Salute to Our Heroes

2021 Annual Report

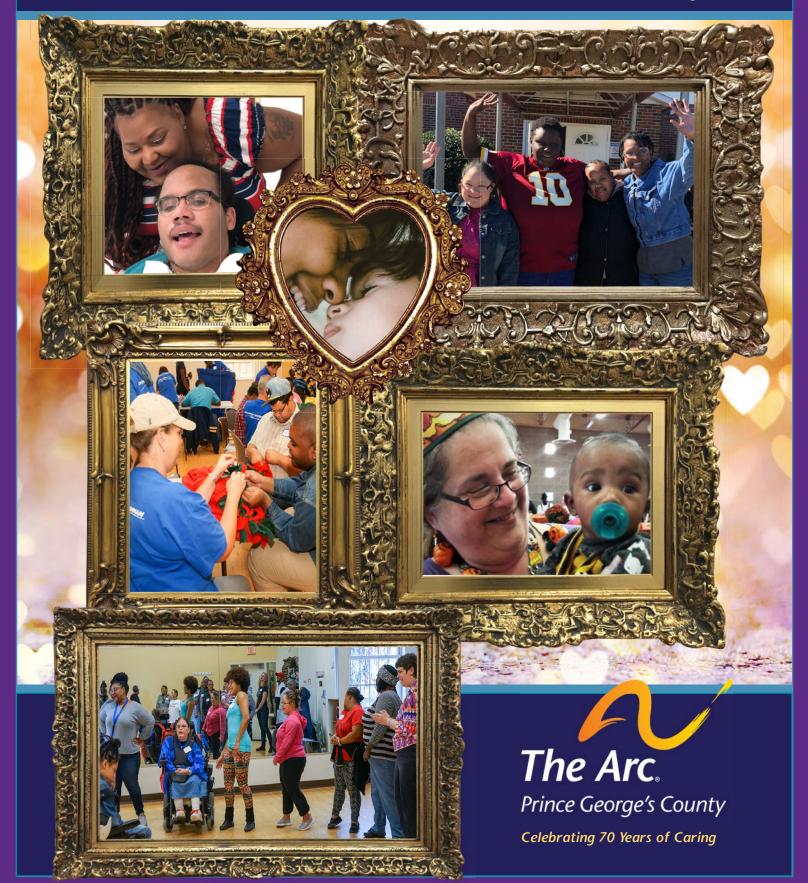


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The Arc.



Dear Friends.

It is our great pleasure to share the accomplishments of 2021. Many of you have made it possible to achieve some important milestones in spite of the ongoing pandemic. We encourage you to read about our year in review here.

This annual report reflects the dedication and resilience of our staff, particularly our direct support professionals (DSPs). Thus, we are dedicating this report to and focusing on those who serve those we support. They are true "heroes." Consider this a glimpse of what they do every day for the people we support. Be aware they perform their duties for wages we are trying diligently and continually to increase in the State of Maryland. In the meantime, we offered bonuses and special appreciation to them as often possible as they persevered in the wake of COVID.

We think you will enjoy the stories we have included and believe you will be encouraged by the difference we made in the lives of those we served last year. We invite you to share this report with others. We know many people do not have services because they simply do not know service providers like us exist. The Arc Prince George's County doesn't just exist, we serve...we support....we promote opportunities.

Thank you for taking a moment to celebrate this SALUTE TO OUR HEROES! And, plan now to celebrate our success over the past 70 years on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Sincerely,

Adeyinka Ogunlegan The Arc Prince George's County Board Chair

.

Rob Malone The Arc Prince George's County Executive Director



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Celebrating 70 Years of Caring

The Year in Review

In 2021, we are proud to report:

- Numerous donors provided protective gear to keep our staff and those we serve safe
- Despite weeks of isolation from their loved ones, families worked with us and supported us through tough mandates and long periods of separation
- The Governor, the Prince George's County Government and local officials visited with us and supported our COVID vaccine clinics which we ran to benefit people with disabilities and senior in our community
- Donors and other organizations funders stepped up and provided necessary funds for programs, equipment and recruitment efforts needed to fill staff vacancies
- Our Employment Services team supported 65 individuals in job placement and additional 25 people were provide job training. They also helped Nine (9) individuals obtain new job placements, which has been challenging during the pandemic
- 50 youth learned how to prepare for independent living through various healthy living, money management, and post-secondary educational sessions run through our Ready@21 program.
- Five (5) youth completed their Project SEARCH internships at Joint Base Andrews which helped one student gain employment at IHOP. Two others are either starting a new position or in the final interview stage
- In 2021, our Benefits Enrollment Center served 297 individuals and recovered \$1,201,886.00 in benefits that were due to them.
- Partnered with the Department of Health to assemble 1,000 COVIDcare bags and participate in three (3) county COVID Care Pop-Ups, providing over 520 bags, all of which were assembled by people supported in our Employment program.

Thankyou, Everyone



Our supporters at every level are important to our ability to provide quality service and supports. This page is a special "shout out" to our board volunteers, individual donors, institutional funders, community partners, in-kind donors, and the families and friends who stay connected to us in myriad ways. We can't thank you enough!





