In the early 1930’s a grassroots movement of families of children and adults with special needs began and expanded widely during the postwar period to act as the voices of change for people who were being denied day care, educational opportunities, and work programs. Little was known about the condition of intellectual disability, which at that time was referred to as mental retardation, and doctors commonly told parents institutions were the best places for their children. Parents, however, refused to accept institutionalization as the only option for their loved ones. By 1950 parent groups throughout the country united and met in Minneapolis, MN to form what was called the National Association for Retarded Children. Their aim was to act as voices of change for their family members and others with developmental disabilities since there were no programs or community activities for individuals or support for their families.

Over the past 60+ years the Arc has gone through several name changes, becoming The Arc of the United States in 1992, and has grown and adapted to assist people with disabilities face the challenges they meet over their lifetimes. The Arc was the first organization to put money into research on intellectual and developmental disabilities and continues to advocate for passage of state and federal legislation on behalf of people with disabilities, growing with a broad network of state and local chapters.

The Arc of the United States and our own local Arc of Davidson County continue to strive to improve the lives of those with disabilities through equal education, employment, and recreation opportunities, appropriate medical care, support for families, and last but not least, respect.

At our Annual Meeting we recognized many individuals and groups who have shown outstanding work for those with disabilities and welcomed Peter Berns, CEO of The Arc of the United States, as our guest speaker. Much has been done to create a better life for persons with special needs, but there is still much for us to do!

Libby Samuels
President
Board of Directors
Annual Awards Meeting Celebrates Community Partners

**Nina Stout.** Davidson County Department of Social Services: The Deborah Greenblatt Distinguished Service Award, honoring an individual who has contributed, in a distinguished manner, to the promotion of rights of and/or services to North Carolina citizens with developmental disabilities. This prestigious award honors the life of Deborah Greenblatt, warrior for justice.

Felicia Hamby: The Victor Hall Leadership Award, recognizing outstanding leadership in the self-advocacy field. This prestigious award honors Victor Hall, a true self-advocate and leader in the self-advocacy movement.

Mike Foster. The Workshop of Davidson: Professional of the Year, recognizing individuals employed in community developmental disabilities services or supports who have demonstrated sensitivity and the ability to provide outstanding support which results in increased independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Kathryn Everhart. Davidson County Schools: Teacher of the Year, recognizing a classroom teacher who has demonstrated excellence in teaching students with developmental disabilities, working in or toward more inclusive education.

Bertha Leffew: Direct Support Professional, recognizing extraordinary commitment by an individual employed to provide direct support, or service, to a person/people with developmental disabilities. This award honors a person whose support fosters growth, independence, community inclusion and dignity.

Davidson Civitan Club: The Inclusive Community Award, recognizing an organization that is building connections within the entire community to support and serve people with and without disabilities in an inclusive setting.

AmVets Post 13 Ladies Auxiliary: Volunteer of the Year, recognizing volunteers who have given generously of time and talents to accomplish the mission of The Arc.

Cedar Lodge Market: Employer of the Year, for having an exceptional record of providing inclusive competitive employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Thanks so very much to ALL of our wonderful honorees.

Above: Felicia Hamby

We are on Facebook! Be sure to check us out, “like” us.

Above: Kathryn Everhart

Above: Nina Stout

Above right: Pam King, President, Davidson County Civitan Club. Linda McKay, Mentor

Right: John Nash (Executive Director of The Arc of NC), Libby Samuels (President, The Arc of Davidson County), Melinda Plue (The Arc of NC), Peter Berns (CEO, The Arc of The United States)
As we close out another year, it is natural to look back to what we have accomplished over the past 12 months. Firstly, we look to ensuring the health and safety of all of the people we support. In addition to this most important step in care and continuity, we ask if we have been providing every opportunity for people to actively determine what is important in their lives, and that we are supporting them in pursuing and realizing their goals and dreams.

This may, at times, seem contradictory for those of us bent on always ensuring safety, are we fully recognizing the dignity of risk? How can we support people in realizing dreams that may take them out of their (or our) comfort zone?

Developing strong community partnerships can assist in offering a vast array of opportunities while still providing the underpinnings of safety for all. A dream of traveling via airplane 700 miles to another state, without well-known direct support staff, was realized thanks to a close partnership. Self-advocates having the opportunity to speak in front of school students, on a local radio station, on a conference panel in front of a room full of attendees: realized through close community partnerships. Self-advocates participating in Crisis Intervention Team training with local law enforcement: another partnership. Presenting to a class of college students: same.

