The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region assists people with developmental disabilities to identify and pursue personally valued lives.

Annual Report 2005
This has been an exciting year filled with many challenges and opportunities for growth as The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region continues to initiate and implement cutting edge services and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Our staff and volunteers work diligently with the people we support as change agents and advocates, but more importantly as community builders.

The Arc continues to transcend early constructs of limitations and barriers placed on people with disabilities; a time when programs and services were “self contained” and the community at large was a very separate world and reality for our consumers. Today, the tides have changed, and are swiftly moving The Arc forward into an ever-expanding reach into the community. In fact, our vision to build community has exceeded earlier visioning and expectations and has become quite far-reaching. Not only do we interface with the greater communities of Harford and Cecil Counties, but we realize that, like society as a whole, with advances in technology and communications, we are becoming a global community and are interconnected with like minded people throughout the world in very real and tangible ways.

Throughout this report you will find examples of The Arc’s involvement in the community that not only exceed our boundaries, but penetrate throughout the world. While our work continues to take us into far reaching places, we continue to realize the only way to change the world is one person at a time.

We continue to be amazed by all that is unfolding and will look forward to making more friends and world-wide connections, because indeed...It’s a Small World After All!

Patricia Ourednik
President

Tim Quinn
Executive Director
Programs & Services

Employment Services for Adults and Transitioning Youth
The Arc supported over 150 adults and transitioning youth in securing employment based upon their preferences and job skills. Individuals may choose to pursue a position as an employee of a local business or as a member of a small group working at one or more job sites.

Highlights: Employment Services will be able to redesign their service system, restructure customer supports, and connect to employers due to the awarding of a Training and Technical grant through the Department of Labor. At the end of FY2005, 90% of individuals requesting employment were employed, 9 transitioning youth entered services, and 14 individuals began using public transportation. The newly formed Community Partners supports people’s desire to find and enjoy a mix of individually meaningful, community and home based activities and an RSVP Program that supports individuals in developing and maintaining relationships.

Supported Living Services
The Arc provided customized support services to over 105 adults with disabilities in apartments, town homes, or single family homes according to their preference.

Highlights: Individuals are making progress in being included as full members of their neighborhoods and communities by establishing and maintaining friendships independent of paid staff, joining clubs, accessing resources, forming relationships, and participating in activities determined by their interests and choices, not disability.

Individual Support Services
The Arc offers customized assistance to people in their home and community life based upon the individual’s specific needs. From assistance with transportation to doctor’s appointments and social outings, to help with meal preparation and bill paying, The Arc provides services to suit each person.

Highlights: Individuals are supported in choosing healthier food choices and living healthier lifestyles as they continue to use community health club resources. Individual’s accomplishments are identified and recognized in regards to work performance and attendance, self advocacy, and community building.

Family Support Services
Family Support Services provide supports to over 200 families of children with developmental disabilities between the ages of 0-21 who live in the community. A wide range of services are provided based on the specific needs of each family.

Highlights: Focus areas for FY2005 included expanding on a wide range of services that included educational advocacy, teen advocacy, and parent education and support groups.

Family Partnership Program
Children with special needs in Harford and Cecil Counties are waiting for foster homes with families prepared to provide them with opportunities to reach their full potential. The Arc helps by recruiting and training treatment foster parents and assists with the reunification or adoption process in this program.

Highlights: In FY05 more than 35 children were touched by this service with 6 reunifications and 6 families receiving initial foster parent training.

It’s a world of laughter, a world of tears.
Meet Jo Anne Witherspoon and Sabine McKnight... two women from different backgrounds and cultures who have come together with the help of The Arc, and are using their unique talents and skills to help one another while fulfilling personal goals...

Jo Anne Witherspoon was born in New York, and after many years, came to settle in Harford County. As an employee of The Arc's sheltered workshop, Jo Anne dreamed of the day she would have a "real job." When the move toward community employment began in the late 1980's, Jo Anne was one of the first to request employment outside of the workshop. Since then she has been employed at Fallston General Hospital, K-Mart, and Sephora. During her free time Jo Anne could usually be found working on one of her passions...crocheting.

Sabine McKnight arrived in the United States from Germany with her husband. Between visits to Germany, she was feeling lonely and unfulfilled living in the States away from friends and family. Sabine explored volunteer opportunities with The Arc and after seeing samples of Sabine's creativity; a volunteer position for an arts and crafts class was established.

