

A journey in understanding and inclusion

The Arc of Tri-Cities has been working on filling the gaps for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 65 years, but there is much more to do....



The Arc serves all ages



Inclusion for all abilities



Having fun at VIP Club



Overnight respite



Exciting trips



Family support

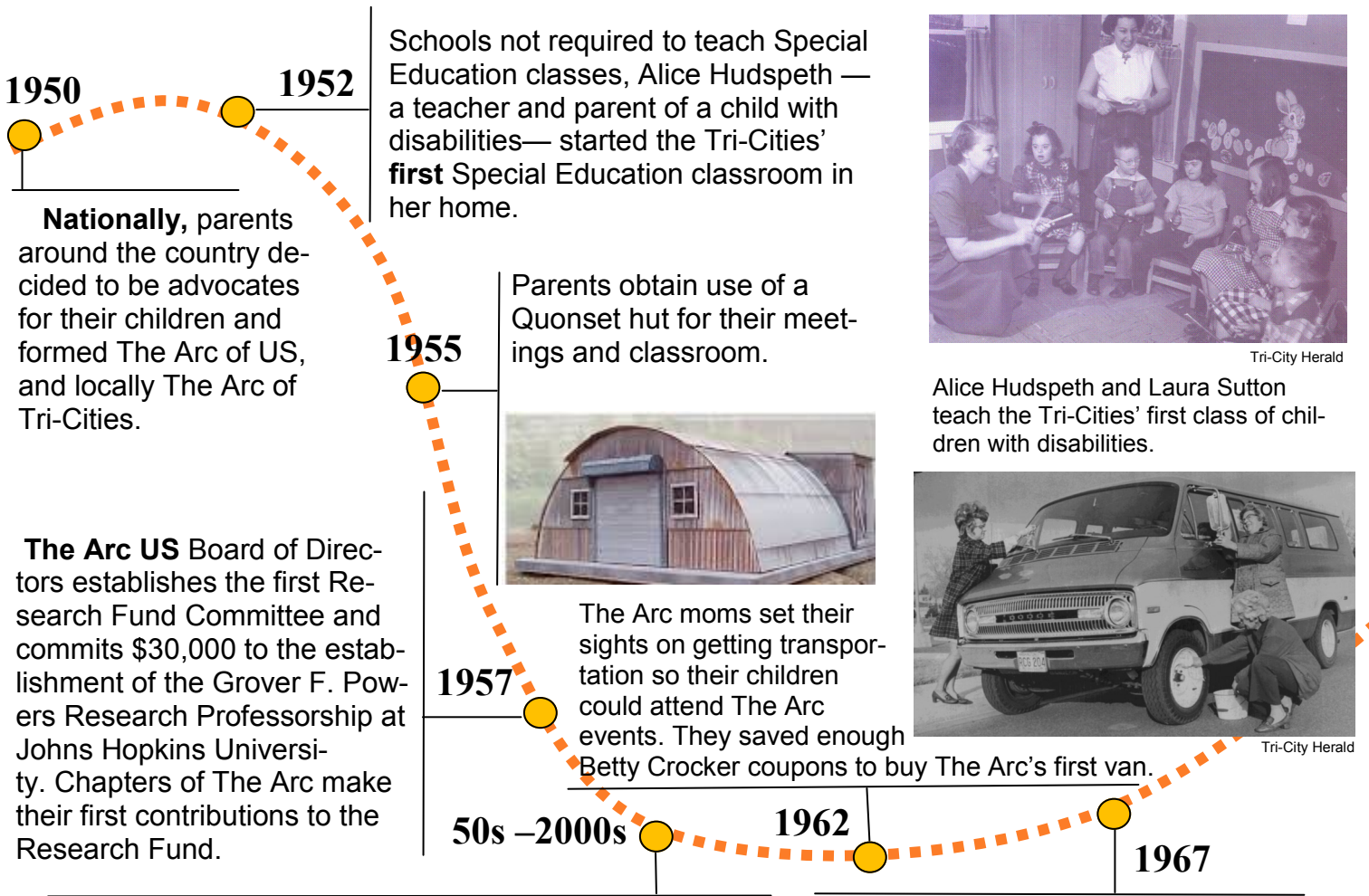


Partners N Pals Horseback Riding Day



Skills development

The Arc local, across the nation



Tri-City Herald

Alice Hudspeth and Laura Sutton teach the Tri-Cities' first class of children with disabilities.



The Arc moms set their sights on getting transportation so their children could attend The Arc events. They saved enough Betty Crocker coupons to buy The Arc's first van.



Tri-City Herald

No housing for I/DD— The Arc builds group home at 761 Williams in Richland. Tri-Cities Residential Services emerges from that project.



In 1967 **Washington State** adopts a system of state and county services. In 1991, employment services for high school transition graduates with I/DD are funded for the first time.

