



Amplifying Voices and Opportunities

The Arc.
Prince George's County
2023 Annual Report

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead with hope and determination, we are thrilled to share with you the highlights of our collective efforts. In 2023, we set out with a clear vision – to amplify the voices that often go unheard and create opportunities that empower individuals and communities.

In 2023, we launched a new Hispanic outreach and advocacy initiative, and developed strategic partnerships. We elevated marginalized voices and shed light on the stories that deserve to be told.

As you delve into these pages, we hope you feel the same sense of pride and inspiration we do. Here are a few highlights of what we achieved in 2023:

- \$819,500 Earmark funding supported by Senator Van Hollen, Senator Cardin, Congressman Brown, and Congressman Hoyer to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, one of the largest awarded to a nonprofit agency;
- Crystal Ali, Employment Specialist, was awarded a Citation from Governor Moore as an Outstanding DSP;
- Enterprise Community Partners awarded us a \$289,500 Thome Grant to make upgrades to six group homes to help residents live safely and "age well" in place;
- Melonee Clark, our Division Director of Family, Education & Community Engagement was recognized at The Arc National Convention for her work expanding Diversity, Assess & Inclusion; and
- Amazon provided funding for technology like Alexa devices to be installed in group homes.

Here's to a future filled with amplified voices, endless opportunities, and a steadfast commitment to creating positive change.



Yaswaly

Terrence Beverly
The Arc Prince George's
County Board President



Rob Malone
The Arc Prince George's
County Chief Executive Officer



LEADERSHIP

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Express Brokers Realty, LLC

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Viridiana Camacho

Adhoc-Hispanic Outreach

Vykuntam Adepu

Adhoc-IT

STAFF LEADERSHIP

Rob Malone Chief Executive Officer

Sheldon Kronzek Chief Financial Officer

Thalia Simpson-Clement Chief Program Officer

A. Henley Chief of Staff

Lorraine C. Holmes Settles, CFRE, SFX Chief Development Officer

Miyan Thomas

Division Director of Day and Employment

Melonee Clark

Division Director of Family,

Education & Community Engagement





In the spirit of unity, equity, and compassion, we created the first-ever MLK Day of Service event with our community partners and supporters CareFirst, United Way National Capital Area, and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller. Through a series of impactful and uplifting drumming and dancing experiences and meaningful conversations, we fostered a deeper understanding of Dr. King's teachings and exemplified

the principles he championed.





PARTNERSHIP

Titan Circle is a special category of our supporters who have each donated \$10,000 or more since 2000. These donors show their loyalty and dedication to The Arc's work. We are so grateful for these unyielding champions who help us continue to go above and beyond for those we serve.

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The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg

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U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin and Congressman Steny Hoyer provided a substantial financial investment of earmark funding in the amount of \$819,500, marking a significant milestone addressing mental health issues amongst people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Senator Joanne Benson accepted an invitation to participate in the presentation. This endorsement empowers us to expand our reach and intensify our efforts to meet critical mental health challenges head on. It also emphasizes the importance of **strategic governmental support** in advancing our mission and implementing innovative solutions.



With this invaluable support, we have been able to:

- Hire an Additional Registered Nurse
- Hire an Additional Wellness Project Leader
- Hire an Additional Bi-Lingual Transition Youth Coordinator
- Provide Travel Training for Ready@21
- Hire a Ready@21 Job Coordinator
- Hire a Contractual Nutritionist
- Add Exercise, Dance, Drum, Art & Computer Training Classes
- Provide Wheelchair Ramps, Entry Door Replacement, Awnings, Walkway and Driveway Repair in 8 Houses
- Give Summer Camp Scholarships to 20 Youth with IDD
- Pay Hotel Costs for 100 Nights for Families in Need of Respite
- Cover \$10,000 towards Ready2B Healthy Youth, Fitness and Family Fun Festival





The familiar sound of bowling balls crashing into pins and the joyous cheers of participants resonated throughout Bowlero in College Park to celebrate the return of our annual **Bowling Bash** in March 2023. This event brought people together for a day of camaraderie, friendly competition, and philanthropy. In its revival and beyond the strikes and spares, our annual Bowling Bash strikes at the heart of families, staff, supporters, and vendors with a special infusion of fun and fellowship.

