Dear Friends,

It has been a great year for The Arc of Florida! Our advocacy, services and presence in the state of Florida were successful on many fronts this past year.

The special appropriations from the Florida Legislature allowed us to offer life changing dental services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through a contract with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Our local chapters were also able to reach out to waitlist individuals, military families and children in foster care through this funding source.

The End the R-word in Florida campaign and passage of Senate Bill 142, the Intellectual Disabilities Bill, drew us all closer together as we listened to pleas from individuals we serve to pass this bill. Governor Rick Scott became more involved in our cause and signed the bill into law on June 14, 2013.

The Florida Legislature gave a small provider rate increase and began to take individuals off of the Medicaid Waiver waitlist.

Much remains to be done; children in nursing homes need real homes to grow up in, service providers need to be able to provide quality services with adequate funding and children with and without disabilities need to feel safe in schools and confident that they will be free from unnecessary seclusion and restraint actions.

Please take a few moments to read about some of our self-advocates and how their lives have been changed as a result of the progress made over the past year. We look forward to moving ahead with all of you as we work to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Regards,

Michele Poole
President

Deborah Linton
Executive Director
Our Mission Statement

Working with local, state and national partners, The Arc of Florida advocates for local chapters, public policies and high quality supports for people with developmental and other disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of their community.
The Arc of Florida’s Core Values

**People First**
The Arc of Florida believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths, abilities and inherent value, not by their disability.

**Equity**
The Arc of Florida believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to the respect, dignity, equality, safety and security accorded to other members of society and are equal before the law.

**Community**
The Arc of Florida believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities belong in the community and have fundamental moral, civil and constitutional rights to be fully included and actively participate in all aspects of society.

**Self-determination**
The Arc of Florida believes in self-determination and self-advocacy. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with appropriate resources and supports, can make decisions about their own lives and must be heard on issues that affect their well-being.

**Diversity**
The Arc of Florida believes that society in general, and The Arc in particular, benefit from the contributions of people with diverse personal characteristics (including but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender and type of disability.)
The Arc of Florida’s Guiding Principles

Participatory Democracy
The Arc of Florida acts to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents, siblings, family members and other concerned members of the public have meaningful opportunities to inform and guide the direction of the organization’s advocacy, including determining policy and positions on important issues. The Arc of Florida strives for diversity in its leadership and in all facets of the work of the organization.

Visionary Leadership
The Arc of Florida leads by articulating a positive vision for the future of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and catalyzes public and private support in realization of that vision through carefully planned and well-executed goals, strategies and actions.

Public Interest
The Arc of Florida represents the public interest, supporting and acting with and on behalf of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families regardless of the type of disability or membership in the organization.

Collaboration
The Arc of Florida works with individuals, organizations and coalitions in a collaborative fashion. The Arc of Florida values and promotes effective partnerships between volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization.

Transparency, Integrity and Excellence
The Arc of Florida conducts its business with integrity, accountability and open, honest and timely communication. The Arc of Florida is committed to quality and excellence in all it does.
End the R-word in Florida

History was made in Florida this year when the Florida Legislature unanimously passed and Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 142, the Intellectual Disabilities Bill, into law. The law removes all references to “mental retardation” in state statutes and replaces them with “intellectual disabilities.” It was sponsored by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) and Rep. Janet Adkins (R-Fernandina Beach).

The Arc of Florida worked for three years to get the law passed. During the 2013 Legislative Session, The Arc launched the End the R-word in Florida campaign. It was the first campaign in the organization’s 60 years that was driven by self-advocates. Their stories helped convince lawmakers to make the change.

Tyler Creamer, a self-advocate from Panama City, has traveled to Australia, El Salvador, Chile and Antarctica to work with children with disabilities. But despite his many accomplishments and record of volunteer work in the community, Tyler told legislators at a House Health and Human Services Committee meeting that he has always faced cruelty from bullies.

