



Annual Report / 2016-2017



Achieve with us.



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Executive Summary

In many ways, FY2016-2017 was a year of new opportunities and challenges for both The Arc Tennessee and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. We forged into new territory by becoming providers through TennCare's new Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES Program. We began providing Alternatives to Conservatorship and Conservatorship Counseling, Peer-to-Peer Support and other services as contractors with the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). We secured a Letter of Agreement with Vocational Rehabilitation Services to offer a variety of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to transition aged students and became an approved provider of employment services through the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD).



As The Arc Tennessee learns to navigate “new worlds” as providers, people with IDD and their families are learning to navigate the new ECF CHOICES program. Never forgetting our role as advocates, we have been active stakeholders throughout the entire roll out of this new program – crisscrossing the state to ensure that people with IDD and their families had accurate information on the program and helping families with the eligibility process. We have also worked closely with TennCare, the MCOs and DIDD to identify challenges families are facing in the new program and offering realistic solutions.

In the summer of 2016, The Arc Tennessee took its public policy work “on the road.” Thanks to a grant from The Arc US, The Arc Tennessee and Disability Rights Tennessee partnered to provide public policy advocacy workshops for constituents and elected officials throughout some of the more rural parts of the state. During the winter, we hosted a series of public policy webinars. Little did we know how necessary that advocacy training would prove to be.

On November 8, 2016, a new President was voted into office. Disability advocates prepared to fight for the preservation of their hard-earned civil rights in education, community living, and employment; and critical supports through programs such as Medicaid, SSI, SNAP and VR. The Arc Tennessee and its members have actively advocated for the preservation of these rights and programs and will continue to be vigilant in their efforts.

As we look ahead to FY2017-2018, opportunities and challenges abound. We will focus on growing our new service options through ECF CHOICES, VR Pre-ETS and DIDD to develop new funding streams for the organization. The Arc Tennessee will continue its advocacy and policy work at the state and federal levels. Now more than ever, we must make our voices heard. Critical programs such as Medicaid and SSI are at risk. Civil rights must be protected. We need each of you to lend your voice and your story to the movement as we forge ahead into this unfamiliar territory.

There is strength in numbers. If you are not already a member of The Arc, please join today and show your support for our work in promoting and protecting the rights of people with IDD and their families. Keep up with us by visiting our website <http://www.hearctn.org> and following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Thank you for supporting The Arc Tennessee,

Carrie Hobbs Guiden
Carrie Hobbs Guiden
Executive Director

Our Mission

The Arc Tennessee empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to actively participate in the community throughout their lifetime.

The Arc Tennessee is a charitable, not-for-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities through its services and programs. We have been creating opportunities and advocating for individuals with disabilities and their families since 1952.

We are a chapter and membership organization composed of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their families, friends, and professionals who assist them in reaching their goals.

We are driven by the following values: Integrity, Justice, Courage, Respect

Our organization values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, Limited English Proficiency, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.

Our Plan

The Arc Tennessee is driven by its strategic plan that focuses on the following goals:

1. The Arc Tennessee will be recognizable and respected as the leading organization for people with IDD and their families.
2. The Arc Tennessee will build connections to support and empower individuals with IDD and their families.
3. The Arc Tennessee will shape policy and impact systems to improve the lives of people with IDD across the lifespan.
4. The Arc Tennessee will strengthen collaborative advocacy efforts to protect the civil rights of people with IDD.
5. The Arc Tennessee will have a mission-driven, diverse board of directors
6. The Arc Tennessee will achieve financial sustainability through diversification of funding.

To view the working version of the strategic plan, visit

<http://www.thearctn.org/Assets/Docs/Strategic-Plan-2015-2018.pdf>



Because of The Arc public awareness video was written, produced and released in 2016.

Our Board of Directors

The Arc Tennessee Board of Directors is a diverse group of people with IDD, their family members, community members and local chapter representatives. Their commitment to the organization is evident through their generous donation of:

- Time - volunteering collectively over 1200 hours per year
- Talents and Expertise
- Treasures - 100% board giving and in-kind donations



2016-2017 Board Members

John Shouse, President

Ann Curl, Vice President, Planning/Rules Committee Chair

Glenda Bond, Secretary

Mary La Haie, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair

John Lewis, Past President, Board Development Committee Chair

Keith Kirby, East TN Regional Representative

Mary Ruth Burke, Middle TN Regional Representative

Brittany Carter, West TN Regional Representative

Robyn Lampley, Advocacy/Education Committee Chair

Doria Panvini, Public Policy Committee Chair

Sharon Bottorff, Membership Committee Chair

Brenda Farley, Development Committee Chair

Donna Lankford

Terry Long

Courtney Taylor

Dara Bacon

Wanda Myles

Elise McMillan

Kate Deitzer

Christina Pearce

Linda Brown

Malessa Fleenor



Jeremy and Jessie identified steps to get closer to their dreams of employment, having a dog, traveling and getting a driver's license during their PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) session.

