



The Arc of Baltimore History

MILESTONES

- 1949 A group of eight parents form the Maryland Society for Retarded Children—known today as The Arc of Baltimore—and meet to improve the lives of children with mental retardation and physical handicaps.
- 1950 The organization incorporates under the name Maryland Society for Mentally Retarded Children. Committees begin planning the direct support programs that will become The Arc of Baltimore's hallmark.
- 1951 The Arc of Baltimore's first newsletter is published.
- 1952 The Searchlight Training Center, a developmental program for young children, opens in the basement of St. Michael & All Angels Church on St. Paul Street.
- 1953 The Arc of Baltimore sponsors teen dances and other recreational programs.
- 1957 The first six workers enter The Arc's sheltered workshop, predecessor to the Subcontract Company.
- 1962 The sheltered workshop moves from Greenmount Avenue to expand in new quarters at Old York Road.

- 1969 The Arc's first Activity Center, the first of its kind in Maryland, opens in an abandoned movie theater in Dundalk.
- 1971 The Arc opens a group home in Roland Park, the first such community living opportunity in the State.
- 1972 The Arc secures a contract to maintain the grounds of Loyola College and launches its Landscape Employment Service.
- 1972 The Arc institutes psychological and social services.
- 1974 Greenhouse program opens in Reisterstown and Essex.
- 1975 The Arc creates a Program Department to oversee Individual Program Plan development and staff training.
- 1977 Residents experience integrated community living in The Arc's first alternative living units (ALU).
- 1978 Family Resources establishes a respite care program, homemaker services, transportation support and a family training curriculum.
- 1978 Seventeen new ALU's open their doors to 50 Rosewood residents as The Arc plays a vital role in Maryland's deinstitutionalization process.
- 1981 A contract with the Ellicott City Courthouse paves the way for The Arc's Janitorial Employment Service.
- 1985 Twenty-eight supported workers are employed through a grant from the State of Maryland. Less than a decade later, The Arc of Baltimore becomes the nation's supported employment leader.

- 1990 Foster Care program begins providing family placement for children with special needs.
- 1991 Recreation Program institutes much-needed leisure and social opportunities.
- 1992 Consumers live in homes of their own through The Arc's Community Supported Living Arrangement (CSLA) program.
- 1993 Medical day care program begins.
- 1993 The Arc undertakes its first capital campaign in 45 years.
- 1994 The Arc of Baltimore Community Resource Center opens at 7215 York Road!!
- 1995 The Arc opens Towson Child Care Center and Adult Medical Day Care Center at 7215 York Road.
- 1995 Successful completion of the Capital Campaign.
- 1996 A record breaking 422 persons in community based employment. Supported workers earn in excess of \$2 million this year.
- 1997 Three year contract with Department of Human Resources for the Arc's award-winning respite care program. Employment contracts for Landscape and Janitorial programs total \$3.7 million.
- 1999 The Arc of Baltimore celebrates 50th anniversary as Baltimore's premiere advocate. The Arc breaks ground for new Employment Center at Seton Business Park in Baltimore City. The new building will be home to Janitorial and Landscape Services and later serves as a launch point for dozens of crews contracted for off-site work.
- 2000 Grand opening of new Arc Employment Center at Seton.

- 2001 The Arc offers inaugural Bay Buddies Camp for twenty children with disabilities in partnership with Baltimore County Recreation and Parks and the Living Classrooms Foundation.
- 2002 Organization changes official name to The Arc of Baltimore, Inc. in response to self-advocates' requests.
- 2002 The Arc of Baltimore opens new Dundalk Medical Day Center.
- 2003 Bay Buddies Program expanded to accommodate 80 campers from Baltimore County and Baltimore City public schools.
- 2005 The Arc's major programs are accredited by CARF (formerly the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and also earns the Standards for Excellence Certification through the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations.
- 2008 The Arc launches the Project SEARCH employment initiative in partnership with the University of Maryland Baltimore, Baltimore City Public Schools and the Maryland Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). The program includes 14 adults employed at UMB plus a class of special education students receiving training and internship experiences to prepare them for entry into the world of work after graduation.
- 2009 After years of lobbying, self-advocates and The Arc family celebrate the planned closure of the State's Rosewood institution and welcome 10 former Rosewood residents into Arc services.