“That word makes me feel empty and sad. It makes me feel worthless.”

Tyler Creamer, Self-Advocate
“All my life I have been called retarded,” said Tyler. He shared a story about kids on his tenth grade school bus. “One of them said, ‘I don’t want to sit with this kid. This kid is retarded.’ That word makes me feel empty and sad. It makes me feel worthless.”

Lawmakers were visibly moved by the testimony. Rep. Mark Pafford (D-West Palm Beach) praised self-advocates for sharing their stories. “Sometimes the most simple of bills can be the most monumental,” said Pafford.


“I hate that word,” said Elizabeth O’Brien, a self-advocate from Spring Hill, who has greatly suffered from people calling her “retard.” A group of kids once threw rocks at her and she has never forgotten it. Elizabeth was relieved to learn that Governor Rick Scott signed the bill into law. “I’m glad he signed it. That makes me very happy.”

“I was afraid people would laugh at me and make fun of me.”

Kristen Hills, Self-Advocate

Kristen Hills spent the better part of a decade with severe dental problems. There were many days when she could only eat soft foods, such as Jello and mashed potatoes.

“It was very painful,” said Kristen. “When I used to talk to people, my top teeth, they used to cut my lips up.”

While the physical pain was challenging enough, the psychological discomfort was even worse. Kristen’s teeth impacted how she felt about herself. “Sometimes I’d just sit at home and would not even want to go to church,” said Kristen. “I was afraid people would laugh at me and make fun of me.”

The Arc of Florida received a special appropriation from the Florida Legislature during the 2012 Legislative Session that funded much-needed dental services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Kristen was eager to have her teeth fixed. Today, not only does she have a new set of teeth, Kristen has the confidence to sing in two choirs at church.

“To me, she’s more happy,” said Everine Hills, Kristen’s mother. “She’s always smiling. She smiles a lot.”

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, The Arc of Florida used the appropriation to recruit dentists at 120 practices across the state to perform procedures for 452 self-advocates. Services included x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, root canals, crowns, extractions and dentures. The appropriation was carried over into the 2013-2014 fiscal year, so The Arc of Florida will continue to offer these services.

“She’s more happy. She’s always smiling.”

Everine Hills, Parent
Kyle Smith always wanted a job, but has a developmental disability and never received the training he needed to look for employment.

“I stayed at home a lot and it wasn’t good to stay at home all the time,” said Kyle. “I was bored.”

When The Arc of Florida received a special appropriation from the Florida Legislature during the 2012 Legislative Session to pay for employment training, Kyle was one of the first people to take advantage of the opportunity. The hands-on workshops teach individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities how to prepare resumes and interview with potential employers.

Shortly after attending a training seminar, Kyle was hired by a rental car company, where he worked several days each week cleaning cars. Not long after, he was hired by an elementary school to wash dishes Monday through Friday.

“I love it,” said Kyle. “It’s a good place to work.”

Kyle says having a job has changed his life for the better. He enjoys being able to purchase his own food.

“I have more freedom now. I get away from the house for a couple of hours each day. I get to go different places and meet different people.”

Thanks to the special appropriation, The Arc of Florida was able to provide employment training to 22 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the state during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
Summer Camp Scholarships

“It made me feel so good to see him doing all the things that all of the other kids are able to do.”

Libby Brunson, Parent

For many years, Alek Dixon was unable to enjoy the same experiences as his three siblings. Alek’s family members were often told his options were limited because he has an intellectual disability. Thanks to a special appropriation awarded to The Arc of Florida, Alek was one of 49 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in military and foster families able to attend summer camp in 2013.

“This was wonderful because there aren’t many opportunities for kids who are Alek’s age,” said Jennifer Dixon, Alek’s mother. “He was so happy.”

Alek had an unforgettable week of arts and crafts, movies, games, homemade ice cream and trips to a local science center and aquarium.

