

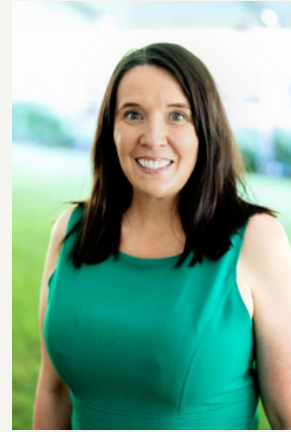


THE ARC TENNESSEE ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Reviewing this annual report, you will see we have accomplished several key initiatives related to our strategic plan and, more importantly, created strong and lasting bonds with our community partners. We believe that the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) should be protected and that they will experience improved health, safety, and community connections with the support they need.

We hope to be a leader in inclusiveness efforts in our community. Our mission states that The Arc Tennessee empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to participate actively in the community throughout their lifetime. We strive to pursue that mission with the work that every person on The Arc Tennessee team does. Every day we advocate and educate within our schools, human service agencies, workplaces, government departments, and the community to raise awareness of the role of people with developmental disabilities as contributing members of their community.

Connection is critical to The Arc Tennessee's work; connection was a significant highlight of 2023! We have been so encouraged by the successful in-person events we have held this year, including our family day at the zoo for families with school-aged children, a People First Pre-Halloween Party in Chattanooga, and of course, we are preparing for our first in-person Mega conference since 2019!

In 2023 The Arc Tennessee was successful in renewing our Advocacy and PASS Contracts with the state, and we are honored that we have been entrusted to continue to do this critical work. We work daily to protect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities right to self-determined lives free of denials of needed services, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, or the threat of it.

The 2023 Legislative session recently wrapped up. The Arc Tennessee was actively opposed to proposed legislation that would have allowed mechanical restraints for children with disabilities and created boarding schools for at-risk students, including those with disabilities. Our action alert system was invaluable in harnessing the grassroots power of individuals and families to make their voices heard. Disability Day on the Hill on March 8th was a fantastic opportunity for Tennesseans with disabilities to meet with their legislators and tell them what is most important to them. In addition, the Arc Tennessee delivered the 2023 Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Kindred Stories of Disability booklet, Mental Health, and Disability, to legislators' offices.

The Arc Tennessee is prepared and ready to continue to be the leading advocacy organization for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and their families In Tennessee.

Thank you to everyone who has helped The Arc Tennessee this year and in years past to achieve this mission - we could not do what we do without you!

HEIDI HAINES
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.

”

WHO WE ARE

The Arc Tennessee is a nonprofit 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 driven by the following values: Integrity, Justice, Courage, Respect.

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

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.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Arc Tennessee updated its strategic plan early in the '22-'23 fiscal year. This new strategic plan focuses on the following goals:



The Arc Tennessee is recognized and respected as the leading advocacy organization for people with IDD and their families



The Arc Tennessee shapes public policy, influences systems and strengthens collaborations to positively impact people with IDD and their families across their lifespan



The Arc Tennessee identifies, promotes and implements best practices for supporting people with IDD and their families to lead meaningful lives in their communities

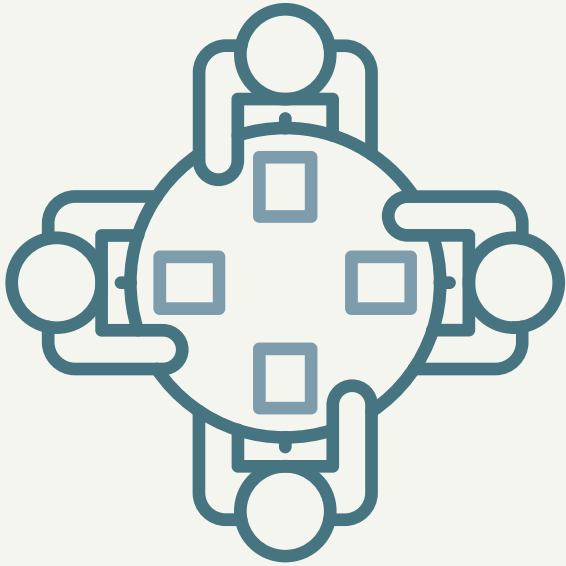


The Arc Tennessee is a culturally responsive organization



The Arc Tennessee is a financially stable organization

To view the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, please email info@thearctn.org.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Arc Tennessee's Board of Directors is a wonderfully supportive and diverse group of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their family members, community members, and local chapter representatives. Their commitment to the organization is made clear by their generous donation of:

- Time - volunteering collectively over 500 hours this year
- Talents and expertise – guidance and leadership
- Treasures - 100% board giving and in-kind donations

2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Robyn Lampley, President
Jen Vogus, Secretary
Nikki Klumb, Treasurer
Linda Brown, Past President
Kim Adkins
Darlene Bearden
Sharon Bottorff
Shontie Brown
Karen Downer
Adele Dunkin
Kevin Edwards

Malessa Fleenor
Teresa Grimmert
Landon Hensley
Kristie Irvin
Ginny Micelli
Susan McGrath
Sheila Moore
Doria Panvini
Christina Pearce
Ben Schwartzman
Dr. Sharon Webb
Jessica Wyatt

