

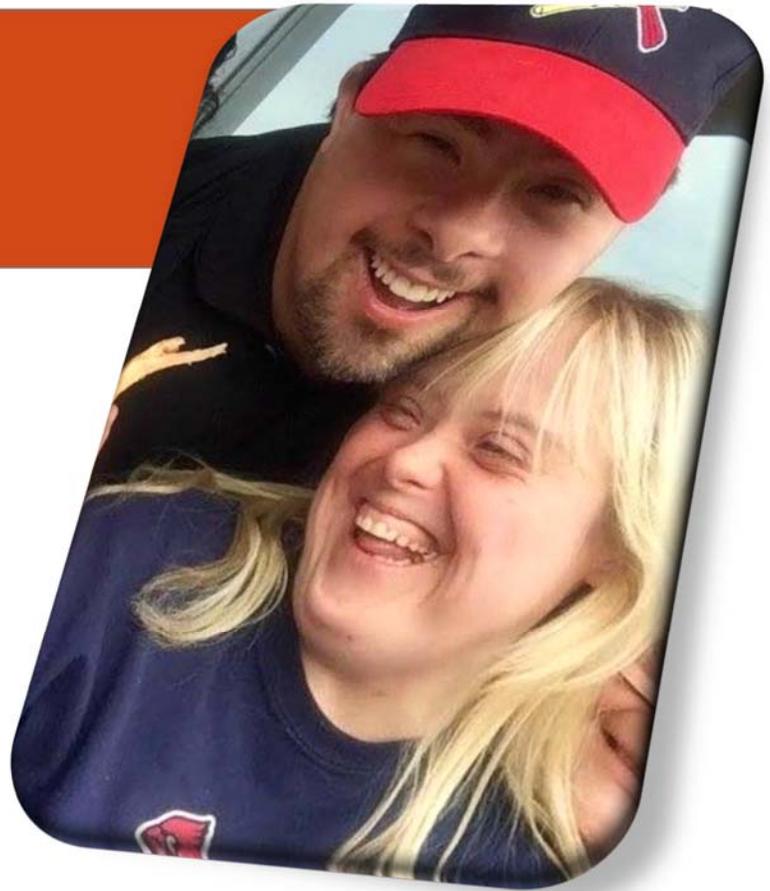


The Arc[®]

Tennessee

Achieve with us.

Annual Report 2017-2018



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<http://www.thearctn.org>

Executive Summary

As FY2017-2018 ends, I find myself reflecting on all The Arc Tennessee has accomplished this past year. These accomplishments were achieved because of the continued dedication of our employees, volunteers, local chapters, national office and community partners.

The disability community was tested on several fronts as threats to our civil rights continued at the federal level. We thwarted attempts by Congress to cut Medicaid and repeal parts of the ACA that would limit access to health care for people with disabilities thanks to the tireless advocacy of The Arc at all levels and our partnership with other disability advocacy organizations. We continue to fight against the weakening of protections under the ADA, proposed work requirements for “able-bodied” Medicaid recipients and SNAP recipients that could impact family caregivers and others.



In state policy, The Arc Tennessee and the DD Network collaborated with Senator Becky Massey and Representative Mike Carter to pass legislation that opens the door for Supported Decision Making to be recognized as a less restrictive alternative to conservatorship. The Arc Tennessee and the Tennessee Disability Coalition partnered to expand the Aging Caregiver statute to include people with developmental disabilities other than intellectual disability. We supported TNCO’s efforts to raise wages for Direct Support Professionals through advocacy with various legislative committees. The result was an additional \$14.7 million in recurring state and federal funds and \$34.3 million in non-recurring state and federal funds. Lastly, The Arc Tennessee worked with Representative Jason Powell and Senator Sarah Kyle to ban corporal punishment for students with IEPs or 504 plans.