Corbin Brunson also enjoyed a week of camp this summer. He has a developmental disability that impacts his speech and social skills. Corbin attended a camp that allowed him to interact with horses. His mother noticed the animals had a calming effect on her son.

“It made me feel so good to see him doing all the things that all of the other kids are able to do,” said Libby Brunson. “He absolutely loved it.”

While summer camp creates a lifetime of memories for self-advocates, it also allows families to get a few hours of downtime. Both families agreed that in this 24/7 world, the respite they received was priceless.
The Arc of Florida was horrified to learn in October of 2012 that the U.S. Department of Justice accused the State of Florida of warehousing hundreds of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in nursing homes for years. After attempting to work with state leaders for months to reach an acceptable solution, the Justice Department filed a lawsuit against Florida in August of 2013.

Investigators with the Justice Department visited nursing homes in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Tampa and St. Petersburg. During those visits, it discovered that some children had lived in the facilities for a decade or longer, including several who entered them as toddlers. The Justice Department said the state failed to meet its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Isolating children with I/DD in nursing homes violates their civil rights. The U.S. Supreme Court was clear about this in its 1999 Olmstead v. L.C. ruling, which affirmed that individuals with developmental disabilities are protected by the ADA from being institutionalized. The Arc of Florida believes the healthiest environment for an individual with I/DD to live in is one’s community. Institutionalizing children with I/DD in nursing homes places them at an increased risk for physical and emotional health problems. That’s why our organization has worked for nearly 60 years to keep individuals with I/DD out of institutions.

The investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice suggests the State of Florida could actually save money by moving children with I/DD out of nursing homes. The state has made significant cuts to community-based programs in recent years that would allow people with I/DD to live outside of institutions, while increasing the funding to warehouse these individuals in nursing homes. The Justice Department mentioned one mother who felt she had no choice but to place two of her children in a nursing home because she couldn’t get funding for adequate community-based services.

Sadly, this is not a new issue. President Ronald Reagan spoke out against ill-conceived expenditures in 1981 when he learned of a regulation that required Katie Beckett, a girl with I/DD, to be institutionalized for $6,000 per month, when she could have been treated at home for $1,000 each month. When changes were made on the federal level, Katie was able to move home and lived many years longer than doctors originally predicted.

The current situation did not develop overnight. It began many years ago when others were in office. While this administration didn’t cause these problems, it has an opportunity to correct them. Children with I/DD must be moved out of nursing homes and back into their communities where they belong. The Arc of Florida will continue to fight until this happens.
# The Arc of Florida Financial Statement

The Arc of Florida, Inc.  
Tallahassee, Florida

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
September 2012 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$ 586,347</td>
<td>$ 107,182</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>333,704</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Member Dues Receivable, Net</td>
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<td>Advance to Affiliate</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Equipment and Furnishings, Net</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,553,045</strong></td>
<td><strong>$816,788</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$ 7,018</td>
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<td>Due to Affiliates</td>
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<td>5,450</td>
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<td>Compensated Absences</td>
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<td>Deferred Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>804,567</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,992</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>776,796</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,553,045</strong></td>
<td><strong>$816,788</strong></td>
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STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Years Ended September 2012 and 2011

**UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS ACTIVITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Unit Dues</td>
<td>$339,845</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>6,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Non Dues Revenue</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>3,859</td>
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<td>Annual Convention</td>
<td>24,158</td>
<td>2,731</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruise Industry Grant</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental &amp; Waitlist Services Contract</td>
<td>25,185</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>18,892</td>
<td>30,439</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$462,080</td>
<td>$423,292</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$56,144</td>
<td>$51,020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>434,254</td>
<td>492,079</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Expenses</strong></td>
<td>490,398</td>
<td>543,099</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Net Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets       | (28,318) | (119,807) |

| Net Assets (Deficit) at Beginning of Year     | 776,796 | 896,603 |

| Net Assets (Deficit) at End of Year           | $748,478 | $776,796 |
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The Arc of Florida

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Achieve with us.
The Arc of Florida

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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