Membership and Local Chapters

Membership is like a roller coaster ride with ups and downs; however, membership continues to gradually increase. Each of our 14 affiliated local chapters is its own 501c3 charitable organization and each reflects the unique needs of the communities they serve. As the state chapter, we provide technical assistance, training and membership processing to our chapters and work with local communities to create new chapters by providing financial and technical support.

2016 MEMBERS 3,418	CHAPTER SUPPORTS 70
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Communication

The Arc Tennessee uses several communication tools to share information and calls to action with its members.

WEBSITE HITS 20,759	LISTSERV SUBSCRIBERS 933	NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION 9800
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FACEBOOK LIKES 1502	FACEBOOK POSTS 329	TWITTER FOLLOWERS/TWEETS 196/467
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Awards Recognition Program

The Arc Tennessee hosts an annual Awards Banquet to honor individuals and groups who have positively impacted the lives of people with IDD and their families. Our 2016 award winners were:

Direct Support Professional - Kimberly Wilson, Franklin
Chapter Excellence – Buffalo River Services, Waynesboro
Exemplary Educator – Tammy Day, Next Steps at Vanderbilt
Agency of Distinction – St. John’s Community Services, Martin
Inclusive Employer – Taziki’s Mediterranean Café
Community Service – Buffalo River Services Day Program
Promising Young Leaders – Lydia Thompson & Reed Reynolds, Gallatin
Public Awareness – TNCO, Nashville
Work Initiative – Monique Brown, Knoxville
The Ruth Roberts Memorial – Elise Horecka, Franklin
Legislative – Senator Becky Massey, Knoxville
Self-determination – Carolyn Meyer, Brentwood
Staff Values – Respect – Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D.
Staff Values – Integrity – Rochelle Frazier

Advocacy in Action

Ten-year-old student had been placed at an alternative school for over five years due to repeated restraint situations. Advocate worked with parent to return child to school of zone with a behavior plan in place so he could be educated in the least restrictive environment.

Our 2016-2017 Programs

Advocacy and Awareness

The Arc Tennessee touches the lives of thousands of Tennesseans with IDD each year through its advocacy and outreach activities. A contract with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) helps support these activities.

The service system for people with IDD is complex and ever-changing. The implementation of the TennCare's ECF CHOICES program meant new services available to 1,700 Tennesseans with intellectual disability and developmental disabilities other than ID. It also meant that thousands of people with IDD and their families needed to learn an entirely new system. Often, all that is needed is someone to listen to a person's situation and provide them targeted information to support them.

When a situation is complicated and information sharing is not enough, we have expert advocates across the state that work directly with individuals and their families. These advocates assist with appeals when services have been reduced or denied. They ensure the person's voice is heard at meetings about their housing, employment, healthcare, or his/her rights. The advocates assist people transitioning from segregated living arrangements to community living. They intervene when people have been abused, neglected or exploited and help them regain a sense of safety and control over their lives.

There are situations where the only avenue for help is financial assistance. We are one of the few advocacy organizations for people with IDD and their families that sets aside funds for these situations and others:

- Electric bills
- Rent
- Conservatorship costs
- Adaptive equipment
- Dental Care
- Emergency hotel stays
- Transportation

Advocacy in Action

The Arc TN provided emergency funding for plumbing repairs and home modifications to enable a young man to remain living at home with his mother.

Advocacy and awareness are core functions of The Arc Tennessee and drive the team to work in the pursuit of supporting people with IDD and their families to live meaningful lives in their communities. The Arc Tennessee excels at "meeting families where they are" and providing the level of support that they need for the time that they need it. To learn more about our advocacy work, visit The Arc Tennessee website at

<http://www.thearctn.org/Advocacy.php>.