1955	1976	1981	1992	2000	2007	2010

Through the decades the language has changed from being descriptive to respectful

on the path to inclusion for all



The Arc families influence congress to enact the *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*, now called the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.

Richland School District rents Sacajawea Elementary out to The Arc for \$1 per year.

1974

1975

2002

2010

1973

The Arc fills need for early intervention –starts Children’s Developmental Center, and nurtures Center to become its own agency.



Children's Developmental Center

1971

With vehicle tab cost reduction, BFT asked The Arc to form a transportation coalition with Goodwill, Columbia Industries and Adult Day Services. These services have been running for 15 years.

Today

The Arc continues to identify and fill gaps for I/DD community.



Washington State enacts first mandatory special education act— Parents Katie Dolan, Janet Taggart, Cecile Lindquist, Evelyn Chapman and William Dussault among others, secure the enactment of the nation’s first mandatory special education act.

The Arc continues to identify and fill gaps for I/DD community.

The Arc moves into its \$3.7M facility at 1455 Fowler St., Richland — completely paid for — NO debt.



The Arc supports individuals with I/DD and their care providers.

Advocacy

advocacy

Ad- vuh-kuh-see

1. the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal

Champions speak out for others

At one time or another, everyone needs help. The Arc of Tri-Cities is a safety net for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. The Arc is an active advocate in all matters

that affect people with disabilities: Housing, employment, medical, financial, legislative. The Arc is an outspoken voice at the local, state and national levels, and has brought about many positive changes by meeting with legislators and presenting the causes and concerns of the I/DD community. The Arc also supports groups that speak out for themselves, and others who otherwise would have no voice—groups such as The Arc Governmental Affairs Committee, The Arc of Tri-Cities group, Self-Advocates Developing Leaders (SADL), and People First.



Above: Advocacy Day is a highly-anticipated yearly trip where self-advocates learn how to present their concerns to legislators which they do during a pizza lunch with their area lawmakers.

Left: Self-advocates ready to tour the Washington State Capitol. Participants are allowed to sit in the House and Senate galleries and listen to the proceedings.

Marching for Respect

Each year hundreds gather in solidarity for all abilities



Come to John Dam Plaza the fourth Sat. in March and show your "Ability Pride."



The Arc: It's not an acronym

the Word to End the Word.....Spread the Word to End the Word.....Spread the Word to



The Arc.

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

When people with disabilities found their voices as **Self-Advocates**, the wording on documents, in everyday conversation and on logos began reflecting language that was respectful and more accurate. The Arc became a name, and no longer an acronym.

Forging Friendships

The Arc Buddy Clubs provide opportunities for teens with disabilities to form friendships with teens without disabilities. Club members are "matched" for the entire year and commit to contacting each other, during the school year, on a regular basis. Often, the buddies remain friends into their adult lives. Buddy Club was started in one school in 1999, and now is in nine high schools and six middle schools.



Building Programs

Unmet Needs in Benton/Franklin Counties:

Some of the most fragile and vulnerable in our community do not receive the help they need. Hundreds of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are on long waiting lists for services; parents must quit their jobs to care for children with severe needs. High school seniors with I/DD are struggling to receive adequate transition training for employment after graduation. And, the situation is only getting worse—with the fast-growing population in the Tri-Cities, the per capita incidence of I/DD increases, too. This is where The Arc of Tri-Cities steps in and helps fill the gaps:

TRANSPORTATION

As The Arc began to grow, so did the need for transportation. In 1991, Ben-Franklin Transit and The Arc formed a partnership with BFT realizing that The Arc drivers were better equipped to handle the special needs and behaviors of the people they served.



With the passing of the vehicle tab cost reduction in 2002, BFT asked The Arc to form a coalition with Goodwill, Columbia Industries and Adult Day Services. The Arc has been running transportation services for these agencies for 15 years.

Without the bus service, people with I/DD would have no way to maneuver around the Tri-Cities and experience their independence.

PARENT/FAMILY & CARE PROVIDER SUPPORT

When The Arc facility isn't serving clients, it is supplying meeting space for groups such as the Down Syndrome



Association of Mid-Columbia, and holding training sessions for families and care providers of people with disabilities. Parents often feel alone—caught in a vacuum of uncertainty. Those who care for people with I/DD have unique concerns and problems. The Arc fills the void with resources, training and seminars.

The Arc has groups such as **Parent to Parent** and **Better Together**, to help parents/care providers connect with others with similar struggles, answers and conquests to share. Programs are offered in English and Spanish.

ADULT DAY PROGRAMS



Day services for adults with I/DD, are absolutely vital for the participants and their families. Without these services, individuals with I/DD would have to sit in their homes with nothing to do—and a parent would,

of necessity, have to give up a job to stay home and provide care. The Arc offers **Adult Respite**, for people with special needs; **VIP Club**, offers socialization, community inclusion and skill development; **Community Access** encourages participants to be involved in creating plans tailored to their needs and goals.