CELEBRATION









At our **Annual Meeting and Employee Celebration** in June 2023, we celebrated employees with 5 to 30 years of service to The Arc, at the Newton White Mansion. We saluted two board members – Shirley Patterson and James Stockton – for their volunteer tenure on the board of directors, and heard from our CEO about the outstanding service our Direct Support Professionals provided during the year. We thanked our donors, funders and supporters. We danced, we laughed, we rejoiced in our success with our staff, board volunteers, sponsors and members of the community we support.



has demonstrated a commitment to customer service at the front desk and uncanny ability to know where everyone and almost everything is in our headquarters. Both individuals' commitment to our mission has shaped our identity and fueled our success. Their impact will resonate within our organization for years to come.



people to whom she teaches job interview skills, and assists with discovering career opportunities, internet capabilities, and resume building. She always keeps the lines of communication open with our employment partners.





In New Orleans at The Arc 2023 National Convention, **Melonee Clark** (left) was honored with an NCE (National Conference of Executives) **Diversity and Cultural Competency Award.** Presenting the award is Lorraine Holmes Settles, Chief Development Officer, at The Arc Prince George's County. The award recognizes Melonee for her innovative, immersive work and programs to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the underserved Hispanic community. This not only acknowledges her outstanding contributions but highlights the profound ripple effect of her work. It also symbolizes that Melonee Clark has set a standard for excellence for chapters of The Arc nationwide.

DEDICATION





Our success is intricately tied to their exceptional work fostering independence, promoting inclusion, and creating a nurturing environment in which those we serve can thrive. Their unwavering dedication has led to tangible improvements in the lives of those entrusted to our care.



We offer awards, appreciation events, and on-going training, but we believe this letter best showcases their outstanding contributions:

Jan eternally grateful...

My nephew, Kevin Cannady, whom was called Keb, by his relatives/biological family, has been a member of The Arc Prince George's County Family since 1983. On many occasions I have stated The Arc is Keb's family and we are his relatives.

When Keb's mom passed in 2004, I became actively involved in his Arc Prince George's County life by attending meetings, being a part of the decisions in his life, doctor's appointments, etc.

On July 30, 2023, he was admitted to Doctor's Hospital, only to be returned home the same day, where he transitioned, surrounded by his Arc family and friends. I witnessed the outpouring of love for Keb when I arrived at the house, minutes after he transitioned. At that time, I expressed to all in the house, I believed he didn't want to die in the hospital, he wanted to die at home with the people who showed their love for him.

I want to take the opportunity to say "thank you" and to express my appreciation and gratitude to the entire Arc Prince George's County Family for the love, care and support given to Keb through the years. There is an old saying to not begin calling names because unintentionally you'll omit someone's name and someone's feelings will be hurt. That is not my intent here. I feel compelled to call some of the names of those I've interacted with through the years, such as Qualm Matthias, Antoinette Reed, Sharon Hunt, Dina Tetteh, Delicia Jackson, Lillian Anderson, Sheila Woods, Kelly Shaner, Kim Turner and so, so many more. Some of these names probably were not a part of The Arc but they were at one point beneficial to the care given Keb.

There are so many others whose names I don't know, to them, I also want to say "thank you" and to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude. My prayer is that you continue to show all the families in your care the same love and support shown to my nephew, Kevin Cannady.

