



Annual Report

The Arc of Chester County
2001-2002



OUR MISSION

The Mission of The Arc of Chester County is to empower individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and their family members.

To accomplish its Mission, The Arc will:

Advocate with, educate and provide support for these individuals and their families to ensure access to all rights and services to which they are entitled.

Secure for these individuals the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play/use leisure time.

Deliver the highest quality programs and services to these individuals and their families.

Promote on a system-wide basis for these individuals the delivery of quality services and the protection of their rights.

Support the development and implementation of public policy which furthers its goals.

Educate the community about the rights and abilities of these individuals and the prevention of mental retardation/developmental disabilities.

Highlights of 2001-02

Fiscal Year 2001-02 was one of milestones and celebrations! In October 2001, The Arc staged its official ribbon cutting and open house at the newly furnished building. Over 200 persons attended the event which featured guided tours throughout the building, fine refreshments and a short program.



Founders and early members of The Arc were given the honor of cutting the ribbon to officially commemorate this new chapter in The

Arc's history.

Months later, more than 400 friends, supporters, families and program participants gathered again for a Sunday afternoon of musical entertainment, a barbecue and fun-filled activities in West Goshen Township Park. This grand occasion in June 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of The Arc's founding by parents concerned about the lack of educational opportunities, services, and acceptance for their children with mental retardation.

The Arc also played special host when children with special needs from across the Delaware Valley gathered for a morning of baseball and the thrill of team competition during Eastside Little League's presentation of Challenger Day at West Goshen Community Park in May 2002.



Other happenings included honoring John Suplee as the featured artist for ART 2001 at the fall reception and auctions at the Historic Dilworthtown Inn. Suplee's "The Darlington Cedar, West Chester" was the featured work for the annual holiday cards

and prints. Suplee and more than 100 area artists took part in the 38th annual art exhibition held at the Chester County Art Association.

Good news continued to come from regional funders. The Arc received notification from the Pew Charitable Trusts that it was successful in its bid to develop an information system using Danic Tools as the application. With the grant, The Arc will create a unique system, one that can be afforded, adopted, used and maintained by other early intervention providers in the state. This more efficient record-keeping and billing system will lessen the strain on staff and existing resources.



PROGRAMS

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES:

Advocacy

Advocacy remained at the heart of The Arc, offering a critical safety net to ensure that the rights of people with mental retardation and other disabilities are maintained. Advocates provided information, referrals and support to individuals and families to assist them in accessing community life while receiving the most appropriate services possible.



The Arc provided more than **1,500** hours of educational advocacy and served about **400** families in a variety of ways. Families received a newsletter with a community resource listing and monthly mailings, attended trainings, and

participated regularly in ARConnections parent support group meetings. About **200** individuals or families received direct one-on-one advocacy services. The Arc also provided innumerable information and referrals to needed services. The



number of individual mentoring/consultation requests per quarter averaged about **70**. ARConnections meetings and trainings in the education process have been attended by about **170** individuals, with as many as **40** individuals attending a training. Support groups coordinated by the educational advocate and

parent coordinators continued to grow in the Coatesville, Downingtown, Avon Grove, West Chester and Phoenixville areas.

Throughout the year, The Arc provided more than **1,000** hours of adult advocacy and family support services, answered over **200** information and referral inquiries, performed approximately **100** short-term advocacy interventions, and supported **31** long-term advocacy cases.

Community Education

Community education remained a special focus of The Arc. Month of March and related mental retardation awareness activities continued for a 24th year with the

c o u n t y w i d e distribution of Fetal Alcohol, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Folic Acid Nutrition and Helmet Safety information and



Sabbath/Sunday flyers for area congregations. Radio interviews and public service announcements were aired on WCOJ 1420 AM and advertisements were displayed in local newspapers. The Arc coordinated an Education Fair at the Exton Mall and invited similar non-profits

to join in these efforts to reach the public. The Arc also distributed "Pregnant Women Never Drink Alone" bookmarks to local state liquor stores to hand out to customers and raise awareness to the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

Life Skills

Life Skills services grew dramatically as trainers helped individuals with mental retardation to obtain the necessary skills to live more independently in the community. Specialized instruction was offered in the home, out in the community and in The Arc's life skills classroom. Sessions, available individually or in a small group, included basic cooking, health and wellness, housekeeping, meal planning, money management, personal hygiene, fire and community safety and other areas that promote personal growth and independence. More than **8,000** hours of services were provided by trainers.



Recreation

Recreation programs helped youth and adults with mental retardation safely participate in their community and provided needed respite for parents and other caregivers. These programs also reduced isolation and loneliness, increased confidence and encouraged greater independence. Participation in one of the recreation programs sometimes led to employment or volunteer work.

About **120** adults and children took part in one or more programs that include weekly and monthly social gatherings, excursions into the community and beyond, and regular meetings of

the Dinner of the Month Club.

Weekly Hub and Canteen gatherings were held at the The Arc headquarters in West Goshen. Adult participants also enjoyed trips that included *Dewey Beach, DE, Phantoms and Phillies sporting events, Spring Training in Clearwater, FL and Disney World, Orlando, FL.*



Monthly "Fun Club" offered children ages 6-17 age-appropriate activities and excursions. For children ages 4-12, Camp Safari offered two week-long summer sessions at Camp Paradise in Downingtown. This special camp brought together children with developmental disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds for outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, canoeing and fishing.



