



when the school bus stops coming

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



transition¹⁰¹

Dear Friends of The Arc:

Transition – a move from one place to another – can be exciting and frightful at the same time. For those of us in the field of developmental disabilities, the most significant transition occurs at age 21, when a student graduates from public school and enters the world of adulthood.

This year's annual report spotlights Arc partnerships with students, parents, service providers, private foundations, and county and state governments that assure that resources are available to make this critical transition as smooth as possible. We think you will find our approach to this important issue to be creative, responsive and timely.

While our efforts in the area of transition planning were many, we also made significant progress in other areas over the past year. Our Residential Services Division expanded by 13 homes and 39 people – our largest expansion ever.

Our Family Services Division established a new Future Planning Program equipping families with the information and resources they need in the areas of estate planning, letters of intent, and securing long-term advocacy for their children. This Division also successfully secured one of five statewide grants to provide Low Intensity Support Services.

Our Day Services Division developed new and exciting partnerships in the areas of sports, fitness, and the arts. A beautiful new sunroom and garden area were constructed at Bridges, our day center that serves adults who have significant medical conditions.

As you can see, despite the recession and funding cutbacks, we moved forward in 2009. This would not have been possible without the ongoing support of The Arc membership and the community at large. We truly appreciate your gifts of time, energy, and resources. Let's hope 2010 brings a brighter future for all!

