Overview of Leadership & Education

The Arc supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to be knowledgeable and to have the necessary skills and information to advocate and to educate the community about issues that affect individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Snohomish County is affiliated with The Arc of Washington State and The Arc of the United States. Programs are designed to foster inclusion and self-advocacy.

Building Leaders

The Arc identifies extended family members, siblings, guardians, and self-advocates who are interested in or want to actively participate in a leadership role representing intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Leaders receive information, training and support to effectively advocate for individuals with disabilities and to educate the community and state and local policy makers.

Leaders collaborate and partner with parent groups, organizations, schools, agencies and community members to address common needs and concerns among people with disabilities and those who support them.

Building Inclusive Communities

The Arc fosters inclusive communities that support people with developmental disabilities to fully participate in and contribute to all aspects of community life. The Arc provides information, has a variety of resource materials and trainings available to promote inclusion.

Partnering with Schools

The Arc of Snohomish County provides information, training and support to the following school districts:

- Arlington
- Edmonds
- Everett
- Granite Falls
- Lake Stevens
- Lakewood
- Marysville
- Monroe
- Mukilteo
- Northshore
- Snohomish

Contact the Arc to connect with a parent liaison or learn about how to start a parent group in your school.

Promoting Accessible & Coordinated Transportation System

Community advocates participate on a variety of transportation committees in order to educate the community about the transportation needs and concerns of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Promoting Affordable, Accessible and Safe Housing Options

The Arc participates on a variety of housing committees; provides information, guidance and counseling to assist individuals to increase their independent living skills and access affordable housing.

Supporting Self-Advocates

The Arc self-advocacy program provides leadership development, training, mentoring, education and support to self-advocates’ and self-advocacy groups. The Coalition educates individuals about their rights as participating members of their community and how that participation in turn, promotes inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Coalition educates policy makers, local organizations and members of the community-at-large.

Women’s Self-Advocacy (ICAN)

Independence, Community & Advocacy Now

Provides an opportunity for women, age 16 and older to share resources, learn advocacy skills and increase opportunities to participate in their community. 425-258-2459 x103

Snohomish County Transition Club

Students, ages 18-21, come together once a month during the school year to increase self-advocacy skills, learn about community resources and increase independent living skills. 425-258-2459 x109

People First of Snohomish County

A group by and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, focused on educating ourselves and others, advocating for our rights, and having fun! We are PEOPLE FIRST and our disabilities are secondary. 425-258-2459 x121
Supporting Families

Snohomish County Parent / Family Coalition

The Parent/Family Coalition is made up of families, siblings, foster parents, grandparents, guardians and other interested community members.

The Coalition provides information and education about legislation and public policies at the local, state and federal level.

The Coalition disseminates information and teaches families about the social service system, resources in their community, and how participation in their local community increases integration and inclusion of all people with developmental disabilities. 425-258-2459 x107

What Families Say About Self-Advocacy and Leadership

“When I met face-to-face with my representatives I realized I was not just representing myself, my sister, or my agency but my entire community.” - Andrew U.

“The Arc’s programs build better parent leaders. The training and support provided helps all of us reach out to other parents, resulting in a stronger advocacy community throughout Snohomish County.” - Amy P.

Achieve with us.

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Mission Statement
The Arc fosters respect and access for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, giving them the power to achieve a full and satisfying life.

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does”
Margaret Mead