



The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
Advocacy, Resources, and Community Building
For People With Developmental Disabilities



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March Named National Developmental Disability Awareness Month
Chapters Unite To Raise Public Awareness

[**ABERDEEN, MD**] – March is National Developmental Disability Awareness Month and The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region in addition to other chapters in Maryland around the state are observing the month while highlighting how individuals with developmental disabilities contribute to the community.

National Developmental Disability Awareness Month (DDAM), observed annually in March around the country, raises public awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of disability. The campaign theme, "Changing Minds, Changing Lives," encourages people to bring diversity to their communities by welcoming people with disabilities into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship and schools. The Arc's campaign focuses on how individuals with developmental disabilities contribute to the community and highlights the many resources available to the public to better understand developmental disabilities.

"Every day, The Arc works to raise awareness and to serve those with developmental disabilities. This month provides us an opportunity to shine the light on the needs, the issues and the contributions in a special way," said Ed Woff, president of The Arc of Maryland and a parent of a daughter with developmental disabilities. "And it's a particularly urgent time as the Waiting List for services grew to an all-time high of 17,250 individuals needing community services."

Christie Marchand, Arc Maryland Executive Director adds, "One of our goals is get more people informed about our services so they can take advantage of what we offer. But in many ways our more important goal is to share their stories. They become tax-payers. They become contributors. Our communities are the ultimate winners."

For stories about how when people have the right support and access to services, they become engaged, involved citizens, visit The Arc website at www.arcncr.org.

For more than fifty years, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region has helped people with developmental disabilities build better lives one person at a time. The Arc offers a wide variety of services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties, both children and adults, to make informed choices in their lifestyles, vocations, education and recreational pursuits, and to assure stable and nurturing lives among their families and friends. Sketch by permission of Martha Perske.

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