The Arc Tennessee’s employees provided more ECF CHOICES services, especially Alternatives to Conservatorship. After a slow start, Pre-ETS services expanded to multiple counties and VR renewed our contract for FY2018-2019. We are excited about growing this program to reach more students transitioning from school to adult life. We signed an MOU with Vanderbilt University to expand the footprint of their Volunteer Advocacy Project. Graduates of the program will have opportunities for ongoing professional development, mentoring, and pay for providing special education advocacy and other technical assistance. The goal of this partnership is to increase our ability to provide special education advocacy and technical assistance across the state.

Looking ahead, The Arc Tennessee must continue its strong advocacy for people with IDD and their families. The civil rights of people with IDD and their families must be protected. Critical programs and laws such as Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, IDEA and the ADA are continually threatened. Without these, people with IDD face possible institutionalization, lack of access to their communities, and loss of basic needs, like food and shelter.

We cannot face these challenges alone. The Arc Tennessee needs your help more than ever. 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.thearctn.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>

Advocacy in Action

Carrie Hobbs Guiden appeared on Channel 5 Plus to talk about legislation banning corporal punishment for students with IEPs & 504 plans



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



2017-2018 Board Members

Ann Curl, President

Linda Brown, Vice President, Planning/Rules Committee Chair

John Lewis, Secretary

Mary La Haie, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair

John Shouse, Past President, Board Development Committee Chair

Karen Downer, East TN Regional Representative

Nelia Jobe, 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, Public Awareness Committee Chair

Donna Isbell, Development Committee Chair

Donna Lankford

Jennifer Heflin

Courtney Taylor

Joe Pitts

Elise McMillan

Ginny Miceli

Glenda Bond

Cindy Gardner

Kathy McGee

Christina Pearce

Teresa Grimmett

Sandra Hawkins

Malessa Fleenor

Advocacy in Action

Chris' PATH Identified his dreams and set in motion steps to get closer to his dream.



Membership and Local Chapters

Membership is a roller coaster with its ups and downs, and 2017 saw a decrease. We launched a new chapter, The Arc of the Great Smokies, serving Blount and Sevier Counties. Our fifteen affiliated local chapters, each its own 501c3 charitable organization, reflects the unique needs of the communities they serve. As the state chapter, we provide them with technical assistance, training, membership processing, and providing financial and technical support to local communities to form new chapters.

The Membership Committee produced a **Membership Toolkit** in 2017 to help local chapters recruit and retain members. The Arc TN started a membership renewal service pilot with one chapter in 2018. If successful it will be offered to additional chapters.

2017 MEMBERS 2,912	CHAPTER SUPPORTS 39
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Communication

The Arc Tennessee uses several tools for communication and distributing information.

WEBSITE HITS 21,422	FACEBOOK LIKES 1,733	FACEBOOK POSTS 330
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LISTSERV SUBSCRIBERS 1,064	NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION 12,000	TWITTER FOLLOWERS/TWEETS 346/896
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Awards Recognition Program

The Arc Tennessee hosts an annual Awards Banquet to honor those who have impacted the lives of people with IDD and their families. Our 2017 award winners were:

Chapter Excellence Award, The Arc Williamson County
 Values Award, Integrity, Laura Berry
 Values Award, Respect, Adelia Company
 Agency of Distinction Award, Achilles International, Nashville
 Community Service Award, Doria Panvini
 Exemplary Educator Award, Jan Lincoln
 Inclusive Employer Award, Germantown Municipal School District
 Public Awareness Award, Leisa Hammett
 Work Initiative Award, Taegan Martin
 Self-determination Award, Chad Hilton
 Promising Young Leader Award, Catland Freeze
 The Ruth Roberts Memorial Sibling Award, Diane Giddens
 Direct Support Professional Above & Beyond Award, Patricia Peek



Advocacy in Action

Chris' dream of touring Fox 17 News station was fulfilled when The Arc connected him with anchor Scott Couch.