THE ARC TENNESSEE TEAM

Heidi Haines, Executive Director

Jennifer Aprea, Director of Family Engagement in Special Education

Ashley Coulter, Director of Communications & Public Awareness

Heather Henderson, Director of Advocacy

Frank Meeuwis, Director of Quality Improvement and Systems Change

Gavin Dillinger, Executive Administrative Assistant

Ingrid Moody, Office Manager

Regina Garrett, Manager of Fiscal Services

Scott Finney, Receptionist and Community Liaison

Angela Braach, Membership and Local Chapter Coordinator

Penny Johnson, Center for Decision-Making Support Program Coordinator

Tracey Cunningham, Advocate

Theresa Smisor, Advocate

Lamont Tucker, Advocate

Caitlynd Freeze, Advocate

Billy Worsham, Community Resource Specialist

Hal Baker, Community Resource Specialist II

Susan Bryant, Community Resource Specialist II

Breanna Atwell, Family Engagement Coordinator

Jen Fisher, Family Engagement Communications Specialist

Katrina VanBuren, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Kathleen Basham, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Molly Anderson, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Kendra Jones, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Annette Graves, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Jeremy Connors, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Susan Carr, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Erica Konyak, Regional Family Engagement Specialist

Emily Whitson, Exceptional Education Mentor

MEMBERSHIP & LOCAL CHAPTERS

This year The Arc Tennessee has added 604 new members, for a total of 2,172 members! Each affiliated local chapter has its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and serves their communities through a variety of direct services. Some chapters serve multiple counties, while others are county specific. As the state chapter, we provide local chapters with technical assistance, training, and membership processing. Our 15 local chapters are an important part in achieving our overall mission and we take great pride in seeing our local chapters succeed. June 2023 will mark the beginning of the 3rd year that The Arc Tennessee has been using an integrated membership data and customer relationship management system. With two years of data compiled, the database provides the capacity to report and analyze data in a variety of formats increasing perspective for engagement and outreach to prospective communities/counties as well as established areas. Collected information provides a foundation to set and attain data driven membership goals.

In May 2022, we launched Membership Lunch & Learns where staff from local chapters are invited to attend virtual meetings discussing topics such as digital design, event planning, and membership support. In addition, we launched a membership pilot with The Arc Williamson County and The Arc Davidson County and Greater Nashville. Over 10 months, data was collected and reviewed creating sustainable systems of processing membership with flexible options to meet distinctive chapter needs of local chapters. With the introduction of targeted email, online forms, and customer relationship management, The Arc Tennessee has laid a strong foundation for increasing retention of current members and extending our reach to new members and...

MEMBERSHIP & LOCAL CHAPTERS (CONT.)

communities. Momentum is increasing, thanks in large part to the integration of the website and database expanding The Arc Tennessee's capabilities to accommodate climbing numbers while developing and maintaining strong relationships with local chapters, members, and prospective members.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER OF CHAPTERS	NEW MEMBERS	TOTAL RENEWALS
2,172	15	604	1,653

COMMUNICATIONS

Over the last year, The Arc Tennessee has continued to see the positive impact of the recent technology upgrades. Utilizing the functionality of our database has allowed data tracking and an increase in membership, event attendance, event sponsorship, and registrations.

We also now have the ability to send text messages to subscribers, as well as expanded automated targeted emails to reach more subscribers with information relevant to the audience..

COMMUNICATIONS (CONT.)

We look forward to a new fiscal year and an opportunity for additional growth. Using our website and online presence across social media platforms, along with solidifying communication strategies, will allow us a broader reach and continued growth in membership.

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	FACEBOOK POSTS	FACEBOOK ENGAGEMENT	TWITTER FOLLOWERS
4,476	127	2,160	804