About 185 people participate in Adult Day services each week. These popular programs all have long waiting lists.

PARTNERS N PALS

Summer can be pretty boring when there's "nothin' to do," - imagine having disabilities and not even being able to go out into the sunshine with the neighborhood kids. The Arc recognized the need for ALL kids to go swimming, bowling, play goofy games, enjoy picnics and dress up like a cowboy and go horseback riding. The Arc provides those activities, and MORE, for youngsters 8—21 years of age with and without disabilities, eight glorious weeks every summer.



The day camp is growing every year with nearly 200 campers, and The Arc makes the magic happen with **75** volunteer helpers, **75** Leaders in Training (LiT) who receive a stipend, and **50** paid staff. The camp is so popular that there are waiting lists for campers and volunteers alike. Volunteers often willingly give up more than 250 hours during the 8-week program, and then, come back the next year!



PARTNERS N PALS JUNIOR

Not to forget the younger children, The Arc also provides a day camp for children 2 – 7 years old. The program serves 25—30 campers each summer.



RECREATION

Having new and fun experiences comes naturally to most people, but many folks with I/DD need to be helped and encouraged to try something different. And, others living with I/DD want to have wild and crazy adventures, but need help getting "there." Another gap for The Arc of Tri-Cities to fill.



Some of the activities The Arc provides are:

Dances: Four MAJOR dances each year are sponsored by The Arc: Winter Ball, Sweetheart Dance, Irish Dance and Spring Fling.

Fishing Day:

Through the C.A.S.T. program people of all ages can dip their poles in the Columbia Park Lagoon and almost be guaranteed at least one fish.



Easter Egg Hunt: The event includes special beeping eggs for the sight impaired children.

Halloween and Christmas Parties: What more needs to be said—two very well-attended events.

Camping: Through the philanthropic group Camp Prime



Time, a wonderful campground at Rimrock Lake is available to The Arc every other year.

Trips: Who doesn't enjoy getting out of town for the

day, or for a week. The Arc plans an annual day-trip to a Mariner's baseball game; another popular day trip is to the Portland Zoo. Longer trips have included four days on the Oregon Coast, and nearly a week at Disneyland.

Fair Night: A trip to the local Fair for eats, treats and the concert.



EDUCATION & TRANSITIONS



We all continue to learn, and the I/DD community is no different. The Arc offers regular workshops and training for individuals with developmental disabilities to support continued education. The Arc works with local school districts to put in place systems that will help graduating seniors with I/DD learn about the work arena, and how to acquire skills to increase the odds of successfully competing for employment.

The Arc takes its fiduciary responsibilities seriously



In 2017:

94% of budget dollars funded programs for the people The Arc supports

Only **6%** of budget dollars were spent on Administrative costs

Playing well with others

Sports is as important to athletes with disabilities as to typically developing athletes. Since the early 1960s, Tri-Cities athletes with disabilities have been participating in Special Olympic sports.

As the area has grown so has the interest in more varied types of athletic endeavors. Ski teams have had to add snowboarding to their repertoire; early on basketball and baseball teams flourished—then, soccer needed to be added.

With the nearest Special Olympics (S.O.) office in Seattle, area S.O. organizers found it difficult, at best, to get gyms and fields reserved, meet dates set, and team equipment purchased. Several of the sports were floundering and athletes had little or no help getting the registration forms filled out in order to participate in their preferred sport.



The Arc of Tri-Cities saw the need, and again, stepped-up-to-the-plate by creating a partnership with Special Olympics Washington. The pilot program allows The Arc to perform many of the administration responsibilities at the local area, taking the strain off of the state S.O. office, and allow procedures to move more quickly and smoothly.

Another gap the partnership fills is to gradually add more teams to existing sports, and add to the types of sports offered.

Achieve with us.

The Arc of Tri-Cities thanks its supporters

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MISSION STATEMENT:

The Arc of Tri-Cities promotes the rights of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by actively supporting full inclusion and participation in all aspects of the community throughout their lifetimes.

Community Partners

It takes a Village

The Arc relies on sponsors/community partners



washington river
protection solutions



Morgan Stanley



Achieve with The Arc

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families

If this brochure has piqued your interest regarding the goings-on of The Arc, you may want to consider a yearly membership that will provide you with a quarterly newsletter packed with information about advocacy events, training and seminar dates, Special Olympic notifications and The Arc Recreation schedules.

There also are many ways that the community can volunteer: Helping with events, lending The Arc IT expertise, serving on the board of directors, teaching a skills class, and more. The Arc heavily depends on volunteers—the amount of time given is up to the individual. More information on membership and volunteer opportunities can be found Online at: www.arcoftricitie.com.