Our 2017-2018 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 continued to evolve in its second year as another 1,000 people were enrolled. Despite outreach from TennCare, DIDD and the advocacy community, many individual and families are still unaware of the program. The Arc Tennessee continues to serve as a vital source of information for individuals and families as they navigate the new system.

When a situation is complicated and information sharing is not enough, our expert advocates across the state work directly with individuals and their families. Advocates:

- Assist with appeals when services have been reduced or denied.
- Ensure the person's voice is heard at meetings about their housing, employment, healthcare, or civil rights.
- Assist people transitioning from institutional living arrangements to community living.
- 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 money is the only solution. We are one of the few advocacy organizations for people with IDD and their families that sets aside funds for situations such as these:

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

Advocacy and awareness are core functions of The Arc Tennessee. Our Advocacy team is respected throughout the state. They work tirelessly in the pursuit of supporting people with IDD and their families to live meaningful lives in their communities. The Arc Tennessee team excels at simplifying complex situations and empowering people to advocate for what they need. To learn more about our advocacy work, visit The Arc Tennessee website at <http://www.thearctn.org/Advocacy.php>.

Advocacy in Action

Families met with legislators in Washington, DC to talk about current issues



INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY CASES 712	CIRCLE OF SUPPORT MEETINGS 120	INFORMATION & REFERRAL 613
HEALTH CARE SURROGATE 13	TRAININGS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS 34	COUNCILS, BOARDS, TASKFORCES 167
JOB CLUB ATTENDANCE 73	FAMILY COALITION MEETINGS 20	FACILITATED SELF- ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES 39
SELF-ADVOCATE PRESENTATIONS/ WORKSHOPS 42	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Emergency 23 families \$5,581	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Home Modifications 2 families \$2,566.20

Tennessee Disability MegaConference

The Arc Tennessee leads the coordination of the annual MegaConference. This event attracts 400-800 self-advocates, family members, service providers, educators, and other disability professionals for two days of sharing best practices, networking, and social activities. Speaker highlights this year included Joseph Macbeth, Executive Director for the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, and Jonathan Martinis, nationally recognized expert in Supported Decision Making. What makes this conference unique is our commitment to sending self-advocates and family members. This past year, over \$50,000 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 431	2017 ATTENDEES 573	STIPEND FUNDING \$51,004.20
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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 home and community based 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 is paid, and find creative technology solutions that increase their quality of life.

Quality Improvement and Systems Change – People Talking to People

The People Talking to People (PTP) project employs teams of interviewers with disabilities and family members throughout the nine developmental regions of Tennessee to assist the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) with quality assurance and improvement. These teams empower people receiving long term services and supports (LTSS) through DIDD to give honest feedback regarding these services in a face-to-face interview process. Individuals are randomly chosen from a list provided by DIDD. The survey tool used for the interview is a modified version of the National Core Indicators (NCI) survey, a tool utilized by forty-five states and Washington DC. The survey covers four key areas (**Choice and Control, Respect and Dignity, Access to Care, and Community Inclusion**) by asking questions about **safety, privacy, individual rights, access to the community, employment status, their health, and more**. Use of the NCI survey serves two purposes:

- 1) It provides DIDD with critical information to improve Tennessee’s service delivery system, and
- 2) It provides a comparison to other state service delivery systems

PTP is on track to complete over 600 face-to-face surveys this fiscal year. PTP also conducts phone surveys for DIDD waiver participants using Select Community nurse case management services. Interviewers conducted over 2,500 surveys this fiscal year.

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

FACE TO FACE INTERVIEWS 563	SELECT COMMUNITY PHONE INTERVIEWS 2120	INTERVIEWERS WITH DISABILITIES 19
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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 215	HOURS OF ADMIN SUPPORT 2,574
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Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES

The Arc Tennessee is credentialed with Amerigroup, BlueCare and United HealthCare to provide advocacy related services through the ECF CHOICES program, such as Alternatives to Conservatorship and Conservatorship Counseling.

REFERRALS 12	SERVICES 12
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Education and Secondary Transition

Every child is entitled to a free and appropriate public education under federal law; however, many students with disabilities and their families face challenges navigating special education services. This past year students with disabilities have experienced increased segregation from their typically developing peers; illegal restraint and seclusion; corporal punishment rates higher than their typically developing peers; encouragement to pursue conservatorship without offering less restrictive options; and no plan for life after high school. The Tennessee Department of Education contracts with The Arc Tennessee to prepare young adults for life after high school through:

- 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 as appropriate
- Workshops and mini-conferences for topics such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Student-Led IEPs, Alternatives to Conservatorship, Transition Planning, and more
- Participation and collaboration on councils and advisory groups such as the Statewide Transition Leadership Team and the Collaborative for Student Success

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

TRAININGS/PRESENTATIONS 17	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 286	TASKFORCE/COUNCILS 6
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COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOL SYSTEMS & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS 15	DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION DOCUMENTS 1,272	INFORMATION & REFERRAL 204
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Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre- ETS)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides the means for students with disabilities age 14-22 to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services. Pre-ETS aims to improve post high school outcomes for young adults with disabilities in the areas of post-secondary education and employment. The Arc Tennessee was awarded a grant through the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide these services.

SELF-ADVOCACY/SELF-DETERMINATION TRAINING 19	WORKPLACE READINESS 13	TRANSITION AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION COUNSELING 22
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The Arc @ School

The Arc Tennessee was awarded a grant from The Arc US to provide feedback on a special education advocacy curriculum developed by The Arc US. Once completed, the curriculum will be shared with chapters of The Arc throughout the network.

Planning for the Future

The Arc Tennessee received a small grant from The Arc US to coordinate outreach to faith-based organizations for the distribution of pew cards, make two future planning presentations, and assist them with notices in bulletins and social media.

PEW CARDS 961	NUMBER OF CHURCHES 12	PRESENTATIONS 4
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Supported Decision Making (SDM)

The Arc Tennessee received a small sub-grant from the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making to increase awareness of SDM as a less restrictive alternative to conservatorships. This sub-grant funded the development of training materials and facilitation of educational workshops.

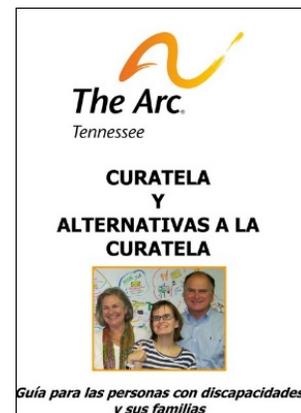
RESOURCE TOOLS CREATED 16	TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS 21	SOCIAL AND PRINT MEDIA 37
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Advocacy Matters- Protecting Medicaid

Two days before Thanksgiving, The Arc US contacted The Arc Tennessee with an advocacy request to take action against repealing the Affordable Care Act. They offered \$2,000 if we could create an action alert, submit a letter to the editor, send letters to Congress, schedule Facebook posts, meet with Senator Alexander and Senator Corker’s staff in Nashville and mobilize our grassroots advocacy network to call and email our Senators. The Arc Tennessee’s board, staff, members and local chapters answered the call, and the ACA repeal attempt was defeated.

The Healing Trust Advocacy Grant

In 2017, The Arc Tennessee embarked on the second year of its three-year Advocacy Grant from The Healing Trust. Through this grant we continue to focus on protecting lifeline programs such as Medicaid (TennCare), addressing the crisis of Direct Support Professionals, and expanding awareness of Supported Decision Making and other alternatives to conservatorship for people with IDD. This year we translated our popular Alternatives to Conservatorship and Conservatorship Handbook into Spanish.



People First TN



The Arc Tennessee received a grant from the Tennessee Disability Coalition to re-establish the infrastructure of People First TN. The Arc Tennessee will collaborate with current People First TN self-advocates and other self-advocacy groups throughout the project to establish an Advisory Council, create a membership database and enroll members, establish a strong web and social media presence, create three local chapters and more.

Leadership

The Arc Tennessee is one of the “go to” organizations, both in Tennessee and nationally, for identifying best practices and addressing critical issues impacting people with IDD and their families. We have a reputation for being highly collaborative and solution-oriented. The Arc Tennessee is represented on over 150 task forces, advisory groups, and councils in Tennessee and nationally. Examples of The Arc Tennessee’s state leadership include:

- Ongoing collaboration with TennCare, the MCOs, DIDD, and other stakeholders on the implementation of the ECF CHOICES Program through active participation in the MCO Regional Advisory Councils, the TennCare Stakeholder Advisory Group and the State Leadership Team.
- Participation in the Advocacy Review Team for TennCare’s HCBS Transition Plan
- Continued collaboration with TNCO to secure much needed wage increases for Direct Support Professionals (\$14.7 million in recurring funds and \$34.3 million in non-recurring state funds)
- Continued involvement in the Employment First Taskforce, TennesseeWorks and other projects focused on increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Participation in the TN Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights
- Chairing the DIDD Developmental Disabilities Policy and Planning Council and participate on the DIDD Policy and Planning Council
- Participation in the DIDD Regional Human Rights Committees and the Investigation Review Committee
- Appointed to the Department of Education Collaborative for Student Success and the State Transition Leadership Team
- Co-Chair the Disability Coalition on Education (DCE)

Examples of The Arc Tennessee’s national leadership include:

- Chairing the Steering Committee for the National Conference for Executives of The Arc (NCE) and participation in several task groups
- Being a member of The Arc US Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Diversity Committee
- Provision of technical assistance to a consulting firm working with China to develop a system of supports for people with IDD;
- Participation in a variety of committees and advisory groups for The Arc US:
 - Board Nominating Committee;
 - Program Review Committee for The Arc National Convention;
 - Alumni/Ambassadors Group
 - Struggling State Chapters Technical Assistance Group

The Arc US 2018 national convention will be held in Nashville, TN



Conference Presentations and other Guest Speaking Engagements

- Administration on Community Living Business Acumen Webinar
- HSRI National Conference in Scottsdale, AZ
- TASH Conference, Atlanta, GA
- The Arc National Convention, San Diego, CA
- National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE) Summer Leadership Institute, St. Louis, MO
- Tennessee Disability MegaConference, Nashville, TN
- Tri-State Autism Conference in Chattanooga, TN
- Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare in Brentwood, TN
- Partners in Education Conference in Nashville, TN
- Think Employment Summit, Brentwood, TN
- Planning for the Future, Knoxville, TN, Lawrenceburg, TN, Martin, TN
- Getting to Know The Arc, Maryville, TN
- How to Start a Local Chapter, Maryville, TN
- Big Ideas Event, Nashville, TN
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN
- Boling Center LEND Training Program, Memphis, TN
- Joint Legislative Committee on Disability Services, Nashville, TN
- Nashville IDD Housing Group, Nashville, TN
- Guest on OpenLine on NewsChannel 5 Plus, Nashville, TN

Jeremy Norden-Paul facilitated the Big Ideas event



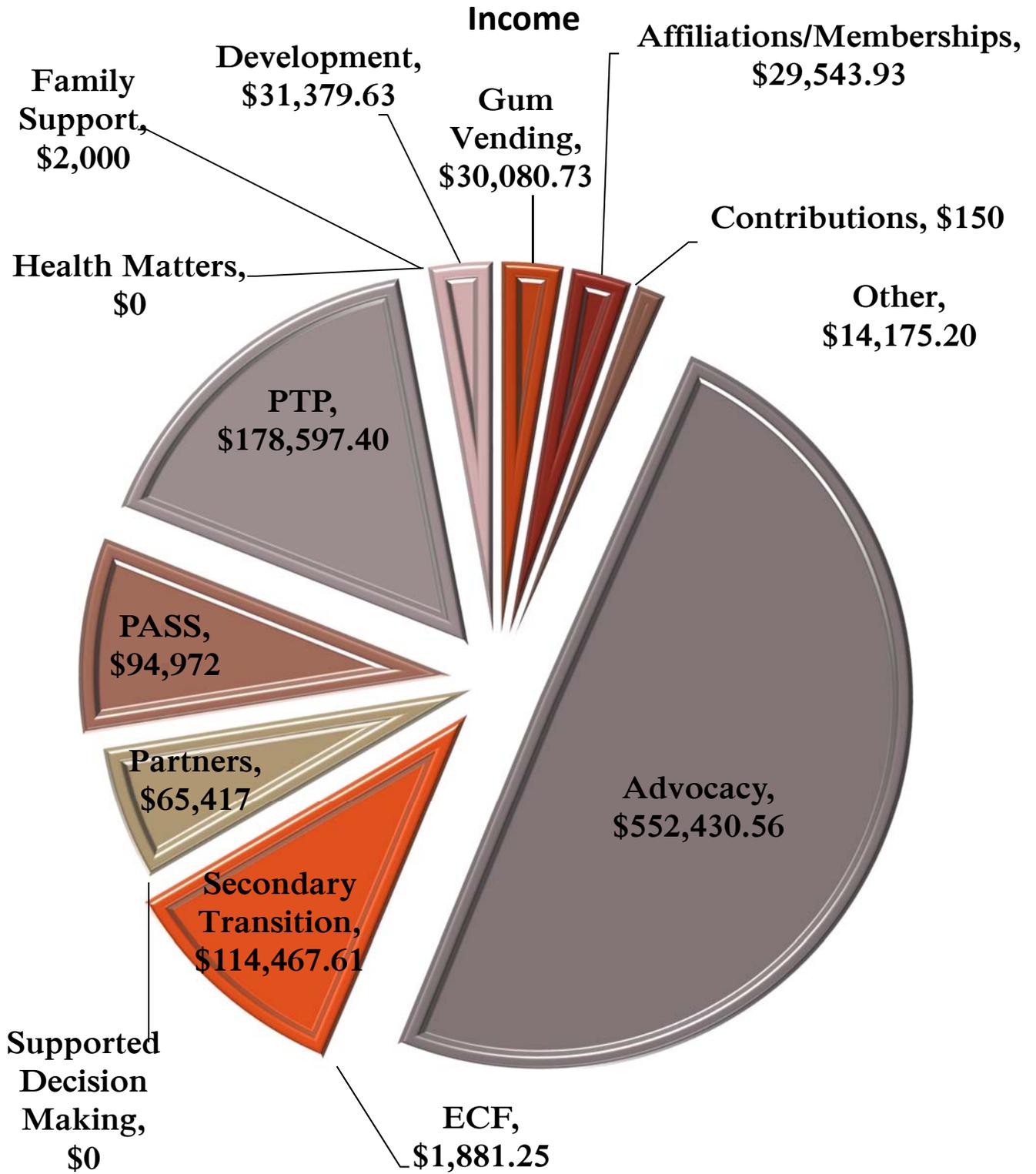
Big Ideas Event

“The future of disability: a Big Ideas event” was the brainchild of John Shouse, Past President of The Arc TN Board of Directors. The “Big Ideas” Event was a one-day conference comprised of “Ted-X” style presentations with breaks for networking throughout the day. The conference ended with a reception where attendees could spend one-on-one time with the speakers. Speakers were challenged to bring that idea of “What’s Next?” for people with disabilities – a day to celebrate how far we’ve come and what lies ahead. Speakers included Jen Vogus, John Dickerson, Nan Kennedy, Alison Gauld, Kievan Stausson and our very own Scott Finney. Feedback from attendees was positive and plans are in the works for the next “Big Ideas” event!

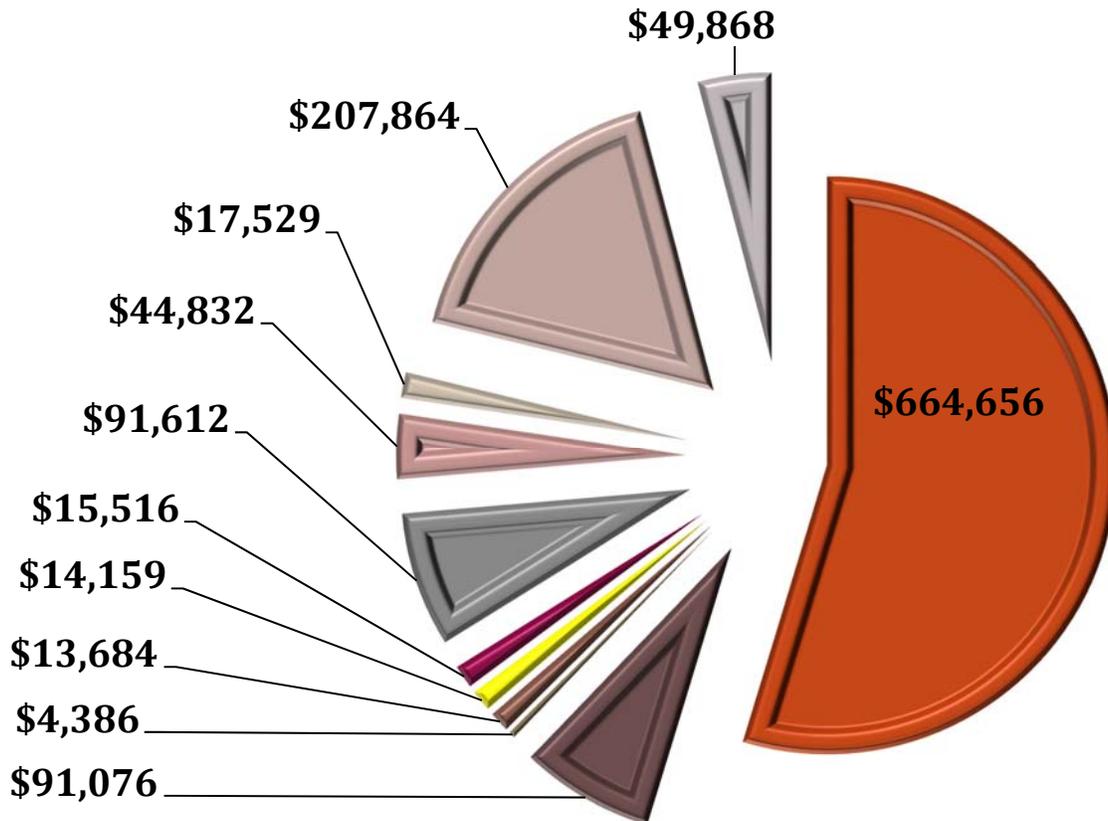
Resources and Financial Management

THE ARC OF TENNESSEE, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR 2017-2018 THROUGH 4-30-2018

