

Officers

Howard Cullum, President
Sue Sargeant, President-Elect
Amy Yarcich, Vice President
Barbara Barrett, Secretary
Glenn Slack, Treasurer.
Nita Grignol, Past-President

Local Chapters

The Arc of Augusta
The Arc of Central Virginia
Danville Arc
The Arc of Eastern Shore
The Arc of Halifax
Hanover Arc
The Arc of Harrisonburg/Rockingham
The Arc of Loudoun County
The Arc of Loudoun County
The Arc of Northern Shenandoah Valley
The Arc of Northern Virginia
The Arc of Virginia Peninsula
The Arc of the Piedmont
The Arc of Greater Prince William
The Arc of Rappahannock
The Greater Richmond Arc
The Arc of Greater Roanoke Valley
The Arc of Rockbridge
Smyth County Arc
The Arc of Warren County
The Arc of Greater Williamsburg

For Immediate Release-August 10, 2009

Contact: Jamie Trosclair, (804) 649-8481, ext. 101 or jtrosclair@arcofva.org

The Arc of Virginia Issues “Community for All” Call to Action

Members of The Arc of Virginia Urge Governor and General Assembly to Reform Virginia’s Service System for Virginians with Developmental Disabilities

Charlottesville, VA- At The Arc of Virginia’s 2009 State Convention on August 8th, delegates representing thousands of members of The Arc from across Virginia unanimously voted to pass the “Community for All” Resolution, a call to action for reform of Virginia’s service system for people with developmental disabilities.

“Members of The Arc urge the Commonwealth to adopt ‘Community for All’ as a priority by fulfilling its commitment to eliminate the waiting lists for community-based services and by ending the practice of institutionalization and segregation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities”, the resolution proclaimed.

Virginia is currently ranked near-bottom among states in funding of community supports for people with developmental disabilities while continuing a high-level of funding for large, segregated institutions. There are currently over 5,000 Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities on waiting lists for community-based supports, with over 50% meeting the Commonwealth’s urgent need criteria. An additional 1,200 Virginians with intellectual disabilities continue to live in segregated, state-operated institutions where average costs per person are over twice the aggregate cost of community-based care.

“The ‘Community for All’ resolution represents the next chapter in Virginia’s civil rights movement for people with developmental disabilities”, said The Arc of Virginia President Howard Cullum.

The Arc of Virginia’s membership consists of thousands of people with developmental disabilities, family members, professionals and concerned citizens across the state. The organization has over 50 years of history advocating for the rights and full participation of Virginians with developmental disabilities. The Arc’s membership has been critical to ensure the success of several initiatives strengthening the civil rights of Virginians with developmental disabilities such as access to free and appropriate educational opportunities, development of community-based residential, vocational and transportation services and most recently, the passage of SB1501/HB2674 which established the Commonwealth’s intent to eliminate waiting lists for the Medicaid Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver and the Medicaid Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support (IFDDS) Waiver.

For more information on The Arc of Virginia’s 2009 State Convention and the “Community for All” resolution, visit www.arcofva.org or contact Jamie Trosclair at (804) 649-8481, ext. 101 or jtrosclair@arcofva.org