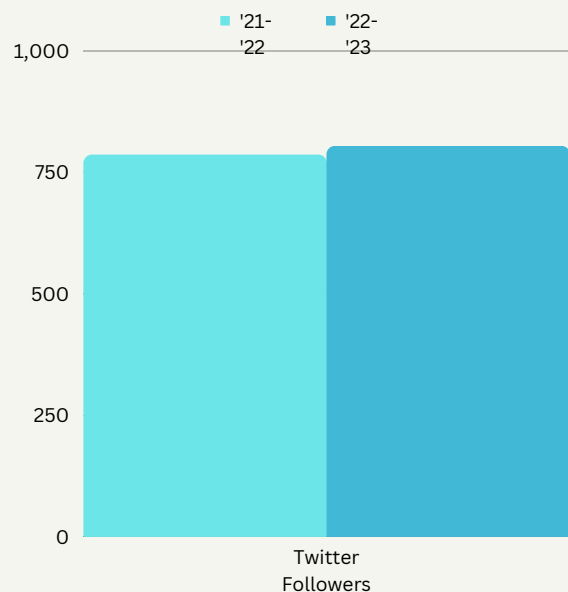
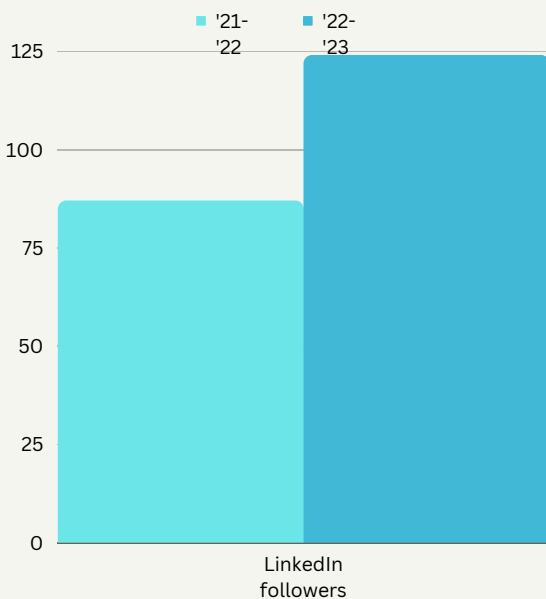
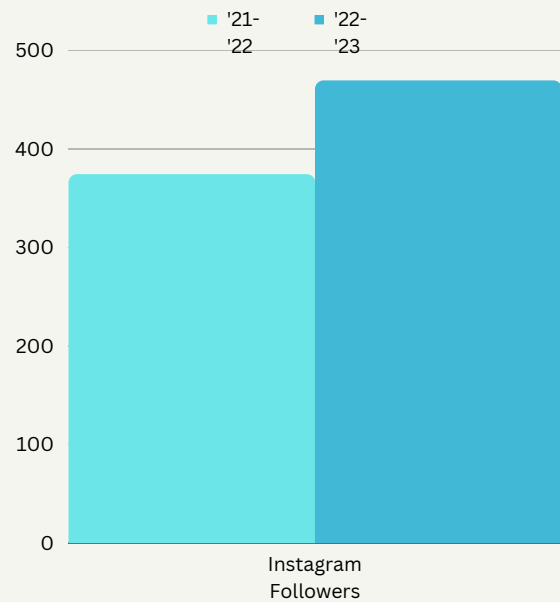
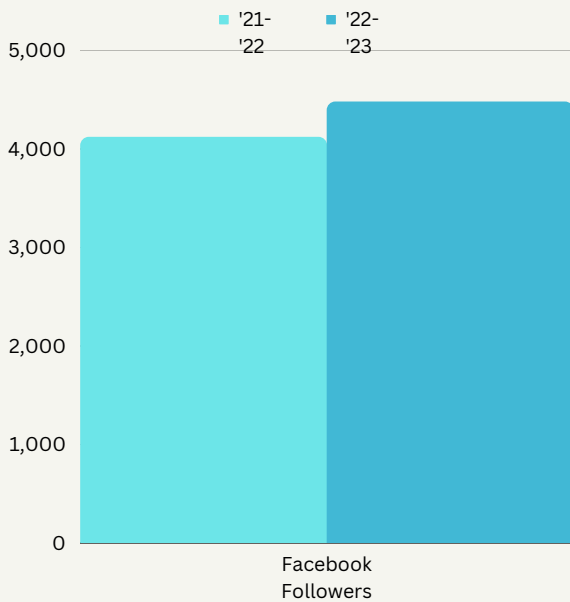
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS	INSTAGRAM POSTS	INSTAGRAM TOTAL REACH
469	22	817

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS	LINKEDIN POSTS	TWITTER FOLLOWERS
124	N/A	804

WEEKLY AWARENESS SUBSCRIBERS	TOTAL WEBSITE PAGES VIEWED	TOTAL WEBSITE UNIQUE USERS	THE CONNECTION DISTRIBUTION
2,365	50,480	18,885	5.998

COMMUNICATIONS (CONT.)

Comparing the '21-'22 fiscal year to this current year, each of the 4 tracked social media channels have experienced growth with the number of followers increasing on all platforms. This would indicate the content that is shared is helpful, relevant, and needed.



FUNDRAISING + DEVELOPMENT

This year's fundraising efforts were a little different than the normal. As we transitioned back to in person events, the organization made the decision to wait until late-2023 to host our Light Up A Life event. This year, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee made the decision to postpone The Big Payback as they survey the community and see what the needs are. With that said, we did not have an organized fundraising effort. This, however, does not mean we did not continue our awareness efforts and fundraising through private donations! This year we had 35 individual donors. You can find a list below:

**Elisabeth Dykens
S. Richard Thomas
Graeme Huffman
Karen Downer
Landon Hensley
Nikki Klumb
Jen Vogus
Emily Brunelle
Angela Braach
Sharon Botorff
Cheryl Coleman Blake
Loria Hubbard**

**Justine Chaplinsky
Lynn Boatner
John Blake
Sharon Webb
Lee Cummings
Kenny Loggains
Adele Dunkin
Glenda Bond
Allene Newton
Elisabeth Dykens
Elise McMillan
Charles Hobbs**

**Michael Cummings
Doria Panvini
Charles Hobbs
Stephanie Faulkner
David McDonald
Kevin Edwards
Ginny Miceli
Linda Brown
Wade Jones
Mary Darlene Bearden
William Edwards**

THE ARC TENNESSEE AWARDS

The Arc Tennessee annual awards event was held in Nashville on Monday, July 11th at the Loveless Barn. More than 200 people gathered to recognize and celebrate the outstanding winners. Awards were given out by The Arc TN, TN Support & Training for Exceptional Parents (TNSTEP), and Employment & Community First CHOICES program. Two new award categories were introduced during the 2022 event: Outstanding Medical Professional and Outstanding Therapist. The Arc Tennessee award recipients recognized during the event include:

Community Service: Missy Thompson

Direct Support Professional: Patsy Webb

Exemplary Educator: Rachel Ritter

Outstanding Therapist: Paige Correia

Work Initiative: Andrew Braach

Inclusive Employer: Edley's Bar-B-Q

Agency of Distinction: Friends Life Community

Outstanding Medical Professional: Dana Evans

Public Awareness: Claire Kopsky

Self-Determination: Jessica Wyatt

Promising Young Leader: Sadie Hill

The Roger Blue Lifetime Achievement Award: Carrie Hobbs Guiden

The Ruth Roberts Sibling: Jasmine King

The Jake Award: Matthew Lineberry

Presidential Award: Wanda Willis

Public Policy: Senator Jeff Yarbro & Representative Rush Bricken

THE ARC TENNESSEE AWARDS (CONT.)



