

## Steering Committee Communication, December 2018

### Steering Committee Update

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, the Steering Committee met to further **explore** the case of **Stronger Together** & opportunities of a merger between the Arcs of Greensboro and High Point. On this evening we discussed the following points. **Every topic we discuss we approach first with 'How does this benefit those we support?'**

#### Gradual Integration of Programs & Increased Collaboration between Organizations

As we explore opportunities, we examine current programs and services offered by each Arc. We find no core programming overlap that would negatively impact of our membership. Even better, we already collaborate on a number of programs, and where we do not collaborate together could be enhanced by merging. For example, the Arc of Greensboro partners with A&T University for a Mentoring Program and the Arc of High Point partners with High Point University for a Best Buddies program. Together, these programs could offer the same benefits to our members and allow greater exposure.

For programs without a counterpart with the other Arc, we find a combined Arc allows for expansion based on increased need and potential funding. For example, High Point's Access Dental program serves a number of clients from Greensboro but they come to High Point to participate. By merging, this program can benefit from funding sources in Greensboro (such as the United Way) and allow for increased serving capacity.

#### New Board of Directors

What a combined Arc would look like will be determined by the Character of the new board. We are exploring the strengths of each board, what works well and what does not to determine roles such as Officers and Directors as well as terms and authorities. We plan to report in more detail on this in January.

#### Transportation

As we assess the benefits of a combined Arc, we are ensuring we are able to serve every individual. Guilford County is a large area and we are assessing transportation resources that allows us to ensure our expanded programs will indeed be accessible to everyone.

#### Financial Analysis

We are working on projections for each Arc as well as a combined organization. To do this, we are compiling audits for a clear understanding of the other's position. We hope to report these in our next communication.

#### Merger Budget

We are happy to report that we are receiving positive response from potential funders. The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and the Weaver Foundation have already graciously contributed towards this cost and we have to opportunity to receive further funding from community partners as well.

#### Timeline

The Steering Committee is actively engaging the boards of each Arc to ensure questions are addressed. We are working with the boards to determine a Resolution on the topic of merger by March 2019. This Board Resolution will be brought to the Annual meeting of each Arc for a vote as determined by their bylaws. This vote at the Annual Meeting will be the deciding vote on whether to merge to become the Arc of Guilford.

As we explore the potential of a merger, we continue to receive more and more support and excitement from our community partners. We look forward to sharing more information in our next newsletter in January. Our next meeting will be January 7th.

We realize many questions and concerns will arise as we explore coming together. **Please direct questions for the Steering Committee to [Stronger2getherHPGso@gmail.com](mailto:Stronger2getherHPGso@gmail.com)**. For past communications and updates, please visit our webpage [www.Stronger2getherHPGso.org](http://www.Stronger2getherHPGso.org).

### Noteworthy News:

- The Arc of Greensboro is partnering with the Kiwanis Club of Greensboro to establish an Aktion Club! The Arc will serve as host of the club and assist in providing opportunities for serving the community.
- The Arc of High Point's **Creative Arts Art Action** held November 7<sup>th</sup> was successful in raising over \$9,000 for our Creative Arts Studio! The Studio provides an outlet for expression and to give our artists a productive day.



Just in time for the holidays, arcBARKS has introduced a new pumpkin based, grain free treat that is flying off the shelves. Our new treat is available in our Spring Garden Street bakery as is a wide selection of holiday packaged classic Peanut Butter Barkers. For further information, visit our Facebook page or [www.arcBARKS.com](http://www.arcBARKS.com) or come visit our Bakery located at **2823-C Spring Garden St. in Greensboro, Mon – Fri 9am to 4pm.**



We can be **Stronger Together**. As we explore the possibility of bringing the Arcs together, our goal is to strengthen our ability to promote and advocate for opportunities that empower people with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities to have choices and determine where and how they learn, live, work, and play.



### Steering Committee Members

Linda Yurko, **Executive Director –Arc of Greensboro**

Stephanie Antkowiak, **Executive Director –Arc of High Point**

Allison Cecil

Joel Fingerhut

Tamela Gainey

Leigh Anne Kasias

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