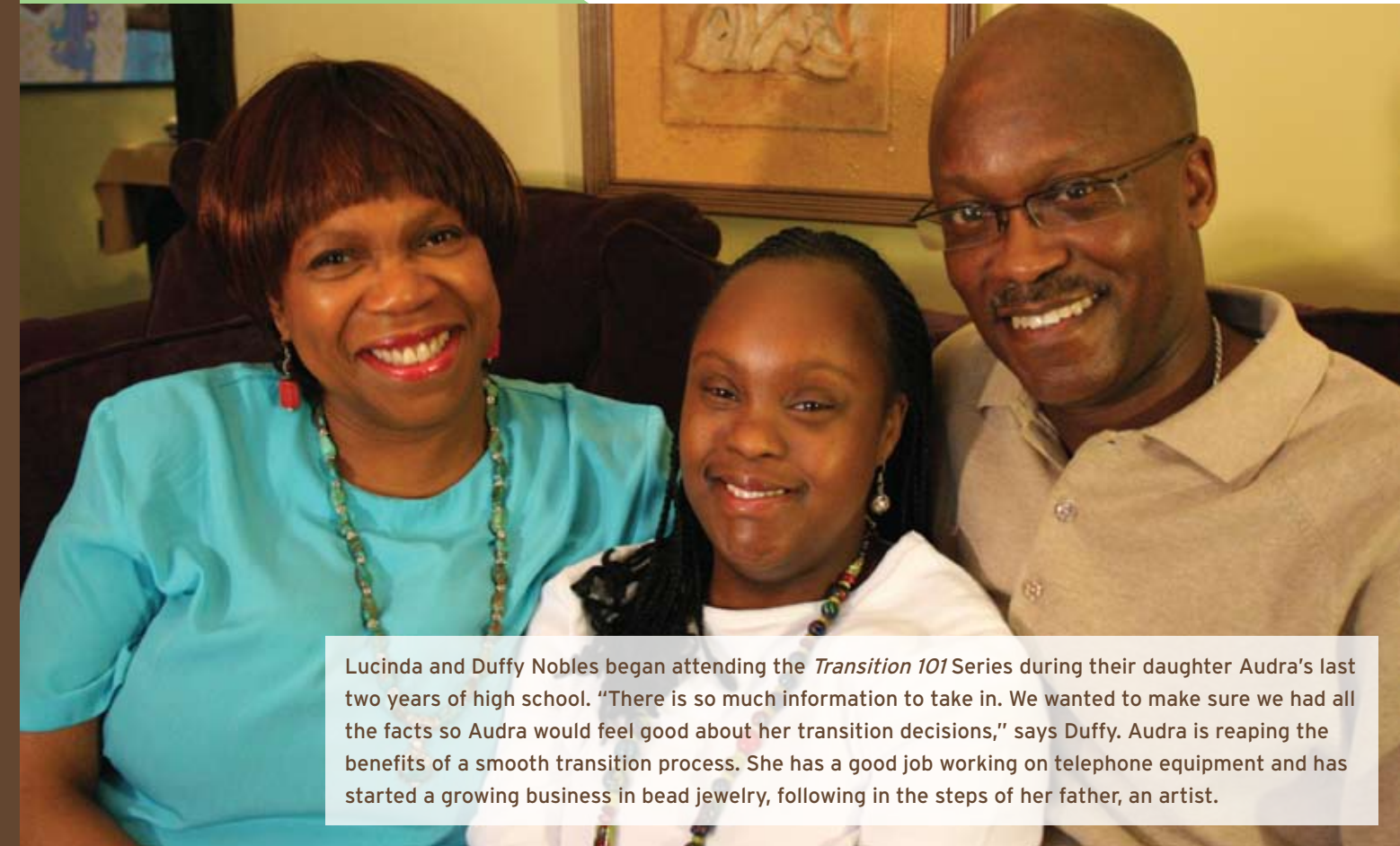
Sincerely,



Maureen Blasko,
President



Mac Ramsey,
Executive Director



Lucinda and Duffy Nobles began attending the *Transition 101* Series during their daughter Audra's last two years of high school. "There is so much information to take in. We wanted to make sure we had all the facts so Audra would feel good about her transition decisions," says Duffy. Audra is reaping the benefits of a smooth transition process. She has a good job working on telephone equipment and has started a growing business in bead jewelry, following in the steps of her father, an artist.

The transition from special education services to adult services can be an overwhelming process. Families who have mastered all the special education jargon and policies have to learn a whole new set of rules for adult services. In order to prepare families for the transition process, The Arc offers a series of workshops specifically geared toward parents. The nine-part *Transition 101* Workshop Series walks families through the transition process and teaches them and provides them with the tools and resources to plan for this exciting time in their child's life. Each month, presenters provide information on topics such as employment, post-secondary education, Social Security benefits, and community resources. The first step in a smooth transition is a clear understanding of how the process works.

ready at 21

Two years ago, Arc staff and educators recognized that most transitioning students were not actively participating in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings. To address this problem and teach students how to lead their future adult Individual Plan (IP) meetings, *Ready at 21* was initiated. A partnership program between The Arc and Prince George's County Public Schools, *Ready at 21* provides training for students between the ages of 18 and 21 who are in Community Referenced Instruction classes. Students learn the principles of self-awareness, self-determination, and self-advocacy. Students hear from older self-advocates and participate in role-plays where they practice leading their meetings and attend mock interviews. These students learn how to speak for themselves so they will be ready to transition to adult services at age 21!