Me Love our Donors!

For the past few years, The Arc has sent greeting cards around Valentine's Day to our donors to express appreciation for their generosity. In 2021, we showed our love by sending all of our Arc Society donors the card you see here. Because of the pandemic, we did not have any opportunities to meet face-to-face with donors. So, we found other ways to stay in touch throughout the year with handwritten notes, phone calls, invitations to video calls, and virtual events like our Annual Meeting and Employee Celebration.

Standing Strong



We conducted two COVID vaccine clinics in 2021 for people with disabilities, seniors and our staff. Our first clinic attracted Governor Larry Hogan's attention and he visited our headquarters to thank all those who volunteered and the individuals who came to be vaccinated. This event was held in partnership with Giant Pharmacy who made their personnel available to administer the vaccine.





COVID CLINIC and BOOSTERS



Celebratina 70 Years of Carino





VIRTUAL EVENTS



Celebrating 70 Years of Caring



Gaming for a Great Cause!

Virtual B-I-N-G-O was a big hit for a combination of 85 people who registered, donated and played from their home. The world was a better place for a few hours on March 4 and March 6. The games were a substitute for us not being able to host our annual Bowling Bash.

Due to COVID, our Annual Meeting & Employee Celebration was held virtually for a second year in a row. Being on Zoom did not dampen our enthusiasm. We set up a "stage" at headquarters where our Executive Director Rob Malone served as our Master of Ceremonies for a virtual celebration of our employees with five years of incremental service. We featured special awards for employees with over 25 years of service. We even had a few vocal selections by Kelvin Dukes, who lives locally and was a finalist on American Idol. Guests in the audience were able to speak words of congratulations to our honorees which added a nice personal touch to the occasion.

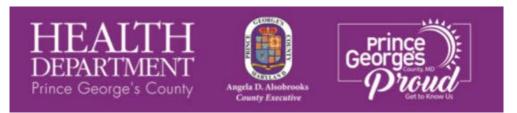


Partnership Spotlights





During 2021, we launched a new partnership with Spirit Club, an inclusive fitness organization, to provide daily online live and on-demand classes. More than 100 individuals have participated in Zumba, boxing, yoga, and meditation classes. Together, The Arc and Spirit Club developed an interactive schedule where individuals can easily broadcast SPIRIT Club classes through their own private virtual sessions.



Throughout the year, The Arc partnered with the Department of Health's COVID Care Project, which presented the opportunity for 3 people we support in Employment services the chance to gain new skills and have a temporary paid job. The opportunity helps them gain job readiness skills such as stocking, sorting, and time management while they packed over 1,000 COVID bags and 300 plus pop-up clinic bags throughout this process! We are so proud of the team and truly thank the Department of Health for entrusting in the people we support to take part in such an important project.





Benefits Enrollment Center for People with Disabilities

The Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) provides Prince George's County residents with a disability with free screening and education on disability benefits and application enrollment assistance, including SSI, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP. In 2021, the BEC served 290 Clients. The program is funded by the National **Council on Aging.**





Project Search

The Project SEARCH High School Transition
Program is a unique, business-led, one-year
school-to-work program that takes place
entirely at the workplace. Total workplace
immersion facilitates a seamless combination
of classroom instruction, career exploration,
and hands-on training through worksite rotations. Support from Carefirst, the W.S. Abell
Foundation and the Fund for Children, Youth
and Families has helped support Project Search.





This unique program provides real-life work experience to help youth with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to adult life. Joint Base Andrews is the Host site for The Arc Prince George's County Project SEARCH program.

READY @21



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2021 was a year of growth for the Ready@21 series for transitioning youth. We added new sessions in health/wellness, financial literacy, and conducted a new cybersecurity workshop that was attended by 50 students and parents. We also launched Ready4College with 15 students who had completed Ready@21 and were interested in post-secondary options. Three of these students were subsequently accepted into the Howard County Community College Project Hire program to further prepare students with disabilities to attend college.

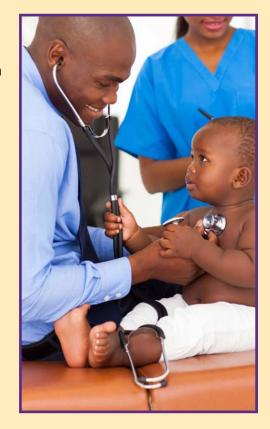
Omari Gray is a shining example of our successful Ready@21 program participants. He graduated high school this year. He wants to attend Bowie State University and major in Political Science. Omari aspires to intern with a Maryland delegate and eventually have a career in politics. He has displayed exceptional leadership skills in the Ready@21 program, which made us distinguish him as a peer mentor. After completing Ready@21, he signed up for the new Ready4College program, learning how to obtain accommodations in college. We had a guest speaker from Maryland ABLE join us for the money management session, which inspired Omari to open his own ABLE Saving Account. This increased his desire to learn more about investing and budgeting, and he now advocates for other students open their own ABLE account.