Top Right: Our emcees for the evening, Joe Raffaele and Joe Macbeth; Bottom Right: Winner Claire Kopsky with Chrissy and Alaina Hood; Bottom Left: Winner Rachel Ritter pictured with her nominators; Top Left: Past & Present Roger Blue Award Winners (Don Redden, Elise McMillan, Scott Finney, Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Glenda & Randy Bond and Doria Panvini)

OTHER EVENTS

During Fall, 2022, The Arc Tennessee, along with the Family Engagement Team, hosted "Up Close & Wild" at the Nashville Zoo. This event, which had over 140 people in attendance, created a an outdoor, accessible venue where families could come together. During this event, a meal was provided and families had the opportunity to have a professional family photo taken. Families were also able to learn about specific animals during the "animal meet and greets," take their turn on the zipline or carousel, enjoy face painting, and spend as much time visiting the different animal exhibits while on site. After the event, we learned this was the first time many of these families felt comfortable getting out in public together post-COVID 19. On our event survey, 100% of respondents said they would recommend the event to a friend and were hopeful this would be an annual event!



Photos from our Up Close & Wild event at the Nashville Zoo by Amanda McNeal Photography.

2022-2023 PROGRAM IMPACT

ADVOCACY + AWARENESS

For The Arc Tennessee's advocacy team, this last year has brought an array of new opportunities and experiences. As we have begun to emerge from the public health emergency that has caused such uncertainty over the last three years The advocacy team has worked continuously to help individuals and families receive the support they need in order to get back into the community.

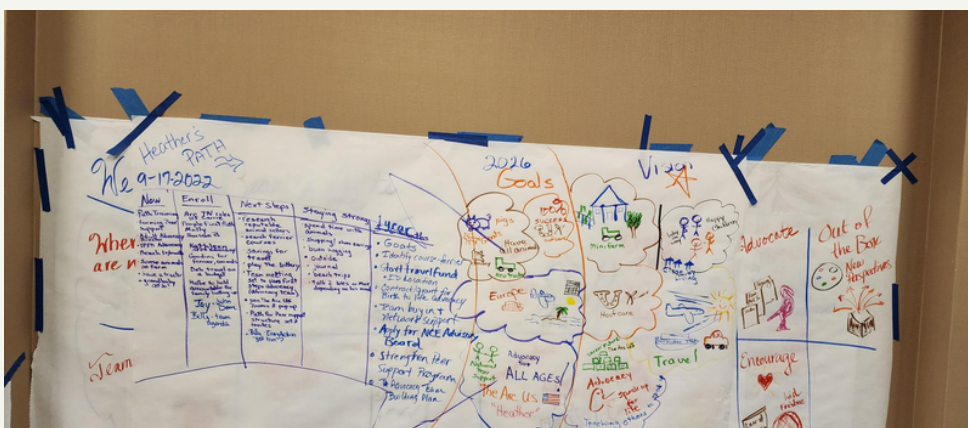
Over the last year, we have seen an implementation of new programs created to help meet the needs of individuals living in Tennessee with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as MAPs, the extension of TEIS services to age 4, and a recent partnership between DIDD and DCS to help support children in the foster care system with IDD. We also saw the addition of 2000 spots open in the ECF waiver.

To help keep our advocacy team growing and learning we have worked to assure that advocates are trained and well-versed in any new programs and that they are a part of the conversations happening about programs and changes at the systems level. Our team has taken part in the State's various Policy and Planning committees, Family Support Council, Autism Council, ECF Advisory councils, and meets regularly with DIDD Leadership at the regional and central level to work towards ensuring the needs of those supported are being met and to create open lines of communication.

ADVOCACY + AWARENESS

(cont.)

We have continued to institute the use of a secure database and online referral form. The database has made it possible for us to securely and easily put in notes on individual cases as well as save needed documentation to a person's records to assure we are fully aware of the whole picture and can assist in the best way possible. The database has given us the ability to more easily collaborate across regions as well as be able to track data for reporting purposes and be able to identify emerging trends in advocacy work. An added bonus to the use of the database is that it gives us the ability to collect stories from individuals and families that can then be shared to help produce systems change. Our movement towards using an online referral process is that it has helped us to better collect needed information as well as have a streamlined approach for the referral process. The referrals we receive can come from families, individuals, Support Coordinators, MCO's, DIDD, school systems, social workers, provider agencies, and many others that are looking for advocacy support in many different forms.



The Advocacy Team participated in a training on how to facilitate a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) during Fall 2022.

ADVOCACY + AWARENESS (cont.)

ADVOCACY NEEDS FOR '22-'23	
ABUSE/MISTREATMENT	15
BEHAVIORAL (HR/QL)	20
COMMUNITY TRANSITION	9
CONSERVATORSHIP/FAMILY	17
DC TRANSITION (SA)	5
DISPUTE RESOLUTION	16
EDUC. RESOURCES	33
FINANCIAL (HR/QL)	21
HEALTH SURROGATE	10
HUMAN RIGHTS (HR/QL)	23
ICF/IID TRANSITION	5
LEGAL ISSUES	16
MEDICAL/HEALTH (H&S)	15
QUALITY OF SERVICES	20
SAFETY (H&S)	19
SERVICE DENIALS (SA)	14
SUPPORTED DECISION	1
TITLE VI/ADA/IDEA	3

ADVOCACY + AWARENESS

(cont.)