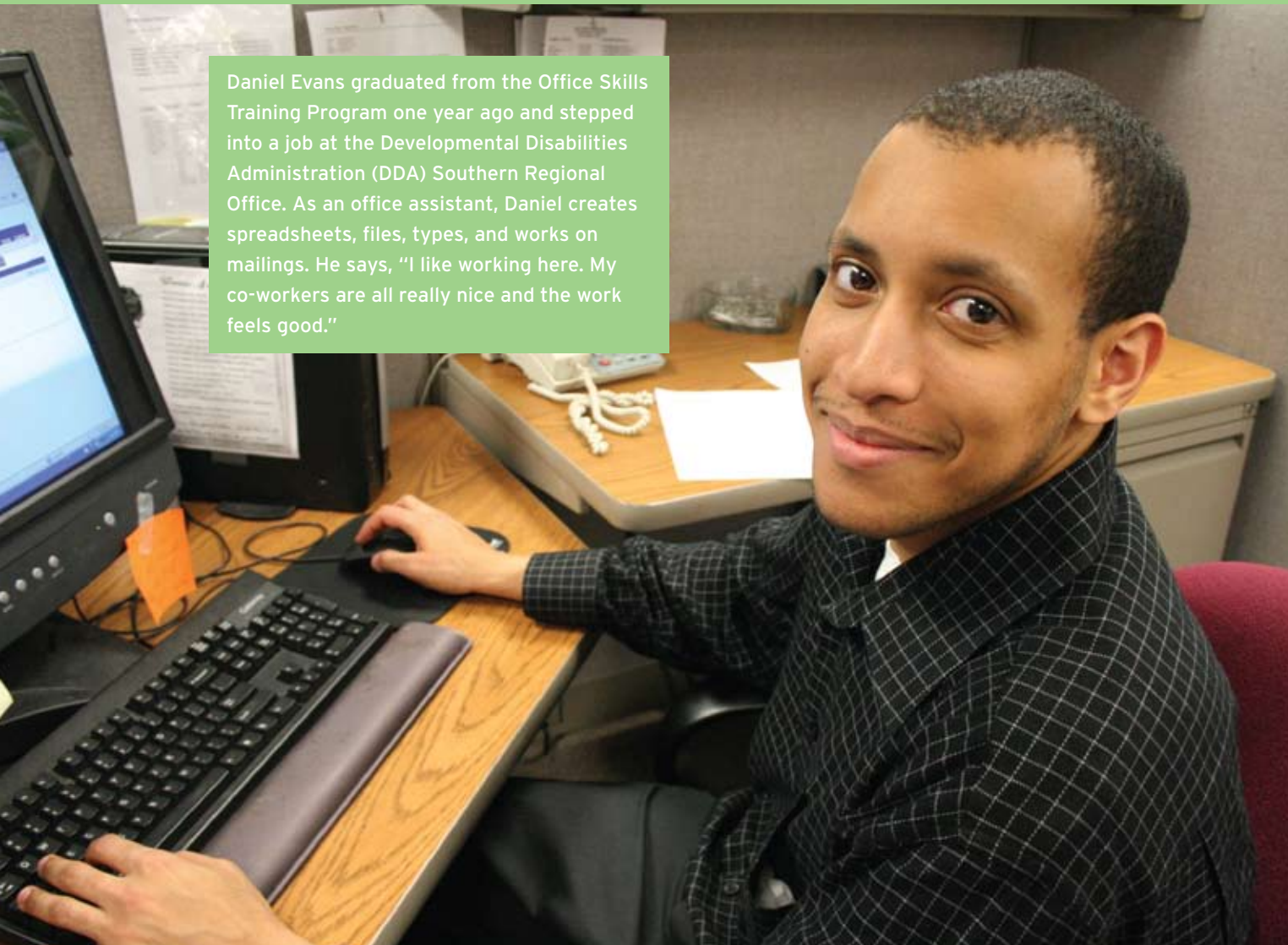
Thomas Churchwell is a senior at Parkdale High School. The *Ready at 21* workshops have prepared him to speak on his own behalf. "I feel good after going to *Ready at 21*," says Thomas. "I liked going, and I learned a lot. I practiced interviewing; now I'm much more ready."



Watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastels – Shawn Payne loves art and is incredibly talented! Shawn received a LEAP grant this fall, which helped pay for art classes every Monday at *ArtEnables* in Washington, D.C. "I'm working on painting and drawing. My dream is to become an artist or a shoe designer," says Shawn. "These classes are helping me become a better artist!"

a leap ahead

Transition often can be a costly process as students enroll in independent living courses, try to start their own businesses, and purchase new attire for interviews. Through the Life Enrichment Awards Program (LEAP) grant provided by the HSC Foundation, The Arc gave 11 awards for goods and services that assist transitioning youth with transition planning and implementation. Students ages 14 to 25 received grants for tuition for career-related courses, communication devices, and several entrepreneurial start-up costs. The adult world can be daunting, but once a student takes the leap, excitement is sure to follow!



Daniel Evans graduated from the Office Skills Training Program one year ago and stepped into a job at the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Southern Regional Office. As an office assistant, Daniel creates spreadsheets, files, types, and works on mailings. He says, "I like working here. My co-workers are all really nice and the work feels good."

she works hard for the money!

Work is an essential element to our existence. It provides us with income, security, friends, and a sense of accomplishment and belonging. As students transition into adult services, The Arc's Employment Services Division helps them find jobs that are suited to their individual skills and provides them with support to maintain these jobs. The Arc currently supports 139 individuals in Employment Services, six of whom are 2009 Transitioning Youth. Successful transitions take a great deal of planning, but a successful end result is the beginning of a great adult life!