Family and Community Living

The Family and Community Supports Division continued to serve as a lifeline for the people in our programs and their families. Our staff has meaningful relationships with participants and their extended families which were not broken by the pandemic.

- Our Infants and Toddlers staff reached out to young families reeling from new diagnoses,
- Our Community Companions found creative activities to engage people,
- Our Autism Waiver Coordinators virtually held the hands of parents whose children struggled during school interruptions,
- Our Pediatric Nurse provided our Child Care families with virtual sing-alongs and mailed them special equipment and diapers,
- Our Admissions staff responded to numerous families in crisis and connected them with services.





At the end of the day, our staff has treated the pandemic as a challenge to overcome – they have people to support! They proved, once again, that they are the backbone of The Arc and a true blessing to our families.

Day and Employment Services



In Day and Employment Services, new innovations and technology have helped to maximize the virtual learning experience and provide effective learning practices for individuals still at home due to the pandemic. Since virtual learning is new to the people we support, as well as our staff, learning how to effectively use this technology helps with continued achievement of the set goals and objectives in the person's PCP.

With the use of new technology, tablets and laptops in our case, virtual learning broadened the use of technology in all sectors of the programs; It helps the people we support to be more attentive and comfortable during virtual learning sessions. To engage the individuals effectively during virtual learning, we have to have stable technology, in which everyone's tablets have been upgraded to Samsung Galaxy tablets.





BRIDGES

Bridge's Day supports people who are the most medically challenged among the individuals we serve. Five5 individuals at Bridge's and five people in our Laurel Day Program, participate in our Oscar Senior Pilot where the technology and program used on those tablets allow those individuals to independently engage in virtual supports.

With this program, when the staff member providing virtual supports clicks on the individual's name, it will automatically answer for the individual receiving supports. This way, there is no one needed to assist the person with accepting the virtual invite. Additionally, with the purchase of wheelchair mounts, the tablet is mounted and a further fosters independence.



Brand new tablets provided by Comcast like the one shown at left were used by dually-served individuals in both Day and Residential Programs to enhance the social skills, computer literacy and e-learning of the people we serve. Staff developed a weekly e-learning curriculum consistent with the individual's goals, interests and learning style to ensure proper delivery method of virtual activities. Some of the activities included word games, fitness and healthy cooking classes, gardening, money management, how to access housing and benefits, how to browse the internet safely, what to do in an emergency and good personal hygiene. While virtual learning posed limitations, we found that it also had its advantages, by helping improve skills such as communication and focus.



VIRTUAL LEARNING

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When the pandemic hit and the Day Programs closed, the question became, "How are we going to provide supports to the individuals while keeping everyone safe"? With virtual supports and dedicated staff, Day and Employment Services was able to continue providing supports either through virtual supports or providing in-person supports in their homes.

Virtual learning and remote activities have improved the use of technology for the individuals we support. Some of our people are very well versed in using

tablets and other technology, however, for some of the individuals, this was the first time they've used a tablet or laptop. Virtual Learning has improved the attention span of our individuals and has helped them better identify and manage time as the session has a special time to start and end.



Summer Tun

During the summer, individuals were able to engage in virtual activities as well as inperson. Some of these activities included: summer camp activities such as amusement parks, strawberry picking, outdoor concerts, riding a Ferris wheel for the first time, attending a parade, visiting a farm, and going to the Farmer's Market.

Transportation



Celebrating 70 Years of Caring



Through a partnership with Prince George's County Dept. of Health and Wellness Division, over 300 packages were delivered to COVID impacted individuals in 2021. Three individuals in our Employment program received job coaching to properly assemble the packages for delivery. This is a part of the county's goal to reach out to the Spanish/multi-lingual community (and general community) in more creative ways. Our agency also supported these efforts with three "Pop-Up" clinics in where food insecure and under vaccinated areas of the county were targeted to promote vaccinations and health education.

The transportation team was onsite at this event to hand out the bags. Other partners include the Mayan League, Langley Park Civic Association and the UMD Center for Homeland Security (CHHS).



FINANCIALS

FY2021 Audited Financials

REVENUES

Residential Services \$18,688,876

Meaningful Day Services 6,962,506

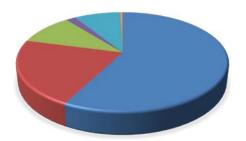
Family and Community Supports 3,309,491

Administrative Services 579,289

Grants and Fundraising 2,753,749

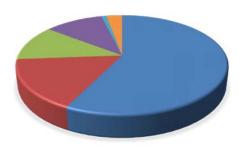
Transportation Services 124,398

\$32,418,310



EXPENSES

Residential Services \$15,883,704
Meaningful Day Services 4,566,019
Family and Community Supports 3,246,072
Administrative Services 2,967,121
Grants and Fundraising 250,502
Transportation Services 798,683
\$27,712,101



The Arc Prince George's County was fortunate to stay fiscally strong in FY'21.

The support of loyal donors and supporters helped us remain resilient and resourceful in spite of the challenges presented by the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

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