In order to meet the needs of the changing systems, the advocacy team conducts in-person meetings quarterly to evaluate progress on individual goals and team goals. These meetings give us the opportunity to also address what's working and what's not working in our advocacy work and work towards solutions. In September of 2022, eight members of The Arc team participated in PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) training so that we can provide this person-centered service to individuals, families, and agencies that request it across the state.

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ADVOCACY SERVICES '22-'23	NUMBER OF NEW REFERRALS	NUMBER OF CLOSED REFERRALS
354	188	50

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

There are times when financial support is the best way to address an individual or family's situation. The Arc Tennessee sets aside funds for these circumstances. This year we assisted 17 individuals and families for a total of \$3,400.00. Some examples include the following:

- Housing
- Clean bedding
- Food scarcity
- Transportation

TENNESSEE DISABILITY MEGACONFERENCE

This year we have been working hard as we plan our first in person MegaConference since 2019. Many hours have gone into theme selection, call for presenters, promoting, obtaining sponsorships, and more. We continue to see a lot of activity both on our website and through social media. This year we wanted to highlight our social media presence as we prepare for the 2023 event late May.



TOTAL FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	TOTAL FACEBOOK POSTS	TOTAL FACEBOOK ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL FACEBOOK ENGAGEMENT
1,368	19	340	9,770

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE, SERVICE, AND SUPPORTS (PASS) PROGRAM

Through grant support from DIDD, The Arc Tennessee supports six individuals with developmental disabilities to self-direct their supports and services. This program created the model for self-direction in Tennessee. Individuals in the PASS Program do not receive other home or community-based services but need supports to live independently in the community. Most participants in the PASS Program work in competitive jobs. We support these individuals to manage their budgets, pay their support staff, and find creative technology solutions that increase their quality of life.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Engagement in Special Education is a collaborative project of The Arc Tennessee and the Tennessee Department of Education. Our team helps to empower parents and caregivers and increase family engagement in special education by building a bridge that connects families and school in a variety of ways. We want families to find success in their special education experience.

We reach families statewide in many ways including a monthly e-newsletter, social media, our website and more. This year we revamped our website with resources for families and teachers at FamilyEngagementTN.com. We work closely with the team at the Department of Education to provide information to families through regional events, monthly blogs, and social media posts. This past year we grew our team of Regional Family Engagement Specialist to eight, ensuring we can provide support to families and districts across the entire state of TN through support groups, advisory councils, resource fairs and much more.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (cont.)

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	FACEBOOK REACH	TWITTER FOLLOWERS	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
1,434	32,244	182	189

BLOG VISITS	FAMILY FRIENDLY RESOURCES CREATED	E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS	WEB PAGE HITS
4,284	15	1,018	10,903

The Family Engagement project's social media

Website: <https://familyengagementtn.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fespedtn

Twitter: @FESPED_TN

Instagram: @fespedtn

Federal law assures that every child is entitled to a free and appropriate public education. However, sometimes students with disabilities and their families face challenges navigating the special education system. The Tennessee Department of Education contracts with The Arc Tennessee to provide services and supports to help prepare young adults for life after high school through the following programs:

TRAININGS/ PRESENTATIONS	MENTORING ASSISTANCE
161 (FE TEAM)	454 (FE TEAM, HAL, BILLY, SUSAN, EMILY)

IEP MEETINGS ATTENDED	IEP MEETING PREP WORK ASSISTANCE
75 (HAL, BILLY, SUSAN, EMILY)	197 (HAL, BILLY, SUSAN, EMILY)

PEOPLE FIRST TN



The Arc Tennessee supports self-advocates as they learn leadership and important relationships through the People First project, which is funded through a partnership with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD). People First Tennessee has an active Advisory Council with membership from across the state. They are recruiting members and developing local chapters.

MEMBERS	LOCAL CHAPTERS	OUTREACH/ COMMUNICATION
255	4	250

These are some of our recent notables:

- Participated in 'Empowered Gents' sessions: a social group that gathers to learn about assistive technology and other resources that increase the independence and confidence of men with disabilities. Participants share experiences and life hacks with their peers.
- Participated in Bi-monthly Southeastern Regional Superhub Meetings on Vaccination efforts.
- Ongoing weekly Thursday afternoon National Self-Advocacy Zoom meetings, where ideas for community-partnership and additional resources are shared through SARTAC (Self Advocate Resource and Technology Access Center).
- People First's Frank Meeuwis and Lisa Gail Newby co-presented to the Middle-TN Policy Planning Council on success from the Summer Freedom Fest '22, and about ongoing efforts to keep growing and tell others about People First Tennessee.
- Ongoing collaboration with SABE, the National Self Advocates Becoming Empowered group, to share latest on community safety and important legislation.

PEOPLE FIRST TN (cont.)

- Presented on People First's history, mission, and ongoing work to raise the voices of people with disabilities at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Community Advisory Committee.
- Volunteered and promoted People First at the Bellevue Park Center for a community gathering of people with disabilities from Rochelle Center, a disability services and support organization in Nashville.
- In October at the Jack Benson Park in Chattanooga, with local food sponsorship from Chick-fil-A, People First hosted a Pre-Halloween Party for nearly 150 individuals, family members and support professionals.