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY CASES 278	CIRCLE OF SUPPORT MEETINGS 344	INFORMATION & REFERRAL 1,305
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COMMUNITY FORUMS 4	TRAININGS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS 21	COUNCILS, BOARDS, TASKFORCES 152
JOB CLUB ATTENDANCE 77	FAMILY COALITION MEETINGS 26	FACILITATED SELF-ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES 180
SELF-ADVOCATE PRESENTATIONS/ WORKSHOPS 2	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Emergency 13 families \$2,925	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Home Modifications 6 families \$9,000
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SHARED 8,311		

Education and Secondary Transition

Every student, including students with IDD, are entitled to a free and appropriate public education under federal law; however, many students with disabilities and their families face challenges navigating the system of special education services. Students continue to be excluded from regular education classrooms; experience inappropriate restraint and seclusion despite laws that protect them; and have no concrete plan to transition from school to adult life. The Tennessee Department of Education contracts with The Arc Tennessee to support students with IDD, their families, and educators to learn best practices in preparing young adults for life after high school.

Supports and services provided through this contract include:

- Technical assistance to students and families to help them understand the Individual Education Plan process and transition planning
- Information and referral to other community resources when needed
- Workshops and training on topics such as Getting a Head Start with Vocational Rehabilitation, Student-Led IEPs, Alternatives to Conservatorship and Conservatorship, Transition Planning, Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination, Introduction to Adult Services, Understanding Individual Education Accounts, ABLE TN, Post-Secondary Education options
- Participation and collaboration on a variety of councils and advisory groups including Individualized Education Account Advisory Group

Advocacy in Action

An advocate helped a family work with their school system to understand how to apply for and get needed ACT accommodations resulting in student accessing the test and demonstrating knowledge, leading to a scholarship at Vanderbilt University.

To learn more about Education and Secondary Transition, visit The Arc Tennessee website at <http://www.thearctn.org/Education.php>.

TRAININGS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS 33	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 430	INFORMATION & REFERRAL 1,021
COLLABORATION with SCHOOL SYSTEMS & other ORGANIZATIONS 223	DISTRIBUTION of EDUCATION DOCUMENTS 8,311	TASKFORCES/COUNCILS 16

Personal Assistance, Service and Supports (PASS) Program

Through grant support from DIDD, The Arc Tennessee supports seven (7) individuals with developmental disabilities to self-direct their supports and services. This program created the model for self-direction in Tennessee. Individuals supported by this funding are not eligible for other waiver services available in the state but still require supports to live independently in the community. The Arc Tennessee supports these individuals to manage their budgets, ensure that their staff get paid, and find creative technology solutions that increase their quality of life.

Tennessee Disability MegaConference

The Arc Tennessee is the lead organization that coordinates the annual

MegaConference. The MegaConference brings together 400-800 self-advocates,

family members, service providers, educators, and other disability professionals for two days of sharing best practices, networking, and social activities. What sets it apart from other conferences is the focus on supporting self-advocates and family members to attend. This past year over \$30,000 in stipends were awarded to those who could not otherwise afford to attend. Currently 525 people subscribe to the MegaConference listserv. To learn more about MegaConference, visit the website at

<http://www.tndisabilitymegaconference.org>



TOTAL STAFF HOURS 445	2016 ATTENDEES 636	STIPEND FUNDING \$36,750
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Planning for the Future

The Arc Tennessee received a small grant from The Arc US to coordinate a statewide training on The Arc's Center for Future Planning and how to use it to support aging caregivers in planning for the future of a loved one with IDD. This training provided local chapters of The Arc and community aging organizations with a tool to use and the skills needed to help families take that "next step."

WORKSHOPS 1 - Train the trainer 7 - Family	OUTREACH 3,433	ENGAGED IN FUTURE PLANNING PROCESS 93
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Health and Fitness for All

The Arc Tennessee received a small grant from The Arc US to coordinate health awareness training to individuals with IDD. In collaboration with local providers Progress, Inc. and Friend’s Life, The Arc Tennessee conducted three twelve week sessions using the Health Matters curriculum. This curriculum helped people with IDD learn healthy eating habits, the importance of physical activity, and the impact that what you eat and what you do each day has on your overall health and wellbeing. Participants learned how to take their vital statistics such as blood pressure, weight and body measurements. This information was tracked pre-and-post training to determine progress. Below is a summary of the project:

CLASSES/PARTICIPANTS 36/55	BLOOD PRESSURE REDUCTION 11	TOTAL COMBINED WEIGHT LOSS 58.26 lbs.
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Advocacy Matters

The Arc Tennessee received a grant from The Arc US to increase grassroots advocacy among its members. In collaboration with Disability Rights Tennessee, we traveled across the state to facilitate workshops on the importance of public policy advocacy for people with IDD, family members, interested community members and elected officials. Local chapters got involved in the project by scheduling meetings with their federally elected officials in their home districts. They took family members and self-advocates to share their stories with their Congressmen and staff. Lastly, The Arc Tennessee embarked on a public awareness campaign to increase involvement in The Arc US Disability Advocacy Network. This outreach proved critical with the current threats to drastically cut Medicaid and effectively dismantle healthcare protections for people with IDD.



