



The Arc of Frederick County

ENDOWMENT EDITION



SEPTEMBER 2015

Following Through on Future Planning

During the past year the Futures & Estate Planning program at The Arc, through the support from the Endowment Fund, has reached many families and individuals in the Frederick community. Between July 2014 and June 2015 we met with 67 families, presenting important information about how to provide for future financial needs and support needs for their family member with a disability. We have given advice to families on how to help their family member maintain community contacts, friendships, and access to community services while living as independently as possible.

We have given 7 community presentations during the year, reaching an additional 50-55 families. In our presentations we have covered topics as Pooled Trust options, specifics of the Letter of Intent, Alternatives to Guardianship, the ABLE Act and how this new tool can be used along with Special Needs Trusts for financial security, and Supported Decision-Making, a newer option for adults with an intellectual disability to make decisions for themselves with support from family and friends. We are so thankful for the opportunity to help families and individuals understand how they can prepare for the future needs of their family member with a disability, or themselves.

We would like to share one journey an individual with a Traumatic Brain Injury made with our support. A 57 year old male who lives on his own sustained a brain injury 7 years ago. Family members have supported him throughout his recovery but he is concerned about his future. Through a support group he attends at The Arc he learned about the Futures and Estate project and made an appointment to get information and guidance about planning for his future. Although, he was the individual with the disability he wants to be able to provide for his children when he can no longer take care of himself. He found the Letter of Intent and the information about the self-funded Special Needs Trust would provide a way for his care without burdening his children. The Letter of Intent will be their guide to how he sees his life in the future. He also named a healthcare agent and completed a living will so his children will not have to make those decisions.

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

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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:

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Through this process he was able to find peace of mind and to feel like he has some control over his future. He knows his children will not have to sacrifice to provide for his care and they will also be able to understand his wishes for his care when he needs a higher level of support.

We hope knowing a personal story about an individual we have worked with through the Futures & Estate Planning helps you to understand how vital this process is, and what it means to the individuals we serve.

-Jean Doyle & Anjela McNally

Fall Events

- October 17, 2015– LaVale, MD “Around the World of Special Education” For more information please contact: Debbie DiPaolo at **301-689-3113** or **dkmc199@comcast.net**
- November 7, 2015– Baltimore, MD “By Their Side-Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities” for more information please contact: the By Their Side organization at **443-279-1234** or **info@bytheirside.org**
- November 23, 2015– Frederick, MD “Alternatives to Guardianship and Supported Decision Making Workshop”