TENNESSEE CENTER FOR DECISION-MAKING SUPPORTS

The Arc Tennessee continued to manage the TN Center for Decision-Making Support for FY 2022-2023. The grant from the Council of Developmental Disabilities ended 6/30/2022 which also ended the partnership with Disability Rights Tennessee. The Arc Tennessee became solely responsible for the operations and financial support for the TN Center for Decision-Making Support.

CDMS started negotiations with TennCare to support CDMS through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Grant. This grant was anticipated to start in the fall of 2022 but was detained due to contract revisions. With this grant, TennCare would support the general duties of CDMS and would include a new project called the MFP System Transformation Initiative (STI). Under this project, CDMS would work with TennCare to implement Supported Decision-Making practices and tools to help individuals exiting Immediate Care Facilities (ICF) placement and moving them into integrated community living and employment. This project start date was postponed and is now anticipated to start June 2023.

With the loss of the legal support of Disability Rights TN, the Center needed to find new legal support which resulted in developing collaborations with other legal partners such as a liaison with DIDD OGC, CDMS Advisory members who are attorneys, the Office of Conservatorship Management, and the Conservatorship Association of Tennessee. With the development of these collaborations, the Center was able to obtain free legal counsel to provide advice to the Center, when appropriate, to ensure CDMS continued to provide non-biased accurate information, without providing legal advice to families.

As a result of the contract changes, CDMS disbanded the original CDMS Advisory and developed a new CDMS Advisory. The role of the new CDMS Advisory is to help direct CDMS into the new project and growth of CDMS under the new grant. The Advisory meets quarterly and is comprised of advocates professionals across the disability committee. CDMS continues to retain the Training and ...

TENNESSEE CENTER FOR DECISION-MAKING SUPPORTS (CONT.)

Development Committee to assist with the ongoing development of videos, webinars, and materials for the CDMS website.

The loss of the support of Disability Rights Tennessee also increased the direct workload of CDMS staff, having to conduct all education, outreach, on-on-one consultations, training, and legal referrals. To help support the increase in workload, The Arc Tennessee hired a Transition Coordinator through the Family Engagement contract. The Transition Coordinator position supported both the Family Engagement Transition requirements and CDMS transition services, which included providing education on decision-making supports and transition services to youth, families, educators, and other professionals.

The Transition Coordinator was trained on Conservatorship and alternatives; Supported Decision-Making; transition services; how to use the Center website and tools; how to conduct one-on-one consultations with families; and how to manage a booth at Transition fairs. Once trained the Transition Coordinator was able to handle much of the Transition Services related to the Center. CDMS continued to oversee and manage the website and website updates; provide limited one-on-one assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members, educators and professionals; conduct webinars and presentations across the state; collaborate with DIDD and the other legal entities for complex case resolution; provide education and training regarding the usage of Supported Decision-Making tools and the website; and provide resources and legal referrals to families regarding decision-making supports.

CDMS's primary focus was to provide the ongoing information and referral services, continue to manage and update the website, increase public awareness of the Center, increase collaboration with other state agencies and organizations, and enhance resources by developing videos, trainings, and educational materials.

TENNESSEE CENTER FOR DECISION-MAKING SUPPORTS (CONT.)

TRANSITION FAIRS ATTENDED	
UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	15*
CDMS COORDINATOR	11
TRANSITION COORDINATOR	7

*CDMS Coordinator and Transition Coordinator attended three transition fairs together.

TRAININGS/PRESENTATIONS CONDUCTED (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	PRESENTATION PROVIDED	PRESENTATION ATTENDANCE
UNDUPLICATED TOTAL	47*	671
CDMS COORDINATOR	40	NA
TRANSITION COORDINATOR	14	NA

*Penny and Breanna conducted seven presentations together..

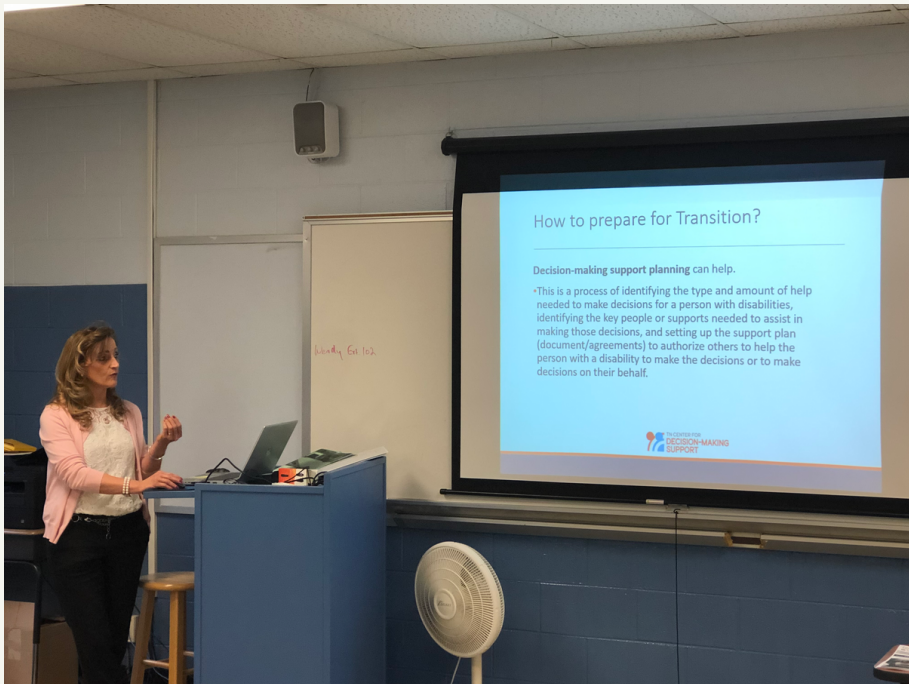
**ONE-ON-ONE LIMITED ASSISTANCE (BEYOND INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION)	**CONSERVATORSHIP CASES
30	3