Using Our Voices! Public policy advocacy video was written, produced and released in 2017.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY WORKSHOPS 4	CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS VISITS 7	ADDED TO DISABILITY ADVOCACY NETWORK 1723
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The Healing Trust Advocacy Grant

In 2016, The Arc Tennessee was awarded a three-year Advocacy Grant from The Healing Trust. These grants are specifically designed to support organizations whose primary missions are healthcare advocacy and public policy work because they recognize that there is often little funding available to support these critical activities. The Arc Tennessee’s primary policy objectives include protecting lifeline programs such as Medicaid (TennCare), addressing the crisis of Direct Support Professionals, and expanding awareness of options such as Health Care Directives and Supported Decision Making for people with IDD.



The educational video *Alternatives to Conservatorship* was written, produced and released in 2017.

Supported Decision Making (SDM)

The Arc Tennessee received a small sub-grant from the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making to further its work with its partners including the DD Network and STEP (Support and Training for Exceptional Parents) to increase awareness of SDM as a less restrictive alternative to conservatorships. This sub-grant funds the development of training materials and facilitation of educational workshops across the state.

Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES

On July 1, 2016, TennCare launched the Employment and Community First CHOICES Program for people with intellectual AND developmental disabilities. This new program offers many of the services of the DIDD waiver programs but also included some new “advocacy” type services. The Arc Tennessee became an approved provider for the following ECF CHOICES services:

- Alternatives to Conservatorship and Conservatorship Counseling
- Peer-to-Peer Self Direction, Employment and Community Support and Navigation
- Community Support Development, Organization and Navigation
- Health Insurance Forms Counseling

While these services are not in “high demand” The Arc Tennessee believes that they will become more popular as the program expands. They also fit within our areas of expertise and provide additional employment opportunities for self-advocates.

REFERRALS 13	SERVICES 9 - Conservatorship 4 - Peer to Peer	CASES CLOSED 11
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Partners in Policymaking Administrative Support

The Arc Tennessee provides administrative support for Partners in Policymaking, a project of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities.

INVOICES/CHECKS PROCESSED	HOURS OF ADMIN SUPPORT
204	54

Quality Improvement and Systems Change – People Talking to People

The People Talking to People (PTP) project employs teams of interviewers with disabilities and/or family members throughout the nine (9) developmental regions of the state to assist the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) with quality assurance and quality improvement. These teams empower people receiving long term services and supports (LTSS) through DIDD to give honest feedback regarding these services through participation in a survey. Individuals selected for the survey are chosen randomly from a list generated by DIDD. The survey tool is a slightly modified version of the National Core Indicators (NCI) survey, a tool utilized by forty-five (45) states and Washington DC. Four key areas are covered in the survey:

- 1) Choice and Control
- 2) Respect and Dignity
- 3) Access to Care
- 4) Community Inclusion

Participants are asked questions about safety, privacy, individual rights, access to the community, employment status, their health, and more. Use of this tool not only provides DIDD with the information they need to improve services in this state, it provides a mechanism for comparing the state's service delivery system to others across the nation. PTP is on track to complete over 650 face to face surveys this fiscal year.

PTP also conducts phone surveys for DIDD waiver participants that have elected to use Select Community nurse case management services. PTP interviewers conducted over 2,500 surveys this fiscal year. The results of these surveys help Select Community ensure they are providing the best possible services.

To learn more about the PTP project, visit our website at <http://www.thearctn.org/Quality-Improvement.php>. To view how Tennessee compares to other states, visit www.nationalcoreindicators.org.

FACE TO FACE INTERVIEWS	SELECT COMMUNITY PHONE INTERVIEWS	INTERVIEWERS WITH DISABILITIES
569	2,028	22

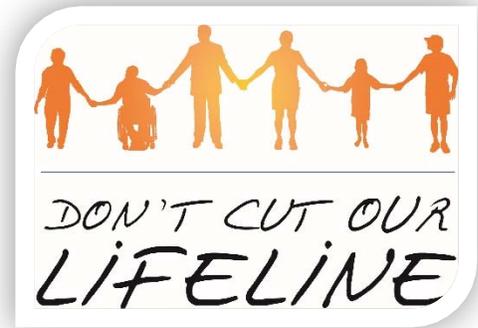
Leadership

The Arc Tennessee is respected as being one of the “go to” organizations for identifying best practices and drawing attention to critical issues affecting people with IDD and their families. The organization has a reputation for being highly collaborative and solution-oriented. The Arc Tennessee is represented on over 168 task forces, advisory groups, and councils across the state and in some cases, the country. Examples of The Arc Tennessee’s leadership “at home” include:

- Collaboration with TennCare, the MCOs, DIDD and other stakeholders on the implementation of the ECF CHOICES Program for people with IDD that launched on July 1, 2016
- Participation in the Advocacy Review Team for TennCare’s HCBS Transition Plan
- Creating awareness of Supported Decision Making as a less restrictive alternative to conservatorship through drafting of legislation, securing sponsors of the legislation and educating stakeholders so that the best law possible will be passed
- Collaborating with TNCO to secure much needed wage increases for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
- Continued involvement in TennesseeWorks, the Employment First Taskforce and other projects focused on increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities- including expansion of our own employment of people with disabilities through our ECF CHOICES contract
- Continued involvement in the TennCare QuILTSS project including work on DSP workforce development
- Collaboration with DIDD and other stakeholders to develop their new Director of Developmental Disabilities Services position

Examples of The Arc Tennessee’s leadership nationally include:

- Chairing the Steering Committee for the National Conference for Executives of The Arc (NCE)
- Being a member of the Board of Directors for The Arc US
- Participating in a variety of committees and advisory groups for The Arc US:
 - Board Nominating Committee;
 - Program Review Committee for The Arc National Convention;
 - Review committee for The Arc Catalyst awards;
 - Center for Future Planning



The *Don't Cut Our Lifeline* video, released in 2017 brought awareness to the importance of government benefit programs to people with disabilities.

Advocacy in Action

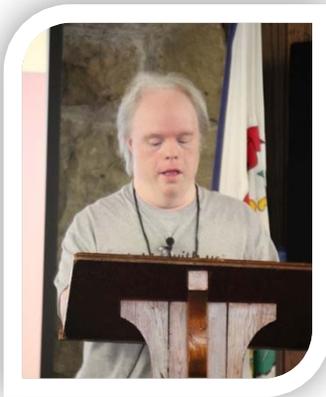
Advocates worked with a young man and empowered him with self-advocacy and self-determination skills. His self-confidence improved and he secured successful employment with a nation-wide pharmacy, moved into a new home with housemates and took art classes through a local adult education program.

Conference Presentations and other Guest Speaking Engagements

- The Alliance Waiver Transformation Workshop, Hartford, CT
- The Arc of Alabama Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL
- The Arc of Alabama Strategic Planning Facilitation, Pelham, AL
- Partners in Education Conference, Nashville, TN
- The Arc National Convention, Orlando, FL
- National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE) Summer Leadership Institute, Palm Springs, CA
- Tennessee Disability MegaConference, Nashville, TN
- Think Employment Summit, Brentwood, TN
- Planning for the Future, Nashville, TN; Franklin, TN; Hendersonville, TN; Crossville, TN
- The Arc of West Virginia/People First Conference, Jane Lew, West, VA
- Autism TN Parent Orientation Series, Nashville, TN
- Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee (DSAMT) Annual Conference, Brentwood, TN
- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Volunteer Advocacy Project (VAP), Nashville, TN

Advocacy in Action

In March 2017, Advocacy successfully closed out 10 Greene Valley Developmental Center transition cases.



Scott Finney was keynote speaker at the 2016 *Spring Forward into Action* People First/The Arc West VA conference. He flew there alone, changing planes twice each way!



Carrie Hobbs Guiden presented at The Arc of Alabama's Annual Meeting.

