County



Gorfine Schiller Gardyn
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

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