ASSISTANCE INQUIRIES (EMAIL & PHONE)	CONSULTATIONS (VIRTUAL / IN PERSON)	REFERRALS & RESOURCES PROVIDED
226	144	495

TENNESSEE CENTER FOR DECISION-MAKING SUPPORTS (CONT.)

* One-on-one assistance may consist of ongoing limited assistance to help resolve decision-making support issues or obtain the necessary resources. This can include multiple calls, emails, or meetings with the individual, family, supporters, or professionals to help resolve the issue. These cases can take weeks to months to resolve.

**Conservatorship cases may be coordinating with legal counsel and the Circle of Support on a conservatorship modification, rights restoration or providing assistance/support to the individual or support team to help with the process of a conservatorship legal action. This casework can take months or longer to resolve. Some of these cases were continued from FY 2022. Since CDMS did not have funds to cover legal services. CDMS worked with existing legal entities to work toward conservatorship issue resolutions.



Left: Penny Johnson, CDMS Coordinator, presents on Transition and the TN Center for Decision-Making Supports; Right: Penny Johnson and Breanna Atwell pose with the beautifully decorated Christmas tree at the Festival of Trees fundraiser benefitting The Arc Davidson County and The Arc Williamson County.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

Advocacy has always been, and will continue to be, the heart of The Arc Tennessee. Whether we are defending human and civil rights through public policy efforts, partnering with key stakeholders to create change in how services are delivered, or addressing an individual's personal needs, the goal is always to improve the quality of life for people with IDD and their families. Here are just a few examples of public policy advocacy in action:

- Partnered with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center on Kindred Stories on Mental Health and Disability
- Coordinated five meetings with federal legislators during Disability Policy Seminar
- Initiated Action Alerts for State legislation
- Worked with the Disability Policy Alliance on priority legislation
- Met weekly with DIDD Legislative Liason
- Sponsored Disability Day on the Hill: The Coalition hosted over 120 people on the DDH Legislative webinar, with 45 people watching after the fact. During DDH, over 150 meetings were scheduled with legislators, and more than 300 people showed up to advocate on The Hill.

ACTION ALERTS	BILLS TRACKED	WEEKLY CALLS DURING SESSION	LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS
4	131	14	16

BILLS UPDATE

SUPPORT:

SB372/HB672

FAMILY LAW: Children in youth development centers.

SB4/HB435

EDUCATION: Establishes a deaf mentor and parent advisor program.

SB284/HB612

CRIMINAL LAW: Determination of intellectual disability of those sentenced to death.

SB1305/HB251

EDUCATION: Tennessee Special Educator Scholarship Act.

SB460/HB607

INSURANCE HEALTH: Timeframe for utilization review agents to notify enrollees for more information.

SB342/HB1230

MISCELLANEOUS: TN - exemption from daylight saving time.

SB363/HB371

TENNCARE: Claims seeking recovery against the estates of deceased ABLE account beneficiaries.

SB107/HB257

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Clarification of motor vehicle ownership.

BILLS UPDATE

OPPOSE:

SB1450/HB42

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES: Pilot program exempting driver of motorcycle from crash helmet requirement.

SB1507/HB1249

EDUCATION: Kindergarten prerequisite for attending first grade.

SB197/HB809

EDUCATION: Establishing of maximum class size by LEAs and public charter schools.

SB141/HB127

EDUCATION: Use of mechanical restraint on student in an emergency situation.



The Arc TN staff attend Disability Day on the Hill. Pictured top left: Heidi Haines, Frank Meeuwis, Jen Fisher, Jen Aprea, Heather Henderson, Ashley Coulter; Pictured top right: Scott Finney and Gavin Dillinger

LEADERSHIP+ SYSTEMS CHANGE

The Arc Tennessee is recognized both in Tennessee and nationally for its advocacy around critical issues impacting people with I/DD and their families, and for identifying and implementing best practices. We are team players and solution driven. The Arc Tennessee is active in over 100 task forces, advisory groups, and councils at the local, state and national level. Examples of The Arc Tennessee's participation at the federal, state, and local activities include:

- **DIDD:**
 - Member, Developmental Disabilities Policy and Planning Council (DDPPC)
 - Chair, East TN Regional Policy and Planning Council
 - Members, Statewide Policy and Planning Council
 - Member, Employment First Taskforce
 - Member, Employment First Mental Health Subcommittee
 - Member, Regional Human Rights Committees
 - Regional Abuse and Neglect Committee
 - Harold Jordan Center Admission Review Team
 - Enabling Technology
 - Participate in monthly self-advocate focus groups in East, Middle, and West
- **TennCare**
 - Member, ECF CHOICES Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - Member, ECF CHOICES Statewide Leadership Transformation Team
 - Member, ECF CHOICES East
 - Member, CHOICES Advisory Council
 - Member, Katie Beckett Technical Advisory Council
 - TennCare State Leadership Team
 - TennCare Tech Advisory

LEADERSHIP+ SYSTEMS CHANGE (cont.)

