

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Information & Referral: Assisting individuals and families in obtaining or using services, information is provided and referrals made to appropriate organizations or agencies for requesting families.

Quality Assurance: The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley monitors the quality of services being provided, through participation in the development of legislation and regulations, serving on Human Rights Committees, serving on community and state-wide boards of agencies, and participating in planning efforts for services.

Legislative Policy: Working for systems change, staff, consumers, and volunteers are involved to identify needs for change and/or improvement and work to enact these changes.

SELF-ADVOCACY

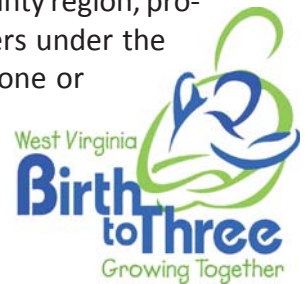
People First Self-Advocacy Group: Designed to empower people with disabilities to create change to improve their overall quality of life, by providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to advocate for themselves including self-advocacy, self-determination, and leadership.

WV People First Conference: The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley leads and supports other state-wide self-advocacy groups in planning an annual conference that is designed to train and empower attendees to advocate for themselves within their own communities.



WV BIRTH TO THREE

The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley serves as the Regional Administrative Unit for an eight-county region, providing services to infants or toddlers under the age of three who have a delay in one or more areas of their cognitive, physical, social/emotional, adaptive, or communication development, or may be at risk of possibly having delays in the future.



(The Department of Health and Human Resources, through the Bureau for Public Health and the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, the lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), assures that family centered, community based services are available to all eligible children and families.)

NOAH'S ARC THRIFT SHOPS



Noah's Arc Thrift Shops: Nonprofit fundraisers of The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley, the thrift shops are located at 906 Broadway Avenue, Parkersburg and 1505 Grand Central Avenue, Vienna. All proceeds from sales are used to provide programs and services to individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as provide training sites for student learning, opportunities for volunteer and community service hours, a source of free clothing or other items for those in need, and a source of low cost items for those with limited incomes.

NETWORKING & FAMILY EDUCATION

Parent Education Opportunities: Providing detailed training opportunities for those involved in the day-to-day care and activities of our consumers, seminars and workshops are held frequently.

Mid-Ohio Valley Down Syndrome Association: Comprised of friends and families of individuals with Down syndrome, this group provides networking opportunities, distributes new parent packets, and acts as a resource for families.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

TechLink: The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley implements TechLink, a project designed to link individuals with disabilities or problems conducting activities of daily living to assistive technology. Partially funded through a grant from West Virginia Assistive Technology Systems (WVATS) this tech team serves Roane, Ritchie, Wirt, Wood, Tyler, Pleasants, Doddridge, and Jackson counties.



Tools for Independent Living

DISABILITY AWARENESS

People First Language & Disability Etiquette: Outreach to members, families, professionals, organizations, and the community-at-large with information on how to appropriately communicate about and with individuals with disabilities is provided by staff of The Arc. This is accomplished by conducting trainings, distributing literature, and modeling the appropriate behaviors.

“Living Together”: Designed at a 3rd grade level, this program incorporates a coloring book and presentations to elementary school classes to educate them on various disabilities and appropriate ways to communicate and interact with those with developmental disabilities.



PREVENTION

Education: A key focus area of The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley is to educate the public on the causes of intellectual disability and reducing the prevalence through prevention. This is accomplished through the following:

Bicycle & Helmet Safety Program: Over the past eight years, approximately 3700 children with medical cards have been given a bicycle helmet at no cost, in an effort to keep them safer and healthier. Bicycle helmets reduce the risk of brain injury, a leading cause of mental retardation, in the event of a crash or fall by almost 90%.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Community Education: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a cluster of permanent, non-curable brain disorders, physical malformations, including mental retardation, and other disabilities, that is caused by women drinking alcohol during pregnancy. FAS is 100% preventable if the woman does not drink during pregnancy.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Planning: The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley educating individuals with disabilities, first responders and emergency planners, businesses, organizations, and agencies who serve individuals with disabilities on considerations that need to be explored for emergency/disaster planning for vulnerable populations.

ADULT LIVING SKILLS

Cooking Club, Relationship Building, Money Management Trainings: Varying classes are designed and held to teach adult with disabilities skills they need to live independently and age-appropriately.

SOCIALIZATION & RECREATION

Summer Day Program: Elementary through Sr. High students who utilize special education services in the school system have the opportunity to attend a 6-week summer day program in an effort to provide social and recreation activities in inclusive settings to the consumers, as well as respite for caregivers and other family members.

Dances, Bowling, and Hayrides: These activities offer not only lots of fun, but a time for learning appropriate socialization skills, allow for recreational activities with others, encourage self-determination, and result in life-long friendships.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health & Wellth Program: A healthy lifestyle means a lot more than just “not” having an illness or disability. This comprehensive Wellness program offers instruction and activities that are developed and presented at a cognitive level those we serve can understand. Designed to be adapted on many levels, the program has three focus areas: Health & Nutrition, Primary & Preventative Care, and Fitness & Recreation.



DIRECT SUPPORT

Secret Christmas Project: Each Christmas, volunteers are coordinated to bring Christmas Cheer to almost 200 youth and adults, in our community, with intellectual or related developmental disabilities who have demonstrated significant financial need for a special care package at Christmas, and little or no support from family or friends.

Scholarship Program: Provided to students studying to pursue a career in a field that will be used to improve the live with disabilities, The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley distributes scholarships to area college students for up to \$2000 full-time or \$1000 part-time.

INCLUSION FOR ALL

Recreation & Leisure, Community & Civic Organizations, Faith-Based Community, and Volunteer Service: The “Inclusion For All” project works on the local and statewide levels to remove barriers to full inclusion for people with disabilities. This is accomplished by providing training on key issues, technical assistance and support, developing positive collaborations, and advocating for policy change. This results in people with disabilities having the opportunity to participate in many more activities consistent with their interests and abilities.

