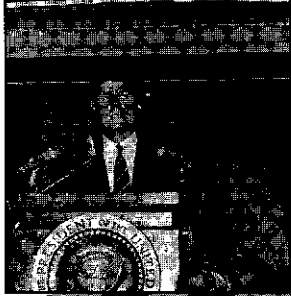


NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
FOR  
RETARDED CHILDREN



# Milestones Milestones Milestones Milestones Milestones



*The Arc, a national organization on mental retardation, has a rich history of improving the lives of children and adults with mental retardation and their families. The Arc also has led the way in stimulating research and has educated millions regarding prevention of one-half of the known causes of mental retardation. Leading to The Arc's strong leadership role in the field today are the following major events and accomplishments.*

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**The  
Arc**<sup>®</sup>  
a national organization  
on mental retardation

## 1950

The first convention of the "National Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children" was held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, Minn.

## 1952

The organization became the National Association for Retarded Children and produced a national newspaper, *Children Limited*.

## 1954

The first National Headquarters opened in New York City. President Dwight Eisenhower declared the first National Retarded Children's Week.

## 1955

The association's first film, "Tuesday's Child," was produced. Membership rose to 29,000 with 412 local chapters.

## 1956

"Federal Program of Action for America's Retarded Children and Adults" was presented to Congress. Testimony was provided on bills to expand teaching and research in the education of children with mental retardation.

## 1957

The association supported Social Security coverage for adults disabled in childhood, funding for medical facilities for people with mental retardation through the Hill-Burton Act and increased appropriations for vocational rehabilitation programs.

## 1958

*Mental Subnormality*, an important cornerstone in research literature in the field of mental retardation, reported findings of a three-year association survey.

Concurrently, support began for research projects and policies formulated for comprehensive programming and institutions.

1959

The Arc published a landmark report, *Decade of Decision*, describing the association's accomplishments and prospects for meeting the needs for services of people with mental retardation.

## 1960

*Decade of Decision* was presented to the White House Conference on Children and Youth. Membership totaled 62,000. The association was approved as one of 10 voluntary health organizations by the President's Committee on Fundraising in the Federal Service.

## 1961

Under an association grant, a new screening test for phenylketonuria (PKU) was discovered by Robert Guthrie.

## 1956-61

Federal support for mental retardation services and research increased from \$14 million to \$94 million.

## 1962

The association received the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation International Award.

## 1963

The President's Panel on Mental Retardation recommended the Mental Retardation Construction Act, maternity and child care projects, expansion of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and establishment of special education programs.

President John F. Kennedy addressed the association's national convention on Oct. 24.

## 1964

Membership totaled 100,000. The first interorganization conference on mental retardation convened with representatives from 28 national organizations.

## 1965

The association's On-the-Job Training Project was established.

## 1968

The Arc stepped up insistence on immediate eradication of inhumane treatment and improvement of institutional care.

## 1969

The Arc was a cosponsor of Project Star, a national demonstration of minority and poverty outreach approaches.

The Arc's Governmental Affairs office was opened in Washington, D.C., to increase visibility in the nation's capital and attempt to influence federal policy toward children and adults with mental retardation and their families.

## 1970

The National Headquarters was moved from New York City to Arlington, Texas.

The Arc supported expansion of Medicaid to allow the federal government to finance residential programs as Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR).

The Arc joined with other organizations to sponsor a national standard-setting and accrediting body, now known as the Accreditation Council (AC).

## 1971-72

National and state offices of The Arc began to join court suits to defend the rights of citizens with mental retardation living in state institutions and to ensure their right to education. Advocacy intensified to strengthen individuals' rights to be served by community-based residential services.

Other stepped-up efforts took on such diverse issues as immigration, benefits for dependents of military families, early childhood, fair labor standards as applied to workers with mental retardation, lead paint poisoning and immunization programs.

## 1973-76

The Arc emphasized the complex issues surrounding the use of human subjects in research, both biomedical and behavioral, and we made one of the major presentations to the National Commission on Research on Human Subjects.

## 1974

Reflecting a growing service to adults as well as children, the Association for Retarded Children's name was changed to the National Association for Retarded Citizens.

The association worked for two major programs which had a significant impact on the lives of people with mental retardation - Supplemental Security Income and Title Twenty Social Services.

## 1975

Members' hard work securing the right to a public education for all children, regardless of their disability, was rewarded by passage of Public Law 94-142, the Education of All Handicapped Children Act.

## 1976

With the International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap, The Arc was host to a "Symposium on Normalization and Integration: Improving the Quality of Life," featuring international experts.

## 1977

The Arc received two federal grants for the establishment of the federal program information and assistance project. The project trained hundreds of advocates in the states about federal programs and developed three comprehensive federal resource guides.

## 1978

First Lady Rosalyn Carter addressed The Arc's national convention in New Orleans. The Arc's activities were directed toward extending and strengthening the federal Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities laws.

## 1979

The month of March became Mental Retardation Awareness Month, designated by The Arc and The Advertising Council. Also, The Arc addressed the issue of meeting the mental health needs of individuals with mental retardation and focused attention on legislation to ensure funding for community housing.

## 1980

The name of "NARC" was changed to Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States. State and local chapters nationwide also adopted a uniform identify by becoming ARC of...

## 1981

The Arc's Media Campaign was launched with 150 participating chapters using a common strategy and set of broadcast and print advertising materials to build awareness of the association locally, statewide and nationally.

## 1982-83

At the 1982 national convention, delegates approved a resolution declaring the right of all people to community-based services, regardless of the severity of their handicaps.

The innovative Bioengineering Program was launched to utilize technology to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

## 1984

The Arc spearheaded meetings of national medical and disability groups leading to the signing of the "Principles of Treatment of Disabled Infants" and the passage of the "Baby Doe" Amendments to the Child Abuse Act protecting newborns with disabilities from the withdrawal of medical care.