- **Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**
 - Member of Amerigroup Advisory Councils
 - Member of BlueCare Advisory Councils
 - Member of United Healthcare Advisory Councils
- **DOE**
 - Member, Statewide Transition Leadership Team
 - Member, TN-TAN Network
 - Member, TISA Sub-Committee for Students with Disabilities/Gifted
 - Member, TISA Special Education Engagement Committee
 - Member, TISA Outcomes Committee
 - Participate in Advisory Council for Education for Students with Disabilities
- **Other**
 - Member, AimHiTN Advisory Council
 - Member, Center for Supported Decision-Making Advisory Council
 - Member, UTHSC for Developmental Disabilities Community Advisory Committee
 - Treasurer, Brain Injury Association of Tennessee (BIAT)
 - Chair, Disability Coalition on Education (DCE)
 - Member, Boling Center Community Advisory Council
 - Member, Disability Policy Alliance
 - Member, Next Steps at Vanderbilt Advisory Council
 - Member, VKC Community Advisory Council
 - Member, Support and Training for Exceptional Parents Board
 - Member, Miracle League of Chattanooga Board
 - Member, VKC Public Policy Committee
 - Member, Ochs Research Council
 - Member, Aim Center Housing Board
 - Member, Chattanooga Autism Consortium Board
 - Member/Coach, Special Olympics Board

LEADERSHIP+ SYSTEMS CHANGE (cont.)

- Member, Tennessee Adult Brothers and Sisters
- Member, Rutherford County Family Support Council
- District Representative for the Rutherford County Family Support Program
- Member, Heart of Tennessee Toastmasters
- Member, Honoring Choices Advisory
- Member, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network
- Member, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
- Member, Conservatorship Association of Tennessee
- Member, Charter School Application Committee, Williamson County Schools
- Member, Mayor's Council of Chattanooga
- Assistant Vice President, Junior League Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Board Member, Gigi's Playhouse
- East WIOA Youth Council
- Williamson County School Board
- Williamson County Student Support Services Parent Advisory Council
- Examples of The Arc Tennessee's national activities include:
 - Co-Chair NCE Chapter Resource Committee
 - Policy & Legislative Advisor, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS + OTHER GUEST SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- The Arc of the United States National Convention
- Tennessee Disability MegaConference
- Americare
- Heart of Tennessee Toastmasters
- Amerigroup, Middle
- Amerigroup ECF Advisory, East
- Amerigroup ECF Advisory, Middle
- Amerigroup ECF Advisory, West
- BlueCare, East
- BlueCare, Middle
- BlueCare, West
- DIDD Focus Group – East Region
- DIDD Focus Group – Middle Region
- DIDD Focus Group – West Region
- The Arc US Leadership Conference
- TASH
- Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Clinical Consultation Network
- DIDD Staff and Member Advocates

PRESENTATIONS + SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (cont.)

- DIDD Focus Group – East
- DIDD Focus Group – Middle
- DIDD Focus Group – West
- People First
- National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Unit 12 Team
- TABS Chat (Tennessee Adult Brothers and Sisters)
- Valor Collegiate
- City of Chattanooga, CIT Training
- Rhea County Transition Fair
- Conservatorship Association of TN
- AAAD Leadership
- Shelbyville High School
- Maury Co Family Engagement Support Group
- Tullahoma HS Support Group
- Vocational Rehabilitation Pre-ETS Staff
- Volunteer Advocacy Project
- Hamilton County Support Group
- Maury County Parent Support Group Meeting for Families Involved in Special Education
- Tullahoma Parent Support Group Meeting for Families Involved in Special Education
- Perry County Schools
- Franklin County Schools

PRESENTATIONS + SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (cont.)

- Giles County Schools
- Bedford County Schools
- Marion County Department of Education
- Tennessee Emergency Board Policy Committee
- Tennessee Emergency Board
- Madonna Learning Center
- TransitionTN
- Public Partnerships
- Tennessee Disability Pathfinder
- Vanderbilt University (Master's Level Class)
- The Arc Davidson County
- Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee
- BCBST Member Only Group
- The Arc Mid-South
- Next Steps
- Partners in Policymaking
- Tennessee School for the Deaf
- Special Education Institute, TN Department of Education

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Your donation matters! Whether it is your time, talent or treasure, there are many ways to help The Arc Tennessee expand our ability to provide emergency assistance, individual advocacy, special education assistance, provide decision-making supports and more.

LIGHT UP A LIFE

An annual giving campaign and silent auction that raises money to support The Arc Tennessee. Volunteers are needed to help with securing sponsors and silent auction items. Contact Gavin Dillinger at gdillinger@thearctn.org for more information.



DONATE A CAR

You can donate your 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.



DONATE ONLINE

The Arc Tennessee operates through grants and private donations, so every dollar counts! Support Tennessee's disability community by making a donation today! <https://www.thearctn.org/get-involved/donate/>



MAIL A CHECK

545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228

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 <https://www.thearctn.org/get-involved/donate/>.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fiscal year 2022 - 2023 promises to be yet another year of exploring new boundaries around self-advocacy, technology, family engagement and education. The Arc Tennessee is looking forward to continuing to impact services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the state.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to our corporate sponsors:



