

**Are you a self-advocate who...**

- Enjoys working with others to change things for the better?
- Enjoys working with other people with disabilities to develop self-advocacy skills?
- Wants to take on a leadership role within your local community?
- Wants to share your thoughts and have input in addressing issues that affect you?
- Wants to see People First have a strong membership network?

**...then PLEASE JOIN TODAY!**

The Arc Tennessee  
**People First Tennessee**  
 545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100  
 Nashville, TN 37228

Phone: 615-248-5878 or 1-800-835-7077  
 extension 305 or 615-594-6529

Email: [peoplefirst@thearcn.org](mailto:peoplefirst@thearcn.org)  
<http://www.thearcn.org/People-First.php>  
<https://www.facebook.com/peoplefirstoftn/>

People First is a project of The Arc Tennessee funded by an agreement with the State of Tennessee.



a grassroots membership  
 disability rights  
 organization led by  
 self-advocates



**YES, I/we want to join People First**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment dues

\$5: Self-advocate  
 \$10: Dual member  
 of PFTN/The Arc  
 \$20: Supporter  
 \$100: Business  
 advocate

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ CSV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and send it to People First,  
 c/o The Arc Tennessee, 545 Mainstream Drive, Nashville TN 37228-1213

Make checks payable to The Arc TN


KEEP THIS PORTION

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE - CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE - CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature



## What is People First Tennessee?

People First Tennessee is a powerful self-advocacy organization, leading a vibrant, engaged and growing movement of people with disabilities, committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in society.

People First Tennessee is a catalyst addressing issues affecting people with disabilities to lead lives of their own choosing, to be free from poverty, to be employed, to reside in the community and to live independently with ready access to the services and supports they need.

People First Tennessee empowers individuals with disabilities to be community leaders in addressing issues of equality that affect them. Some of the issues may be employment, education, housing, transportation, voting, inclusion, independence, relationships and direct support professional wages. The specific focus is driven by the needs of each local chapter.

People First Tennessee has a rich history. It played an important role in all Tennessee developmental centers being closed. People with intellectual disabilities who previously lived in these institutions now successfully live in their communities with supports.



## Development of Local Chapters and Membership Relations

People First Tennessee helps establish local chapters and promotes membership at existing chapters.

We depend upon self-advocates and supporters to become members to help us protect the civil rights of citizens with disabilities and to influence decision-makers about supports and services needed for individuals with disabilities to successfully live in their communities.

When you pay dues and become a member of your local chapter of People First, you are automatically enrolled as a member of People First Tennessee.

Membership benefits include a laminated membership card; t-shirt; members-only events and parties; regular emails and newsletters that contain information on issues critical to people with disabilities; opportunities to participate in surveys, trainings, community activities and statewide membership meetings during the TN Disability MegaConference; and a connection to a large network of peers. Membership gives self-advocates the opportunity to make friends, be heard and advocate for others.

## Public Awareness

People First TN has a webpage on The Arc TN's website, a Facebook page, Twitter account, listserv and publishes *The Independent*, an annual print newsletter. These communications keep members and supporters informed about current issues. People First TN participates in speaking engagements and exhibits at conferences and events.

## Training & Workshops

People First TN hosts web and face-to-face leadership trainings and workshops for self-advocates on topics they choose.

## Public Policy

People First, in partnership with The Arc Tennessee, actively participates in systems change activities to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Staff and volunteers make their voices heard by providing feedback to branches of the government to protect rights and to ensure the highest quality of services for Tennessee's citizens with disabilities.



*The Arc Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, age, national origin, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, level of disability, Limited English Proficiency or status as a protected veteran.*