What we have discovered, and continue to learn, is that “Nobody rises to low expectations” (Calvin Lloyd). We know that the more opportunities people have to grow, the more opportunities they want, and they become more confident and brave in their efforts. Here’s hoping that the new year provides even more challenges!

...Teresa McKeon, Executive Director

If you wish to contact your legislator, please go to the link for the NC General Assembly. http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx and contact:
Governor Roy Cooper (919) 814-2000
www.governor.state.nc.us/

Making My Dreams Come True

Self-Advocates from across the state gathered in Greensboro in March for the Fifth Annual NC Self-Advocates Conference. Planned by self-advocates and staff from The Arcs of Davidson County, The Enrichment Center, Greensboro and High Point, attendees participated in sessions on Supported Decision-Making, Keeping Benefits While Working, Post-Secondary Education, and Understanding Credit, among others. No conference would be a full success unless the day of learning wrapped up with great dinner and dancing. Thanks to the talents of DJ Jamie Cannady and the lighting of Will Moore. Both of these self-advocates created the perfect environment to relax after a full day. Thanks to all of our speakers and sponsors: The Arc of NC, WalMart, Hanes brand, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, Mountcastle Insurance and Cardinal Innovations.

Spread the Word to End the Word

Thanks to an invitation from Central Davidson Middle School, several self-advocates spoke to students leaders about living with a disability and the power of words. The group returned to judge the door and poster contests depicting End the R-Word messages, and assisted with the student body signing the pledge to change the R word to “Respect.”

Protect Our Lifelines

The Arc is the largest grassroots advocacy movement on behalf of folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which means we all must make our voices strong as many lifelines are being challenged. From The Arc of the US:

“Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, Medicare and civil rights laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are critical for people with I/DD and their families, providing benefits, supports, and civil rights protections that help make community living possible.

In 2017, The Arc calls on all advocates to join us in reaching out to the President, Congress, Governors, and state legislators to educate them and to urge them to preserve — not cut — these essential programs and civil rights laws.

These federal programs provide the key to community living and inclusion for people with I/DD across the nation. Now more than ever, we must join together as a collective movement to ensure that these programs and civil rights are protected.” For more information, click here.
Achieve With Us

The Arc of Davidson County is committed to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play. We are an affiliated chapter of The Arc of North Carolina and The Arc of the United States. Formed in 1964 by people concerned about the lack of services provided to children, adults, and friends with disabilities, The Arc is comprised of parents, educators, professionals, community citizens, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are working toward a common goal of improving the well-being of persons with developmental disabilities through advocacy, research, and education. The Arc has been awarded National Accreditation through the Council on Quality and Leadership. CQL Accreditation measures the organization's direct impact on the lives of people receiving services from the perspective of the people themselves.

Check out our website!
www.arcdavidson.org

Community Resource Fair
Attracts Crowd

Thanks to Lexington, Thomasville City and Davidson County Schools and Davidson Community College, the Community Resource Fair was a huge success. Thirty providers shared information regarding their services. Mark your calendars now for the next Fair: April 12, 2018, DCCC Conference Center.

Summer’s Almost Here!
The Summer Playground Program will be held from 7:30am-1pm at six school locations throughout the county. Children are welcome to register at any of the locations regardless of their local school.

This is the seventh year of a partnership between The Arc and Davidson County Parks and Recreation to provide an inclusive opportunity for children of all abilities. Located at Davis-Townsend Elementary School, we welcome ALL children to this award-winning camp.

July 10-13        July 24-27
July 17-20        July 31-August 3

For more information, contact us!
The Arc of Davidson County
Membership Application

* I support the Core Values of The Arc:
  
  - People First
  - Democracy
  - Visionary Leadership
  - Community Participation

Your membership with The Arc provides you with the following benefits:
  
  - Representation at the state and national levels
  - Recognition on our website and Annual Report
  - Discounted products or services for financial planning, insurance rates, financing, credit card

Your tax-deductible contribution may be eligible for a matching gift by your employer. Ask your Human Resources representative how to double, or even triple, your gift.

Please fill out the following and return to The Arc.
1900 South Main Lexington NC 27292
Make checks payable to "The Arc of Davidson County"

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ___________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email my news _________________________

Self-Advocate/Student $10  
Partner $100-249

Supporter $25-99  
Benefactor $250 or more

Signature __________________________________________ Date _________________