

GRATITUDE REPORT



SEPTEMBER 17TH
2019



FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR ARC COMMUNITY ADVOCATES COMMUNITY:

As we look back on 2018, we do so with gratitude for the continued support you have given us and our strong partnerships in building social equity and opportunity for individuals and families affected by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (i/dd).

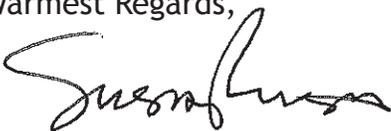
For over 66 years, we have been inspired by our client's and family's perseverance as they work to overcome their trials and tribulations, barriers and frustrations. We have been educating the community about the important need to support policies and opportunities to reduce barriers and foster an inclusive community.

Our free services provide advocacy, sense of empowerment and assistance in navigating social service systems for individuals and families affected by i/dd so they can live their best lives, whatever they choose that to be.

Not only are we current stewards of the legacy that families started in 1953 while fighting for equal rights for people with disabilities, but we owe it to future generations to continue the momentum to ensure "Disability rights are human rights."

Finally, because our services are free, we rely on various grant funders, donations and fundraisers to ensure our vital services remain free. There are many ways to give - directly by check or online donation, IRA distribution, bequests, support of fundraisers like Arctoberfest or Ribfest to name a few. Your benefit is knowing you have not just made a charitable donation but have made a Social Investment in the future of individuals with i/dd.

Warmest Regards,



Susan Rush, Executive Director
The Arc Community Advocates

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME

SUSAN RUSH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD & STAFF

2018 HIGHLIGHTS AND SERVICE UPDATES

SUSAN RUSH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BEVERLY MCBRIEN, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY

LEGISLATIVE AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY UPDATES & CHALLENGES 2018-2020

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND UPDATES

KELLEY HOWARD, BOARD CHAIR

BY-LAW CHANGES/UPDATES/MEMBER COMMENTS

KELLEY HOWARD, BOARD CHAIR

BOARD VICE CHAIR APPROVAL VOTE

KELLEY HOWARD, BOARD CHAIR

GENERAL MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURN

BOARD & STAFF

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-19

Kelley Howard - Board Chair

Phil Copeland - Secretary

David Ullrey - Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Vickie Edwards

Chase Grounds

Lauren Harkness

Steve Leep

Katie Soule

Teresa Tucker

STAFF

Susan Rush, *Executive Director*

Beverly McBrien, LMSW, *Director of Advocacy*

Annie Gaertner, *Individual & Family Advocate*

LaTaynia Conant, *Marketing & Communications*

Coordinator

2018 Intern - Jessica O'Sullivan

2019 Intern - Kim Petrucci

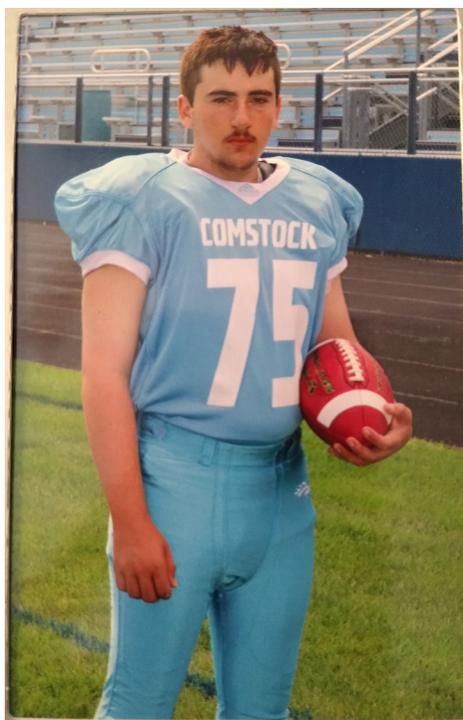
ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & NEW DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Vickie Edwards, *Vice Chair*

ADVOCACY IMPACT

OUR ADVOCACY MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

By: Heather - parent of a school aged child - Elijah



I first became aware of the ARC Community Advocates through paperwork given to families by the school when the IEP process started.

