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## The Arc of Northern Virginia Wins Capacity Building Grant from DCTV

### *Increased communications efforts to promote Special Needs Trust program*

**August 19, 2019, Falls Church, VA** - The Arc of Northern Virginia is among the 40 organizations named as recipients of DCTV's newly formed Capacity Building Grant program. The award fosters expanded opportunity for nonprofit organizations to share their stories of community impact through professionally-produced video content that can be shared via social media and website platforms. In addition, grantees receive valuable media education assistance to strengthen their communications capabilities and expand their storytelling capacity.



The grant program, which was designed with input from nonprofit leaders across the District, will enable nonprofits at any budget level to tell quality stories, have vital conversations, and get valuable training. As part of the new Capacity Building Grant program, DCTV will create a new weekly television series, District Life, which will explore the nature of living in Washington, DC and share important conversations and compelling stories with people all over the District. This new show will be a vehicle for distributing powerful stories about the impact that nonprofits are having in their communities.

“At DCTV, we understand the critical role that the nonprofit sector plays in sparking vital conversations that ultimately affect the lives of residents across the District of Columbia,” said Nantz Rickard, President and CEO of DCTV. “We are thrilled to welcome our first class of grantees and we look forward to the quality stories that show how nonprofit organizations are impacting the neighborhoods and communities across the District.”

The Arc of Northern Virginia will use the Capacity Building Grant's tools and resources to expand awareness of its Special Needs Trust program, and to increase the number of individuals with disabilities and their families in the District of Columbia who are served by this important financial tool. Open to any individual with a disability of any kind in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia, a Special Needs Trust managed by The Arc of Northern Virginia enables families to plan for the future and people with disabilities to derive the greatest possible benefit from family money, settlements, financial gifts, and other awards of money and assets, without the danger of losing public program benefits to which they are entitled.

## The Arc of Northern Virginia Awarded Grant Funding – add one

“We are simply thrilled to have this opportunity to share our stories with residents of Washington, DC,” said Rikki Epstein, Executive Director of The Arc of Northern Virginia. “Our Special Needs Trust program provides a practical solution to the critical issue of financial planning faced by so many individuals with disabilities and their families. Yet so many are unaware of this service that is available across the District, or Maryland, or Virginia. So we are looking forward to partnering with DCTV to help more families and their loved ones with a disability access this often life-altering service.”

### **About DCTV**

Created by and for Washington, DC residents, DCTV is a community media nonprofit organization that fosters a 24/7 forum to amplify local voices in the nation’s capital and its neighboring metropolitan communities. Using the power of meaningful media to connect DC residents, we tell quality stories, spark vital conversations, and provide valuable training. DCTV cultivates a premier platform to examine local issues and interests across the District’s three cable television providers Comcast, RCN, and Verizon and digital streaming channels. You can watch DCTV streaming online at [dctv.org/live](http://dctv.org/live). To learn how DCTV serves residents in Washington, DC every day, visit [dctv.org](http://dctv.org).

### **About The Arc of Northern Virginia Special Needs Trust**

Established in 1999, The Arc of Northern Virginia's Special Needs Trust (SNT) program serves and supports to families and individuals with all disabilities in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC. The Special Needs Trust exists to assist people with disabilities and their families in saving money for the future without losing public benefits, like Medicaid and Social Security that have strict asset caps. Funds invested in the trust are used to provide security, support, services, and medical care or other supplemental needs not covered by benefits or insurance. This opportunity is available to anyone determined to have a disability by Social Security. For more information, visit [www.TheArcofNoVaTrust.org](http://www.TheArcofNoVaTrust.org).

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