



# The Arc of Frederick County

## ENDOWMENT EDITION



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### Moving Families Forward

One of the most difficult aspects of Futures & Estate Planning with families is finding the key that will motivate them to move forward with their plans. Everyone knows that they need to plan for the future for their child, but actually taking those steps - completing a letter of Intent, going to an attorney to do a Will, setting up a Special Needs Trust-- requires a lot of time, thought and effort. The whole idea of recognizing that Mom or Dad aren't going to be able to provide support forever is very hard to face. Sometimes it takes a family crisis to recognize that plans have to move forward.

One family I am working with faced such a crisis, when the mother became ill and had to spend some time in the hospital. The father then realized how much support the mother actually had been providing, and realized that the mother wasn't going to be able to continue doing this. The family needed to look at how they could increase the support their daughter is receiving. Father had done a Will and a Trust some years ago, with his son as the trustee. Unfortunately, the trust wasn't set up as a Special Needs Trust and wouldn't protect benefits the daughter could receive. Also the crisis allowed the brother to say that he would do all he could to support his sister, but he couldn't do it all. He has a full-time job and a family of his own. The family needs to pull resources together and really plan to provide a workable network of support so that the daughter can continue to live a full life in her community.

Working together with the Individual Support Coordinator from The Arc, the Service Coordinator, and our information from the Futures & Estate Planning project, the family is making concrete plans. The Letter of Intent will be the guide for the future. The father is going back to the attorney to make the changes he needs to make. The brother is learning what his parents and his sister see as the future support his sister will need. The professionals are working on making applications to provide for more services for the daughter. The planning is moving forward, and I think the results will be a plan that provides the future this family wants for their daughter, and that the daughter wants for herself.

It is very gratifying to help families develop their plans and ease the anxiety they face when confronting a future with diminishing parental support. We would like to be able to reach all the families of individuals with developmental disabilities before their situations become too stressful.

-Jean Doyle



Thank you to our  
Endowment  
Planning  
Committee for  
their outstanding  
support to  
The Arc and  
the Frederick  
community.

*Ken Bromfield*

*Josh Brooks*

*George T. Horman*

*Clayton Minnick*

*Jacob R. Ramsburg,  
Jr.*

and

*Bev Shelton*



## Endowment Edition

620-A Research Court  
Frederick, Maryland 21703

Phone: 301-663-0909

Fax: 301-695-6454

E-mail: [info@arcfc.org](mailto:info@arcfc.org) or [SClay@arcfc.org](mailto:SClay@arcfc.org)

[www.arcfc.org](http://www.arcfc.org)

### Mission Statement

The Arc of Frederick County provides advocacy, access to resources, and assistance in increasing individual and family connections for people with developmental disabilities. The organization seeks creative solutions to help people with developmental disabilities attain their goals.



For any questions, contact:

*Jean Doyle*

[jdoyle@arcfc.org](mailto:jdoyle@arcfc.org)

301-663-0909 ext 115

*Anjela McNally*

[amcnally@arcfc.org](mailto:amcnally@arcfc.org)

301-663-0909 ext 153

**The Arc.**  
of Frederick County

## Rock Creek School Partnership

The Arc of Frederick County partners with Rock Creek School to offer Futures and Estate Planning supports to families who have children with developmental disabilities. Throughout the



upcoming school year, Rock Creek School staff will provide information on Futures and Estate Planning at each child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting. Families will be invited to contact Jean or Anjela to receive support from The Arc to write a letter of intent, be connected to a lawyer, develop a Will and Special Needs Trust, and to have any other questions answered. In addition to information being distributed at IEP meetings, The Arc is partnering with Rock Creek School's Parent Advisory Board to reinforce our efforts to reach out to each family individually. Special events will also be held through the school year so that parents and caregivers can receive ongoing assistance and information. Assistance is available in group settings or in personal meetings scheduled at each family's convenience. The Arc's goal is to provide guidance on Futures and Estate Planning to all parents and caregivers who desire The Arc's supports.

### Fall Events

#### September 22

Futures and Estate Planning Event

Lighthouse of Hope Church, Cumberland, MD

#### September 30

Letter of Intent Workshop

The Arc of Frederick County, Frederick, MD

#### October 1

Futures and Estate Parent Presentation

Rock Creek School, Frederick, MD

#### October 18

Futures and Estate Planning and

Transitioning Youth Workshop

Montgomery College, Rockville, MD

#### November 19

Futures and Estate Presentation to

Transitioning Youth Support Group

The Arc of Frederick County, Frederick, MD