Micheala Gooding graduated from Potomac High School last spring. Working through The Arc's Supported Employment Division, she has landed a job cleaning the Federal Court-house in Washington, D.C. "I like working here. The first day was a little scary. I walked into those huge court rooms and the judges' chambers and thought, 'Wow!' but now I'm used to it!" says Micheala.

we've got skills!

Once students graduate and exit the school system, the world of work awaits them! Many students need some additional training before they begin their careers. The Arc's 12-month Office Skills Training Program prepares people for careers in office settings. Students engage in a practical internship and receive training in word processing, office equipment, social skills, interviewing, and resume building. The program's seventh class will graduate this spring, and students will join other alumni in successful careers with the federal government, state agencies, and local non-profits!

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the arc society 2009

Comprised of individuals and businesses that provide significant financial support to The Arc during the year. Arc Society membership can be gained three different ways. Legacy Members have designated The Arc as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Sustaining Members provide total contributions of \$500 or more, and Horizon Members contribute a minimum of \$250 to the Endowment Fund. Arc Society membership is noted with an asterisk (*) on the pages that follow.

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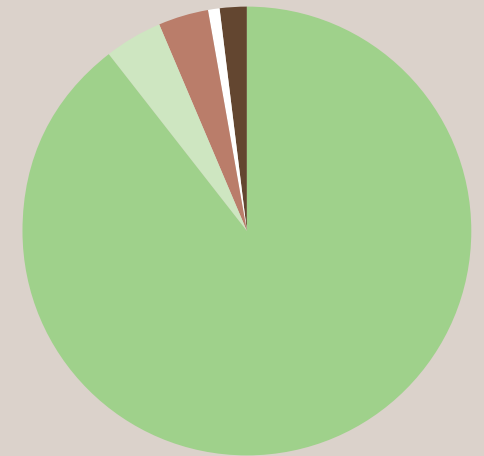
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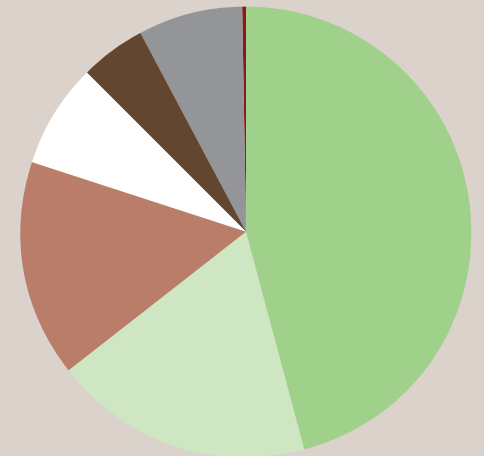
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finances

REVENUE		
State of Maryland	\$19,205,519	89.5%
Prince George's County	\$876,069	4.1%
Program Consumer Fees	\$781,033	3.7%
Fundraising	\$220,505	1.0%
Other	\$372,688	1.7%
Total	\$21,455,814	



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM		
Residential Services	\$9,905,204	45.8%
Family & Community Services	\$4,049,256	18.7%
Day Services	\$3,353,080	15.5%
Employment Services	\$1,629,517	7.6%
Transportation Services	\$1,019,247	4.7%
Management & General Operations	\$1,638,038	7.6%
Fundraising	\$32,201	0.1%
Total	\$21,626,543	



The audited financial statements are available for public review during business hours at The Arc Building.

1401 McCormick Drive
 Largo, MD 20774
 phone: 301-925-7050
 fax: 301-925-4387
 www.thearcofpgc.org

in 2009 the arc

- Offered information and referral to 1,450 people.
- Hosted 130 workshops and networking opportunities attended by 2,210 people.
- Provided case management services to 655 children and families.
- Assisted 557 individuals with in-home supports.
- Engaged 497 individuals in recreational activities.
- Supported 176 residents in 54 homes throughout the county.
- Facilitated employment services and day supports for 343 people.
- Employed a staff of 502.



Prince George's County

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