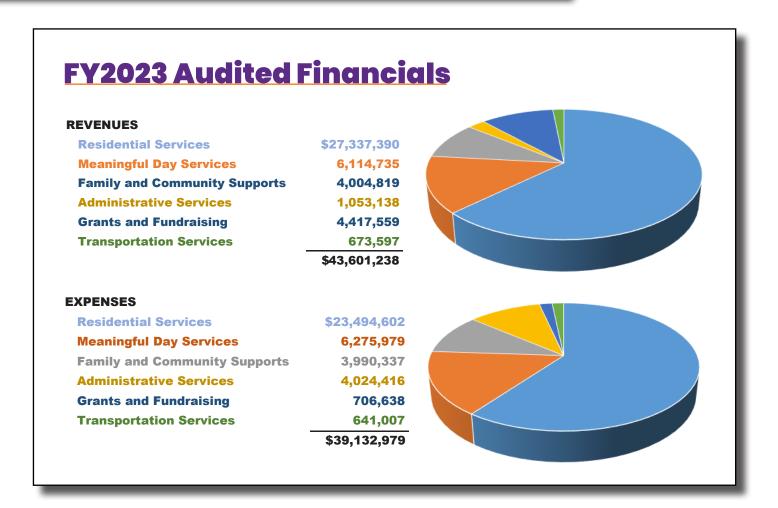
I am eternally grateful.

Debra Moore

Debra Moore, Kevin Cannady's Aunt



ACCOUNTABILITY



The Arc Prince George's County had a successful financial year in **FY 2023.** We were able to not only strengthen our ongoing services to the community but in many cases expand and add new services to the people we serve. We were also able to reduce our staffing vacancies from 160 to 100.

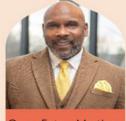
EMPOWERMENT





ADVISORY BOARD





Omar Eaton-Martinez



Madeline L. Frazier



Carlos Lopez



Katherine Lopez



Jennifer Muñoz

The Multicultural Affairs Office of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks created a Latino Advisory Board in 2023 committed to further empowering the Hispanic/Latino community in our county. Kat Lopez was nominated and appointed to serve a two-year term. She is a bilingual program administrator at The Arc Prince George's County, providing support to Spanish-speaking families with children who have disabilities. Her deep understanding of Latino culture has been instrumental in helping her connect with and reach more families who require assistance.



Technology is deeply embedded in our daily lives, but for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) the barriers to accessing technology can be disproportionately high. To address this, The Arc US and Amazon offered us a unique opportunity to participate in the **Amazon Echo Impact Project** for the purpose of increasing the use of Echo devices and knowledge of people with IDD, their family members and caregivers who support each person served by our chapter.



PROJECT SEARCH: We couldn't be more proud to bring this national internship model for young people with special needs to Prince George's County when there wasn't anything like it around. Here are the latest group of teens who are preparing to exit high school within the next two years with work experience they gained at Joint Base Andrews.



uncovering a total value of benefits of

\$2,862,757.00. The goal is to connect with people who are 18 and older that have a disability, and who need assistance in understanding the process of applying for state and federal benefits.

A Cultural Broker Grant awarded from The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council will undoubtedly enhance our mission and impact. A total of 5 Cultural Brokers will work to increase access and decrease barriers for Hispanic people with developmental disabilities and their families around the county.



A new fence and patio is just the beginning of extensive upgrades to assist the people we serve with aging well in place, reducing fall risks, and providing overall wellness. The residents of the home above get to enjoy the outdoor space and are able to access it from the basement thanks to \$289,500 from **The Enterprise Community Partners/Thome Aging Well Program Grant.** This transformative project will not only renovate one house, but a total of six houses throughout the county.

We also put a **Community Development Block Grant** for \$180,660 to good use in 2023 applying it toward a new roof, bathroom remodel, kitchen remodel, and walkway repairs for seven of our houses.







In September 2023 we were awarded \$750,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) renewable up to five years for **Project LIVE Healthy Transitions:** improving life trajectories for youth and young adults with serious mental disorders.

The Arc proposes to improve and expand access to developmentally appropriate, culturally, and linguistic responsive supports to transition-age youth and young adults ages 16 to 25 years old, who have or are at risk for developing a serious emotional disturbance or serious mental illness.

SELF-ADVOCACY



In June 2023, we hosted our first annual **Self-Advocacy Retreat**, at DoubleTree Hotel in Largo. We were able to talk about the importance of self advocacy in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by sharing personal stories and experiences, and brainstorming on ideas for action and change. We also provided training on legislative testimonies, working to empower each self-advocate with the confidence and efficacy to impact hearts and minds.



70+ Years of Caring