The ARC Community Advocates support has been amazing. My advocate listened and she heard me. She got to know me. She learned about my disconnect with the school. She saw the school was not providing the best services for my son. She witnessed my passion and drive to get my son the best education he could have. *Her ability to connect with me has allowed for some amazing things to happen personally and with my son's education.*

My advocate(s) has attended all of my meetings with the school. (She even was there once when I was sick). She has helped unweave some very complex situations by being a voice for Elijah. She did this at a time when my frustrations were high, the information at the meetings was overwhelming and

my voice was stuck. She is positive and polite, however spoke very candid about the issues.

I have learned to listen better, be respectful but not fearful of what I need to say and realize that resolutions can happen. *I have honestly been given strength through my advocate I once didn't have.* The support my advocate has given me has allowed me to be a better mother, a better listener and a better advocate for my son. I'm not perfect but I'm better.

SERVICE IN NUMBERS

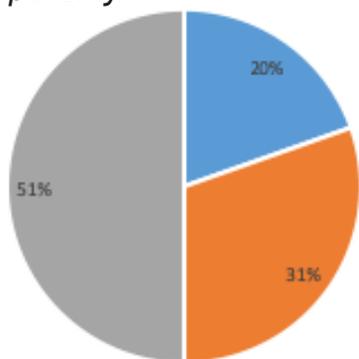
INCOME LEVEL

Individuals with and ID/DD are 2-1 times more likely to be in poverty.

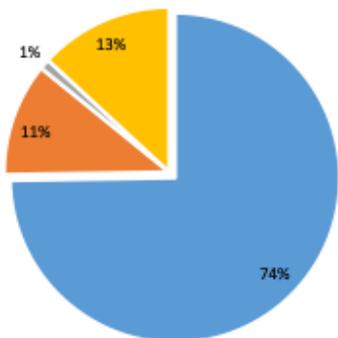
Above Poverty
20%

Below Poverty
31%

Did Not Disclose
51%



ETHNICITY



African American
11%

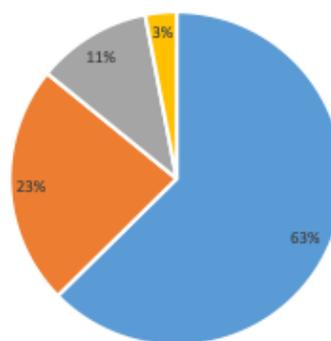
Latino
1%

Caucasian
74%

Other
13%

CLIENT GOALS

Each client has an advocacy goal whose team (advocate, school, guardian) works hard to achieve.



Completed 63%

In Progress 23%

No Longer Being Pursued 11%

Goal Changed 3%

AREAS OF ADVOCACY

Majority of our clients reach out for help in Education Advocacy, but we also provide advocacy in other areas!

Community Inclusion 4%

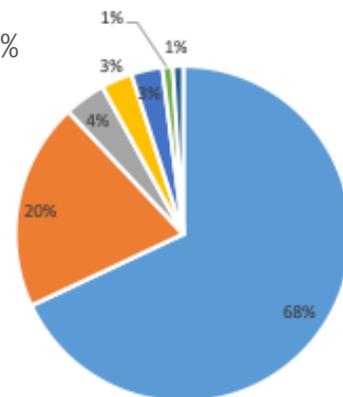
Education 68%

Housing 1%

Employment 3%

Long Term Planning 3%

Power of Attorney 20%



YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

- Created Logic Models for each of our services, these define obtainable outcomes for individuals and families in the short term, intermediate and long term.
- Carried an average of 130 open cases.
- Hired an Individual and Family Advocate to assist with school based transition planning and adult needs.
- Welcomed four new board members.
- Officially unveiled FIND - Families and Individuals Navigating Decisions and new brochure.
- Served on state level committee to develop message for Supported Decision Making in an effort to reduce unneeded guardianships.
- Provided training in various advocacy areas to 150 individuals through our Annual Inclusion Conference and individual trainings held in collaboration with other like serving agencies.
- Journey of Hope - Hosted 36 Pi Kappa Phi North Route Cyclists who spent their summer cycling over 12,000 miles over three different routes. We hosted them for an afternoon at a community picnic.





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www.communityadvocates.org

*We exist as an advocacy organization to make it possible
for each person with a developmental disability to
participate fully in all aspects of community and to
support the effort of each individual
to determine his/her own future.*