And then it happened. The discovery of that common link that brings people together. While instructing the class, Sabine was asked if she crocheted. When Sabine answered in the affirmative, The Arc replied, "Have we got someone for you to meet!" That someone was Jo Anne Witherspoon!

Together, Sabine and Jo Anne worked to perfect Jo Anne's crochet techniques. Jo Anne repeatedly expressed an interest in becoming her own boss by making and selling her crocheted items. Sabine began helping Jo Anne work toward this goal immediately, first marketing her hand made baby bibs. Their efforts were rewarded when Sabine saw fancy sandals for sale that had been decorated with fuzzy yarn crocheted to the straps. Sabine thought this was something Jo Anne could create and bought the materials to try herself.

Soon they decided that Jo Anne could begin a craft business selling the sandals. Together with help from Employment Services at The Arc, Sabine began developing a marketing and business plan and Jo Anne's "Sassy Sandals" was born. Jo Anne is very proud of her business and is excited every time she sells a pair of sandals.

Sabina McKnight found a friend in Jo Anne and The Arc and has created an outlet for her own creativity and business skills. Sabine and Jo Anne have a wonderful relationship. Watching the two of them together while making the sandals, one gets the sense that they have created a bond beyond business that has no limitations or cultural boundaries. It's a small world after all...
Vytau Kezenis, an “old world” gentleman living in Harford County with supports through The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, has and continues to lead a life that epitomizes the concepts of freedom and independence. Vytau, now 73 years old and retired, was a former employee of the Johnson Control Company through a sub-contract facilitated by The Arc. His strong work ethic and sense of self, along with support from The Arc, has lead Vytau to overcome many of the challenges faced by people with developmental disabilities in America . . . and elsewhere.

As an independent young man growing up in Lithuania, patriotism was a driving force in Vytau’s life. Rebellious and vibrant at the age of thirteen, he registered for army camp with his friends and fought the Germans during the occupation in WWII, experiencing both the trauma and honor of being wounded in defense of his country. Later, he came to America, where he began the transition to a new life in a different country.

Vytau has always worked. And so, in Baltimore he found work at the Holy Redeemer, mowing lawns for extra money. His goal was to educate himself to the best of his ability. To this end he saved for a television, one of the “must have” luxuries for people after World War II. But what was a luxury to some was an educational tool for Vytau. He spent hours watching television and learned the English language. To this day, one of his favorite past-times is reading the English dictionary and watching television. All of this hard work has made Vytau a true linguist. He reads, writes and speaks fluently in both Lithuanian and English.

Vytau is also a talented artist, who has shared his artistic gift with those around him over the years. An immensely private man, Vytau has often felt uncomfortable about public displays of his art, preferring to unveil his drawings and paintings to close friends and relatives. This year, The Arc had the good fortune to benefit from his creativity. It is Vytau’s vision of a global community as portrayed in his artwork that is woven throughout the agency’s Annual Report.

From his youth and young manhood in Lithuania, to his arrival in America and up till the present day, Vytau has overcome obstacles and remained true to himself as he fought for what he believes in, independent living in his community. The Arc was there as a partner, providing Vytau with employment services, assisted living, and support in his retirement years.

Vytau’s support counselor of eight years, Elwood Roy, agrees that the two strive to work together and value the differences in their background and cultures that seem to make their relationship stronger. Elwood observes, “Everyday I see something unique in this individual!”. 
Shin Kim left behind the world she knew in Seoul, Korea to come to the United States with her fiancé, whose passion was to be a doctor. She faced the challenge of making a new life for herself and her husband in America, but soon found a base of familiarity within the growing Korean-American Community. However, she was not prepared for the challenges that lay ahead with having a child with Down’s Syndrome. Twelve years later, with a vision in her heart for her son Young and other Korean families affected by developmental disabilities, Shin founded the non-profit organization known as KADPA. KADPA now provides advocacy and supports to over sixty Korean-American individuals and their families in the state of Maryland.

After trying for many years to manage the complexities of growing a non-profit organization on her own, Shin reached out to The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. Partnering with The Arc not only fulfilled Shin’s need to be connected with people who understood how she felt, but further empowered her to work with families to trust her skills, as well as their own abilities. The Arc has taken KADPA under its wing, and helped nurture this growing human services agency through support and direction in the development of services for families, advocacy, and training opportunities . . . reminiscent of The Arc in 1953 when it, too, was a grassroots organization started by a small group of parents with a similar vision for their children. Shin adds, “The Arc has helped us to open the door to new opportunities.”