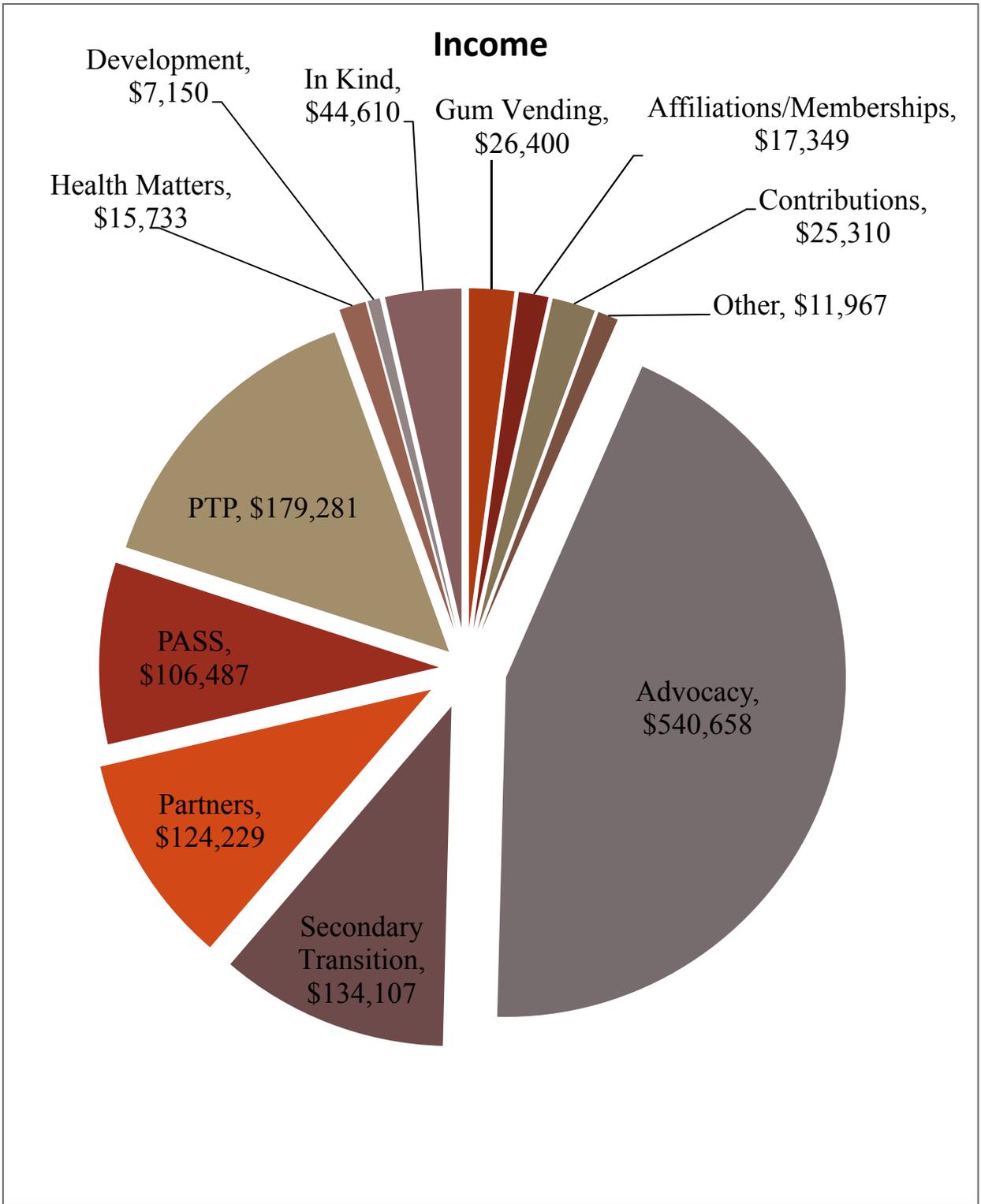
Advocacy in Action

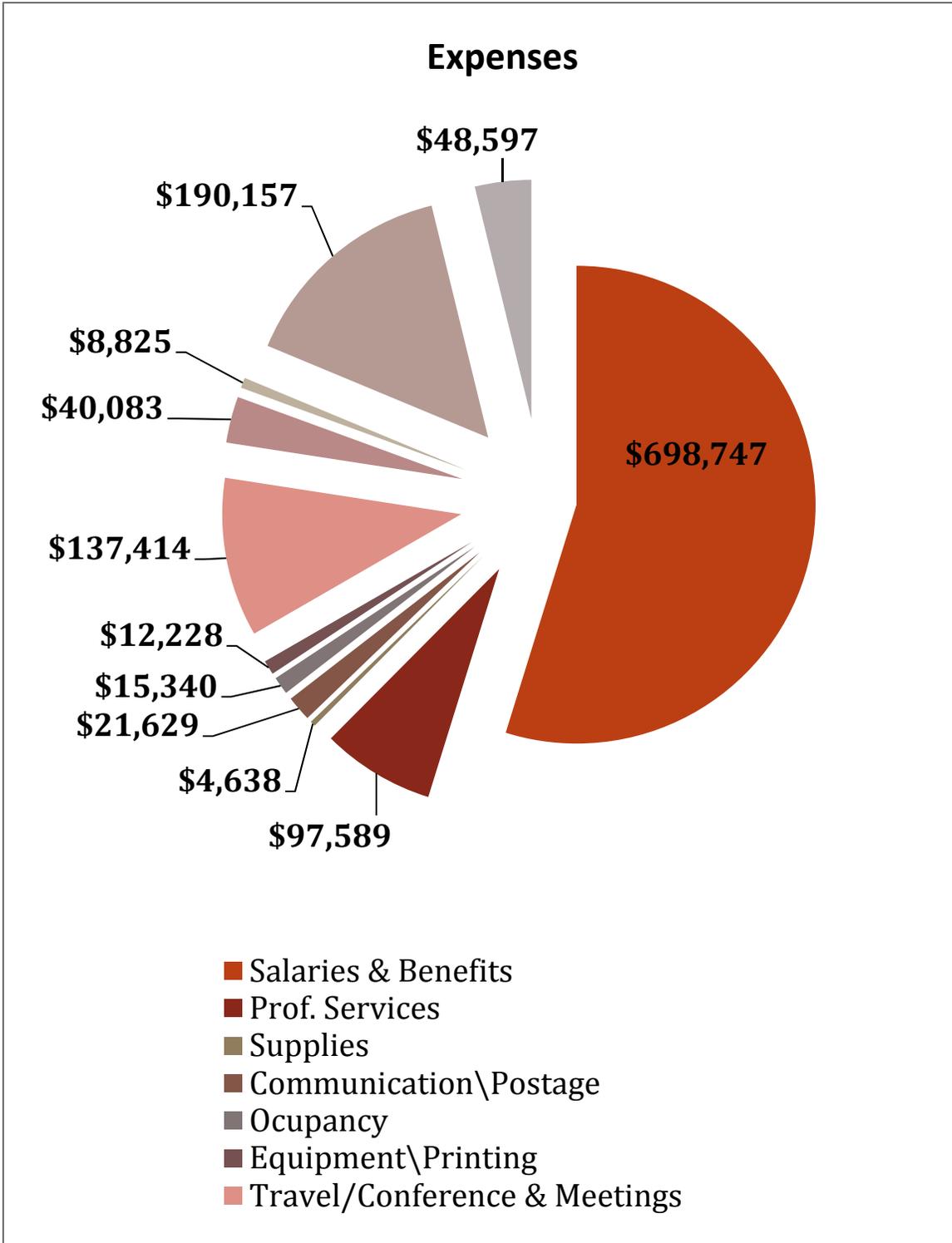
The Arc TN assisted a lady in her transfer from "Family Based" living at one agency to "Supported Living" at another agency where she was happier in her new home.

Resources and Financial Management

THE ARC OF TENNESSEE, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR 2016-2017 THROUGH 4/30/17

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues and Other Support:			
Gum Vending	\$26,399.58		\$26,399.58
Government grant	\$1,084,761.78		\$1,084,761.78
Contract revenue - nongovernment	\$34,584.79		\$34,584.79
Contributions	\$25,310.33		\$25,310.33
Interest	\$66.14		\$66.14
Rental Income	\$0.00		\$0.00
Affiliation fees	\$13,300.00		\$13,300.00
Mega Conference administrative fee	\$0.00		\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$4,560.00		\$4,560.00
Memberships	\$4,049.00		\$4,049.00
Development	\$7,150.00		\$7,150.00
In-Kind	\$44,610.00		\$44,610.00
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$1,244,791.62	\$0.00	\$1,244,791.62
Expenses:			
Program Services			
Advocacy, education and public awareness	\$446,658.16		\$446,658.16
Arc Advocacy	\$3,227.50		\$3,227.50
Secondary Transition	\$124,173.27		\$124,173.27
Baptist Healing Trust	\$9,803.05		\$9,803.05
Future Planning	\$1,926.32		\$1,926.32
Support Decision Making	\$481.87		\$481.87
Partners in Policymaking workshop	\$150,042.17		\$150,042.17
Personal assistance services and supports	\$88,089.03		\$88,089.03
Administration of the Real Choice Systems Change	\$148,625.57		\$148,625.57
ECF	\$537.06		\$537.06
Health Matters	\$12,809.81		\$12,809.81
Support Services :			
Management and general	\$280,748.03	\$8,125.00	\$288,873.03
Development/Fundraising	\$56,342.27		\$56,342.27
Total Expenses	\$1,267,121.84	\$8,125.00	\$1,275,246.84
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	-\$22,330.22	-\$8,125.00	-\$30,455.22





Assets & Liabilities	2015	2016
Assets	1,396,752	1,511,559
Liabilities	193,156	316,284
Total Net Assets	1,203,596	1,195,275
Temporarily restricted	19,752	14,165

Our Advocacy Work Matters!