## 1985

The Arc's Bioengineering Program scored its first success when research was completed proving a computer system equipped with voice recognition and environmental control capabilities could be configured for use by people who have profound mental retardation and severely physical impairments.

## 1986

It was a banner year for key legislative victories with no less than 11 major laws enacted by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Among that total was the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (P.L. 99-457). The law mandated a new preschool program for three-to-five-year-olds and early intervention services to infants and toddlers from birth through age three.

## 1987

The Arc teamed with Johnson & Johnson to begin a three-year awareness and fund-raising campaign that reached an estimated 75 million households annually through newspaper coupon inserts and other retail advertising.

In an effort to ensure the availability of community health care for people who have mental retardation, The Arc joined in a collaborative effort with several other organizations to form the National Consortium of Community Health Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

The Arc's On-The-Job Training Project changed its name to National

Employment and Training Program in order to reflect its expanded scope. In 1987 the NETP encompassed such activities as supported employment, professional and volunteer training, job development and placement and more.

## 1988

The Arc's State Prevention Information Network was begun to allow the National Headquarters and state affiliates to share current information on the prevention of mental retardation.

"A Status Report on Waiting Lists for Community Services," prepared by The Arc, revealed more than 139,000 children and adults on waiting lists for community services across the country.

A nonprofit foundation for the association was established to pursue the goal of providing a permanent financial base for The Arc.

The Arc played a major role in achieving The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988, which prohibits housing discrimination based on disability.

## 1989-90

The 1980s growth of the self-advocacy movement, in which people with mental retardation actively speak out about their own needs and desires, was documented in a new workshop manual showing 368 self-advocacy programs across the United States.

The association joined the battle against AIDS with a new, three-year project involving the education of people with mental retardation to prevent the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

The Arc joined other disability organizations in celebrating passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush July 26, 1990.

## 1991

The organization changed its name from "Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States" to "The Arc." For the first time, the word "retarded" was gone from the name.

A five-year National Strategic Plan for The Arc was approved at The Arc's 42nd annual convention in Portland, Ore. The plan calls for strong initiatives in the areas of increasing visibility and support for

the association, prevention (particularly fetal alcohol syndrome), opportunities for choice and inclusion for children and adults, and improvements in the governance structure.

### 1992

Thousands of phone calls from businesses and individuals poured into The Arc's "Access ADA," a project to help people understand and comply with the public accommodations requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To assess both progress and need, The Arc prepared its first "Report to the Nation on Inclusion in Education of Students with Mental Retardation" for announcement and presentation at the 43rd annual national convention in Minneapolis, Minn.

The Arc took a stand against the unfair treatment of criminal offenders with mental retardation by adopting an official position statement titled, "Access to Justice and Fair Treatment Under the Criminal Law for People with Mental Retardation."

### 1993

The Arc stepped up its efforts to help the nation reduce the incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome by expanding the availability of information and public service advertising that advise pregnant women to abstain from alcohol.

Following the lead of The Arc of the United States, 150 local and state chapters by July had changed their names from Association for Retarded Citizens to The Arc.

The Arc issued its second annual "Report to the Nation on Inclusion," this one on employment. Using data reported by state mental retardation and developmental disability agencies, the report revealed that 82 percent of employees with mental retardation are in segregated employment situations.

At The Arc's national convention in Providence, R.I., First Lady Hillary Clinton urged the association to support the president's health care reform plan.

### 1994

The Arc began work on a fetal alcohol syndrome information clearinghouse at the headquarters.

The Arc was selected to join the first wave of programs to operate

AmeriCorps national service projects with selected chapters.

Accelerating onto the world's "information superhighway," The Arc acquired an Internet address and its own home page on the worldwide web.

The nation received a "D" grade for its efforts to include people with mental retardation in local community neighborhoods, according to The Arc's third annual "Report to the Nation on Inclusion of People with mental retardation." The report was on residential living.

The Arc and several other organizations interested in international disability issues formed the U.S. International Council on Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities.

### 1995

The Arc celebrated the 20th anniversary of passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Tempering the joy, however, were charges by some education groups and members of Congress who were questioning the costs required to properly support the law's tenets.

The Arc's 1995 Report Card on Inclusion in Education revealed that only 7.1 percent of children with mental retardation were being taught in the nation's regular classrooms alongside non-disabled students.

With The Arc as a co-sponsor, the International Consensus Conference on Psychopharmacology, met in Columbus, Ohio, to tackle the problem of inappropriate use of drugs to treat people with mental retardation.

To better fight escalating Washington battles over rights and services for people with mental retardation, state and national leaders launched the Governmental Affairs Enhancement effort with a targeted fund-raising goal of \$300,000.

### 1996

A new five-year strategic plan was approved by The Arc's national board of directors to achieve goals by the Year 2000.

The Arc assumed a training role in The Human Genome Project, a global, 15-year effort to unlock the mysteries of DNA code in the human body. The Arc educated its leaders regarding the potential

promise and problems related to treating and possibly curing some forms of genetically-caused mental retardation.

The Arc's National Employment & Training Program hired its 50,000th person to become employed under the 30-year-old federally-funded program.

The Arc's board of directors went on record in its opposition to accepting financial contributions from industries whose primary business is the sale of alcohol and tobacco, two substances that can cause birth defects in newborns.

### 1997

The Arc is on the cutting edge of a growing self-determination movement, with project staff working on several model projects aimed at creating opportunities for personal choice, growth and decision making among individuals with mental retardation.

The Arc and its colleagues of the U.S. International Council on Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities announced an initiative to pursue resolution of immigration problems faced by many individuals and their families trying to become U.S. citizens.



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