Young is now a man of twenty-six with a loving heart who enjoys swimming, skiing, and many other activities coordinated by KADPA. Activities that also include the more than sixty other families supported by the agency. In addition, The Arc’s Employment Services has given Young the resources and skills to obtain a job at McDonald’s, and enabled other individuals in the KADPA family to follow in Young’s path.

Although Shin’s journey into a new country and the world of developmental disabilities as a parent and human services professional has not been easy, it has been a “labor of love”. The experience has transformed her entire family and she has found herself “mother” to many children, recognizing their abilities and talents while tailoring KADPA’s programs and services to meet their individual needs. A skill that she would not have aspired to if not for her son, Young. Shin adds, “Young has been a real gift from God . . . a treasure!”
It's a small world after all.
There is just one moon, and one golden sun,
And a smile means friendship to everyone;
In memory of Paul Ambrose
Ms. Dolores Pollhammer

In memory of Mary Barnard
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hoover
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Moore
Mr. William Wallett

In memory of Dave Fletcher
Ms. Brenda Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Olsen

In memory of Evan Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Berg
Ms. Regina Clark

In memory of Roger Glock
Dr. William Roth Jr.
Mr. S. G. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. William Trust
Stout, Casey and Horning

In memory of William Hewett
Mrs. Ann-Marie Spakowski

In memory of Ona Karasa
Ms. Aldona Kalvaitis

In memory of Richard Kolchin
Mrs. Evelyn Bell
Dr. Carol Bowman
Ms. Joanne Carroll
Ms. Judith Cataldo
Mr. & Mrs. Henri Diamant

Mr. Rick Fonda
Mr. Payson Getz
Ms. Phyllis Greenberg
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Ms. Connie Schaefer
Dr. Howard Schapiro, D.D.S.
Ms. Linda Stevens
Ms. Debra L. Tannenbaum
Ms. Sylvia Tarnove
Ms. Regina P Wilson

In memory of J. McElwain
Ms. Melissa Kelauver
Ms. Lisa A. MacCauley
P ECO Nuclear Peach Bottom

In memory of Elmer Ford Parks
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Griczin, III

In memory of Elizabeth Richards
Ms. Lynn Fowler

In memory of Edward H. Russell
Mr. George C. Wilson

In memory of Hayden Sealover
Mr. Edward Sargent

In memory of Keith Howell Shawkey
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Flasinski, Sr.
Mr. Glen Foutty

In memory of Von Platt
Sheet Metal Workers’ Local Union
No. 100 International Assn.

In memory of Dudley Wilcox
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Ms. Patricia Baker
Mrs. Lou Ann Bane
Ms. Deborah Betten
Mr. Garth Childs
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Corea
Ms. Allyson Cweik
Mr. Mark S. Decker
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And the oceans are wide,
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Coca Cola Bottling of Havre de Grace
Vicky O’Hearn
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FY05 Holiday Fund Donors
Amount Raised $3,300

$1,000
Lions Club of Jarrettsville

$500
The Harford Mutual Insurance Company

$250
Mrs. Kelly McElwain
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St. Ursula’s Third Friday Club

Up to $249
Mrs. Lorraine Bergkvist

$100
Ms. Barbara Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Andersen
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Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stubbs, Jr

$75
Mr. Charles Glock

$50
Ferrell Fuel Co. Inc
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lootens

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Mr. Homer Barnard
Ms. Marie Brown
Mr. & Mrs. William Hall, Sr.
Mrs. Gloria Halsey
Mrs. Adriana Hepner
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rotondo
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Satti
Ms. Kristen C. Thomson
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Ms. Tammy Vass
Mr. William Wheeler

FY05 After d’Arc Auction
Amount Raised $36,000

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Dr. & Mrs. Roger Schneider
Mr. Byron Plumly
Ms. Janet Ruth

Garden Mart
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In Kind Donors
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Amount Raised $28,000

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Mr. & Mrs. John J. Myers
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rachanow

$300
Mr. Ron Hill
Ms. Cynthia M. Lotz
Mr. Joseph Stumbroski
Ms. Jill A. Svrjcek
Mrs. Pamela Winchester

$100
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$75
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$50
Ferrell Fuel Co. Inc
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Up to $49
Mr. Homer Barnard
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Mrs. Gloria Halsey
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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rotondo
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Satti
Ms. Kristen C. Thomson
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turner
Ms. Tammy Vass
Mr. William Wheeler

It’s a small world after all.
It's a small world after all,
It's a small world after all,
It's a small world after all,
It's a small, small world.

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Cover design and page symbols were fashioned in the spirit of Vyta Kezen's work.

The Arc
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