
**The Arc of Northern Virginia Annual Meeting
The State of The Arc of Northern Virginia Address**

Christine Plummer, President

One of the very best things about The Arc of Northern Virginia is that we do not sit still, and we do not rest on our laurels. Instead, we realize that while the paperwork is in the office, our community is in all kinds of places, so the organization constantly works to engage the people who need us wherever they are. For example:

- The Arc of Northern Virginia served 8,169 people in person this year.
- There have been 63,436 total website page views over the past year.
- The number of YouTube channel subscribers has grown by 193% with total views of 1,700 and 115 videos and webinars posted.
- We have increased the number of subscribers to our ReSources e-newsletter by 12% and increased the number of Facebook followers by 26%.
- All six of the Transition POINTS guides have been translated into five languages: Spanish, Korean, Arabic, Chinese, and Vietnamese thanks to a grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. Next year through a grant from the Alexandria Fund for Human Services, we will translate “Securing a Future for Your Child with a Disability” into Amharic. We estimate the translated guides will allow us to reach 4,000 additional people.
- The Arc of Northern Virginia is an active member of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce, Greater Merrifield Business Association, and Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce.
- We are also actively involved with the Northern Virginia Coalition of Service Providers and lead and facilitate the Virginia Ability Alliance coalition.
- We had a speaker at the TEDx Tysons Salon this past spring at Booz Allen, speaking about how technology can level the playing field for individuals with developmental disabilities in supporting meaningful employment opportunities.
- The Arc of Northern Virginia was selected again in 2018-2019 by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as one of the area’s best nonprofit organizations.
- And, finally, The Arc of Northern Virginia was featured during the theatre performance program at the Catalogue for Philanthropy’s Inspiration to Action Gala.

We are up to our ears in Advocacy, led by our Director of Advocacy, Lucy Beadnell. While we all know Lucy is a rock star, we are glad that others have noticed that as well. This past year, Lucy received

- a 2017 Martha Glennan Inclusion and Equality Award from the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board,
- a Leadership Center for Excellence 40 Under 40 Award, and
- the 2018 Advocacy Champion Award from MVLE

Right now, our advocacy work is focusing on

- Speaking at the Regional Budget Hearing, the Arlington County Town Hall, the Fairfax County Town Hall, and numerous town halls hosted by state legislators.
- Engaging with our state legislators throughout the 2019 General Assembly session-- where our priorities will focus on eliminating the Priority One waiting list for Medicaid Waivers, increasing provider rates, the continuing plans to close training centers and protecting community services from managed care.
- Traveling to Richmond for the Northern Virginia DD Advocacy Day in Richmond via carpools on January 23 and again on January 30 via chartered bus for DD Advocacy Day.
- Pursuing federal advocacy efforts by meeting with representatives from the offices of Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, Congressman Connolly, and Congressman Beyer.

Since last year,

Thanks to collective efforts, the 2018 General Assembly session ended with 1,600+ new Medicaid Waivers over the biennium, with more than a 50% reduction in the Priority One waiting list.

We implemented outreach to increase awareness about The Arc of Northern Virginia. For example, The Arc of Northern Virginia's TV commercial aired during all eight episodes of Season 4 of Born This Way on A&E. We also partnered with chapters of The Arc throughout the DMV region on a joint media marketing campaign with WUSA9. Our TV commercial aired for two months on several TV shows and there was a companion digital media campaign.

We had another successful Corporate Team Challenge Race and, as Scott Dulman mentioned in his Mission Moment, The Arc of Northern Virginia went HOLLYWOOD at our Gala and raised over \$175,000, much needed funds, to support our work. WE continue to watch fundraising trend line and are rightly concerned about how the recent tax law changes are affecting contributions.

We also:

- added a new Information & Referral Portal
- expanded our Special Needs Trusts and Brunch Bunch Programs
- created new opportunities to learn about
 - housing
 - interacting with the justice system
 - preparing for life after high school
 - understanding CCC Plus, the Medicaid Managed Care Program
 - and how best military families can use military benefits
- participated in the largest "Wings for All" we have ever done at Dulles International Airport, with 50 families and approximately 147 participants

- Served 33 individuals through our Guardianship of Last Resort program which will increase to 50 individuals next year.
- Provided case management (support coordination) services to 110 individuals and their families through contracts with the Fairfax-Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB's

In 2019, we are

- Working with 2 pro-bono teams. Compass is helping us with funding and George Mason University's Honors college is helping with marketing to the corporate business community.
- Refocusing membership efforts.
- Expanding partnerships with The Arc Montgomery County and The Arc Prince George's County in Maryland for Travelmate and EmployMate.
- Hosting our 41st Annual Corporate Team Challenge will be held on May 5 at Burke Lake Park.
- Planning for Arctoberfest, which will be held in October.

I want you to know that we had a great year this past year at The Arc of Northern Virginia. We are looking forward to 2019 and will continue to bring energy and passion to everything we do. I am certain that next year at this meeting I will have more exciting things to share!

Christine Plummer
President, Board of Directors
The Arc of Northern Virginia