EARLY INTERVENTION

The First Step Early Intervention Program was committed to providing inclusive services in the least restrictive educational setting and most natural environment for the child. Program goals included facilitating a child's maximum developmental growth through family training and direct specialized

services.

The Arc served **320** children through its home- and classroom-based programs. Skilled nursing care continued to meet a critical need of children attending the preschool. Nurses provide a total of **55** hours of service per week to enable medically involved children to attend classroom

programs safely and productively. Participation in a classroom program allowed for a child's growth and development through regular interaction with peers despite physical limitations or severity of medical involvement.

Music therapy also continued to play an important part in the classroom program by allowing children to reach their full potential through non-threatening and enjoyable music-related activities. The continuation of this program, which does not receive government funding, was made possible through contributions by parents and friends, grants, United Way and other private funding sources.



EMPLOYMENT

Comprehensive Employment Services assisted individuals with a wide range of disabilities to prepare for, obtain and maintain competitive employment. Employment training specialists assisted **74** county residents with a wide range of disabilities to obtain employment in the community. Services included work-based assessments, job development, placement, on-the-job training and follow up.

Employment services provided 111 hours of community-based work assessments for five Office of Vocational Rehabilitation clients at retailers, childcare, nursing home, offices and non-profits. Employment was obtained and maintained at many area businesses including *The Arc, Acme, Home Depot, United Artists Theater, Echo Data Systems, TJ Maxx, Devereux Foundation, Allen Envelopes, Holiday Inn, Popeye's, West Goshen Township, Working Wardrobe, BJ Wholesale, Chester County Public Library, Ross Dress for Lee, Guinta's Market and ShopRite.*

**The Arc of Chester County
(FY 2001-02)**

Support	\$193,238
Fees & Grants	2,518,220
Other Revenue	79,857
Restricted Net Assets Released	480,221
Revenues	\$3,271,536

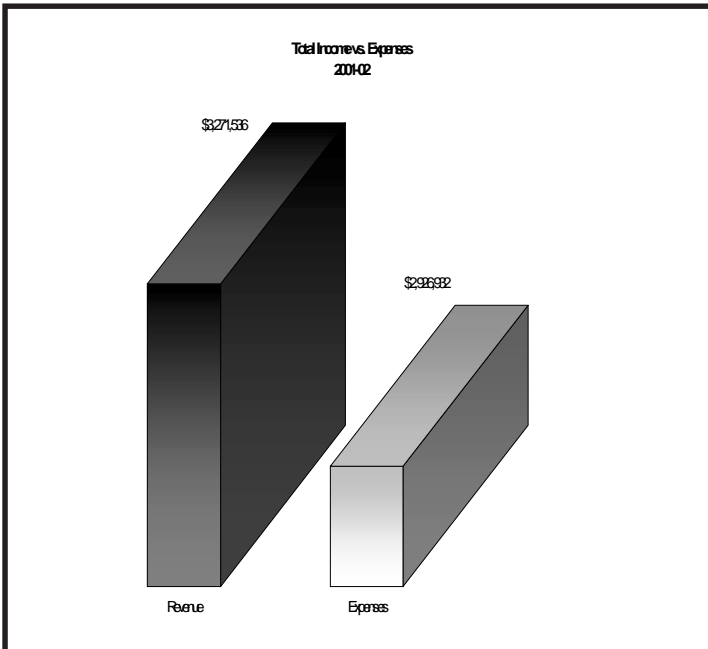
Personnel	\$1,939,006
Occupancy	311,149
Communication	80,425
Administration	279,859
Operating	99,371
Client Transportation	134,209
Other	82,913
Expenses	\$2,926,932

Increase in Unrestricted Assets: \$344,604

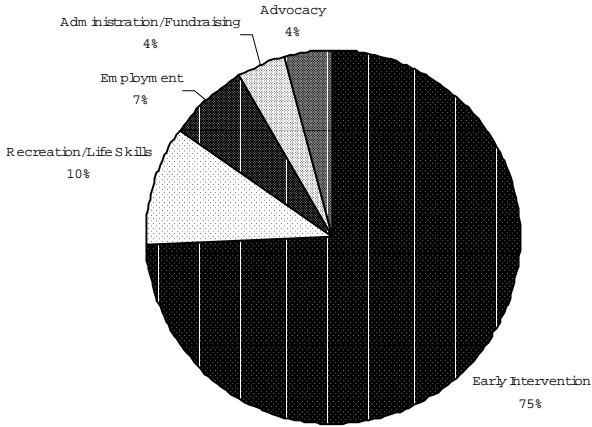
Total Increase in Net Assets: \$8,972

Net Assets at Beginning of Year: \$1,653,077

Net Assets at End of Year: \$1,662,050



Program Income & Expenses



Program Income vs. Expenses



	Early Intervention	Rec/Life Skills	Employment	Admin/Fundraising	Advocacy	Total
Income	2,076,198	288,490	196,791	116,622	113,214	\$2,791,315
Expenses	2,154,240	291,533	206,747	150,005	124,408	\$2,926,932

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