

Who?

The Arc (pronounced ark) of Rensselaer County is an association of parents, professionals, and community members dedicated to building the capacity and realizing the full citizenship of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The agency currently serves nearly 800 individuals and their families, and is one of the largest employers in Rensselaer County with more than 500 individuals serving within the agency.

In existence for more than six decades, we are no longer using the letters A-R-C to describe us and who we support. Rather, metaphorically, our identifiable arch stands for a way to bridge the gap from historical exclusion of those who are different, to the many possibilities for inclusion through Advocacy, Resources and Community.

How?

We accomplish our mission through means of advocacy and innovation.

- 1) Career & Employment opportunities, including community inclusion, supported employment services, transition services for high school students & our prevocational services.
- 2) Family & Community Supports, where we offer respite services, recreation, a summer camp program for kids under age 18, at-home residential habilitation, and residential services.
- 3) Adult Supports, including health supports, group day habilitation supports, and service coordination supports for families and individuals.

What?

Odds are you know of someone who has an intellectual challenge, autism or cerebral palsy. Perhaps you know a family with a child who has brain damage from an accident at an early age or another developmental disability, which they have had before the age of 22? Think about that family or that individual and their daily routine. Are they included or excluded? Have they been given the equal opportunities to thrive and be productive members of society? We strive to make this happen through invaluable resources and supports for both the individual and the family that may be caring for them.

We also advocate for their rights by helping to change policies that may affect them and serve to educate others to the daily emotional and physical challenges of those with disabilities.



Why?

In 1950, a group of parents with like minds and hearts created an advocacy organization specifically for the purpose of promoting community inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities.

We continue because it is simply the right thing to do and it matters to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is both a privilege and an honor to advocate for and assist another human being with their basic rights of inclusion.

"We don't know where we would be without The Arc of Rensselaer County. They have been our lifeline for nearly forty years."

Sally, Marty and Becky Dunbar
Family Supported by The Arc

"The Arc has benefited me by helping me to do things like JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), volunteering and becoming a team captain, and going to St. Rose College."

Stephen Roberts
Self-Advocate

The **Arc** of Rensselaer County

ADVOCACY • RESOURCES • COMMUNITY

79 102nd St. Troy, NY 12180

518-274-3110

www.renarc.org

info@renarc.org

Consider supporting our efforts by contributing