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**The Link**

March/April 2015

# DDA Cuts to Affect Transitioning Youth and People in Crisis

The Arc of Frederick County is working with advocates from across the state to restore funding cut from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and to protect the current DDA budget.

A priority includes protecting funding for the more than 600 Transitioning Youth students in Maryland who will exit special education services this spring and will need meaningful day and employment services.

Support Coordinators from The Arc assist families with creating a transition plan for students as they exit school. This plan includes pathways to access benefits, work, higher education, and independent living. It is a critical that transitioning youth students have a seamless transition into independent life, so that the investment that Frederick County Public Schools makes in each student's educational career is maximized in adulthood.

Additionally, there are over 8,000 children and adults who are still on waiting lists to receive services from the DDA.

The recent dramatic cuts in funding means that, for the first time in over a decade, there will not be funding for people who are determined to be in the DDA Crisis Resolution category. This category is for children and adults who are homeless or at risk of losing their home; at risk of harming themselves or other; or who have caregivers who are elderly and cannot care for them because of illness. There is only funding for 63 emergencies, such as the death of a caregiver, across the state.

Action Alerts will be sent out from The Arc so that you have the chance to become involved with advocacy efforts. To participate please contact:  
Aaron Stephens at (301) 663-0909 x 126 or [astephens@arcfc.org](mailto:astephens@arcfc.org)

## Developmental Disabilities Day at the Maryland Legislature

Working Together had a great time this year at Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature (DD Day)!

Working Together is a group of politically and socially motivated adults with developmental disabilities that collaborate to enhance the lives of people through self-advocacy, education, and community participation. Every year, Working Together participates in DD Day at the Legislature, which is a great opportunity to meet with other self-advocates, hear about the current and upcoming DDA budget and state legislation, and personally talk with legislators to ask for their support in these very important matters. Working Together members gathered in Frederick to drive down to Annapolis together for the day event. Once there, they participated in the morning conference and then broke into small groups to take information and speak with their legislators.



Each year, Working Together members have a few primary concerns that they want to discuss with their elected officials, and this year was no different. First, Working Together members wanted to ask that legislators support the increase in wages for direct support staff, so that those positions do not become minimum wage jobs. Working Together members stressed the importance of working with quality Job and Residential Coaches to help them get to work, participate in their communities and live independently at home. Another big concern that group members addressed when talking with their legislators was the need for an increase in public transportation services, as the current system in Frederick does not meet the needs of many people with disabilities who rely on it for getting to work, to medical appointments, or meeting with friends and family in the community. Group members also asked that legislators keep in mind the significant need to fund the DDA wait list, so that more people in Maryland can receive services.

Working Together members did a great job talking to our legislators and pointing out the need for support in these very important matters. After a busy afternoon advocating for people with disabilities, the group stopped for lunch on the way home and enjoyed some time together.

Working Together is always happy to have new members, so if you or someone you know is interested in participating in advocacy efforts throughout the year and at DD Day next year, please feel free to attend a meeting! Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick, from 3:30- 4:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

To participate please contact:  
Valerie Todd at 301-663-0909 ext.144 or [Vtodd@arcfc.org](mailto:Vtodd@arcfc.org)

# Development

Shauna Mulcahy, Development Director • 301.663.0909 • ext. 140 • [Smulcahy@arcfc.org](mailto:Smulcahy@arcfc.org)



## 30th Annual Trivia Playoff!

This year's Trivia Playoff will take place on Friday, March 20th at **All Saints Episcopal Church** (106 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701) at 7:00 PM. Break out those leg warmers! Join us for an 80's themed evening of trivia. This year our event sponsor is Frederick County Bank. Registration is available online ([www.arcfc.org](http://www.arcfc.org)) or by calling Shauna at 301-663-0909 x140. A team of 3 can join in trivia fun for \$180.00 (includes game play, dinner and beverages for the evening). We look forward to seeing you on March 20th!

## Thanks To Our Contributors

### Holiday Appeal Contributions

Dr. And Mrs. Dean E. Calcagni  
Mr. And Mrs. James E. Gangaware  
Teddie and Jack Kiley  
Ms. Pamela Noble  
Mr. William J. Papproth  
Ms. Nolie M. Rife  
Mr. And Mrs. Mark N. Shank  
Ms. Maribeth Visco and Mr. Karl Berger  
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Fred and Margie Glick

### Memorial Contributions– John Patrick Glynn

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*Return  
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## Calendar of Events

*Group meetings take place  
at The Arc unless otherwise noted.  
FMI 301.663.0909*

### Executive Committee

April 13 @ 5:30 PM

### Board of Directors

March 16 @ 5:30 PM

### Brain Injury Support Group

April 6 @ 6:30 PM

### Parents Day Out

March 21 & April 18 @ 10 AM

### Parent Support Group

April 8 @ 11:30 AM

### Hispanic Family Support Group

March 21 & April 18 @ 2 PM

### Healthy Relationships Support Group

April 14 @ 6:30 PM

### Sibshop

April 4 @ 10 AM- 1 PM At "Pump  
It Up!"

### Working Together

March 18 & April 15 @ 3:30 PM  
C. Burr Artz Library

### Transitioning Youth Parent Support Group

March 25 & April 29 @ 5:30 PM

## Board of Directors

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*Achieve with us.*