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues and Other Support:			
Gum Vending	\$30,080.73		\$30,080.73
Government grant	\$1,008,674.57		\$1,008,674.57
Contract revenue – nongovernment	\$1,881.25		\$1,881.25
Contributions	\$150.00		\$150.00
Interest	\$59.95		\$59.95
Rental Income	\$0.00		\$0.00
Affiliation fees	\$13,300.00		\$13,300.00
Mega Conference administrative fee	\$0.00		\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$17,115.25		\$17,115.25
Memberships	\$16,243.93		\$16,243.93
Development	\$31,379.63		\$31,379.63
In-Kind	\$48,737.00		\$48,737.00
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$1,167,622.31	\$0.00	\$1,167,622.31
Expenses:			
Program Services			
Special Education Advocacy Training Curriculum	\$63.68		\$63.68
Advocacy	\$440,719.86		\$440,719.86
Employment and Community First Choices	\$1,450.78		\$1,450.78
Transition Training and Support Services	\$105,988.53		\$105,988.53
The Healing Trust Advocacy	\$23,615.90		\$23,615.90
Supported Decision Making	\$611.11		\$611.11
Future Planning	\$139.43		\$139.43
Partners in Policymaking workshop	\$102,655.44		\$102,655.44
Personal Assistance Services and Supports	\$75,952.40		\$75,952.40
Administration of the Real Choice Systems Change	\$143,958.77		\$143,958.77
Family Support Coalition	\$930.78		\$930.78
Pre-employment Transition Services	\$7,038.54		\$7,038.54
Health Matters	\$0.00		\$0.00
People First	\$119.24		\$119.24
Support Services :			
Management and general	\$259,386.69	\$2,566.20	\$261,952.89
Development/Fundraising	\$49,984.99		\$49,984.99
Total Expenses	\$1,212,616.14	\$2,566.20	\$1,215,182.34
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	-\$44,993.83	-\$2,566.20	-\$47,560.03



Expenses



- Salaries & Benefits
- Prof. Services
- Supplies
- Communication/Postage
- Ocupancy
- Equipment/Printing
- Travel/Conference & Meetings
- Specific Assistance to Individuals
- Other Non-Personnel
- Indirect Cost
- In-Kind, Miscellaneous & Lobbying

Assets & Liabilities	2016	2017
Assets	1,511,559	1,561,442
Liabilities	316,284	244,161
Total Net Assets	1,195,275	1,317,261
Temporarily restricted	14,165	85,913

Advocacy Matters!

At its core, The Arc Tennessee is about advocacy. Whether we are fighting to protect 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 fifteen 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 Mike Carter to pass legislation that lays the groundwork for implementing supported decision-making processes for people with disabilities
- Collaborated with the Tennessee Disability Coalition, Senator Ferrell Haile, and Representative Bob Ramsey to pass legislation that expands the Aging Caregiver law to people with developmental disabilities other than intellectual disability
- Collaborated with Senator Sara Kyle and Representative Jason Powell to pass legislation banning corporal punishment for students with disabilities
- Submitted public comment on the following topics:
 - DOE Waiver request for the 1% cap
 - DOE proposed Alternate Academic Diploma
 - Federal Every Student Succeeds Act and the DOE State Plan to implement ESSA
 - TennCare renewal application for the Self-Determination Waiver
- Partnered with Vanderbilt Kennedy Center to publish Kindred Stories – Rural Issues
- Continued collaboration with local chapters and members to meet with federally elected officials on the importance of protecting Medicaid
- Mailed letters, sent emails and made calls to our federally elected officials opposing proposed Medicaid cuts, proposed work requirements for “able-bodied” Medicaid recipients, proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Met with, mailed letters, made calls and sent emails to our federal elected officials supporting the Empower Care Act which would reauthorize the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program
- Testified on various pieces of legislation in state legislative committees
- Self-advocates and family members shared their stories on Capitol Hill as part of the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.

ACTION ALERTS 19	BILLS TRACKED 81	WEEKLY CALLS DURING SESSION 12	LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS 110
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Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to FY2018-2019, opportunities and challenges are around every corner. We will grow our new service options through ECF CHOICES, VR, Pre-ETS, and DIDD to develop new funding streams for the organization. We will promote membership and support our local chapters. We will continue our advocacy and policy work to ensure the civil rights of people with IDD are protected.

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!

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/>

**The Big Payback**

One day a year the first week of May is designated as big Payback Day, a social media fundraising campaign with matches and incentives, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Donations can be made to The Arc TN through this campaign.



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.