At its core, The Arc Tennessee is an advocacy organization. Whether we are advocating for the protection of key human and civil rights through public policy work, partnering with key stakeholders to address change in government systems, or addressing an individual's specific need, the goal is always to improve the quality of life for people with IDD and their families.

Advocacy is most effective when many voices are sharing the same message. The Arc Tennessee works closely with its fourteen (14) local chapters, 3000+ members and many other stakeholder groups to draw attention to key issues. Below are a few examples:

- Collaborated with Disability Policy Alliance partners, Senator Becky Massey, and Representative Martin Daniel to pass legislation that added *support for businesses owned by persons with disabilities* to an existing program in state government known as the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise
- Collaborated with DIDD, DD Network Partners, STEP, Representative Mike Carter and Senator Becky Massey to begin the process of passing legislation to create Supported Decision-Making as a less restrictive alternative to conservatorship
- Created a series of short videos highlighting different policy issues including:
 - Don't Cut our Lifeline
 - Alternatives to Conservatorship and Conservatorship
 - Using Our Voices
- Partnered with Vanderbilt Kennedy Center to publish another edition of Kindred Stories – with the very timely topic of Access to HealthCare
- Partnered with local chapters and members to meet with federally elected officials on the importance of protecting Medicaid from cuts or other restructuring
- Mailed letters, sent emails and made calls to our federally elected officials opposing plans to cut \$857 billion from the Medicaid program by shifting it to a block grant or per capita cap

Advocacy in Action

Advocates worked with a lady and her agency to ensure that she would have transportation to visit her friend and attend church on Sundays.

ACTION ALERTS 19	BILLS TRACKED 226	WEEKLY CALLS DURING SESSION 14	LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS 372
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Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to FY2017-2018, opportunities and challenges abound. We will focus on growing our new service options through ECF CHOICES, VR Pre-ETS and DIDD to develop new funding streams for the organization. We will continue our work to increase membership and support our local chapters. We will continue our advocacy and policy work.

Ways You Can Help - Fundraising Events and Ways to Donate

The Arc Tennessee never turns anyone away! Our advocacy work and emergency assistance funds are critical services that are underfunded. Your donation is more important than ever before! Please contact Meg Nugent mnugent@thearctn.org if you have any questions about any of our fundraisers, ways to donate or planned giving.

Light up a Life is an annual holiday giving campaign and silent auction that raises money to support The Arc Tennessee and the Technology Access Center (TAC). Volunteers are needed to help with securing sponsors and silent auction items and with donating refreshments for the kick off.



Hearts Take Flight Pull-a-Plane Challenge is an annual spring event that pits teams against each other to see who can pull an airplane the fastest across the tarmac at the Smyrna Airport. Volunteers are needed to recruit teams, secure sponsors, and help the day of the event.

<http://www.heartstakeflight.org>

Donate a Car

Donate a used car, van, truck, boat with a trailer, or recreational vehicle seven days a week, 24 hours a day. We accept any vehicles regardless of age and condition!

<http://www.thearctn.org/Car-Donation.php>



Kroger Rewards

If you participate in this program, every time you shop at Kroger and use the rewards card you already have, you will be donating to The Arc Tennessee. Go to

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> and sign up using The Arc Tennessee's unique ID **37451**.

Opinions for Good (OP4G)

Op4G makes it possible for people completing surveys to earn money for themselves and The Arc TN by participating in Internet-based market research anonymously at a safe and secure website. To sign up go to

<https://panel.op4g.com/members/new?code=arctn1234>





Community Health Charities (CHC)

If your employer offers payroll deductions for charitable donations through CHC or the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), designate The Arc TN as your charity of choice.

<https://corp.healthcharities.org/>

Amazon Smile

When customers shop on Smile Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Under Your Account, select The Arc TN as your charitable organization. <https://smile.amazon.com/>



Give a gift in honor of or in memory of someone close to your heart and the family will receive acknowledgment and mention in The Arc Connection newsletter.

Donate online

<https://squareup.com/store/the-arc-tennessee>

Mail a check

545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228

Donate silent auction items

Gift baskets, event passes, tickets, paintings, crafts, etc.

Find businesses and secure approvals from them to place gumball/candy machines

Planned giving

A charitable bequest is simply a distribution from your estate to The Arc Tennessee through your last will and testament. For more information go to

<http://www.thearctn.org/Gift-Charity.php>



The Bonds have included The Arc TN in their will.

Volunteer and Make a Difference

We realize not everyone can make a financial contribution but we love to engage people in other ways to achieve with us! If you would like to volunteer at any of our events or make donation calls, please call 615-248-5878 or email info@thearctn.org and put volunteer in the subject line.

