

JULY 2016

## LATEST NEWS

### UNLOCK! 2016 LEGISLATIVE DISABILITY SUMMIT

Approximately 75 advocates gathered in Atlanta to review the 2016 legislative session, celebrate recent achievements, and organize future coordinated legislative advocacy efforts with the disability community in Georgia. One participant commented that they most enjoyed the opportunity to “create a unified agenda.” [Read more here.](#)



### WINGS FOR AUTISM LANDS AT THE WORLD'S BUSIEST AIRPORT



[Wings for Autism](#), from The Arc of the United States, came to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport during National Autism Awareness month. The event aims to reduce the stress associated with flying by giving travelers the opportunity to rehearse flight check-in and boarding.

Parents were moved to tears as their loved one boarded for the first time. [Read more here.](#)

## HOW TO HELP

### ARE YOU ENGAGED IN ADVOCACY? SIGN UP WITH THE ARC GEORGIA

The future for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be built on the foundation of how their services and supports

are structured and funded. Sign up for our [Disability Advocacy Engagement email list](#) and stay connected with federal public policy issues and the issues that matter to you. [Read more here.](#)



## LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

June is Legacy month! The Arc Georgia has launched its [Planned Giving Initiative](#). Now, it is easy to make a planned or future gift as part of your will to ensure that The Arc's advocacy on behalf of people with I/DD can continue for years to come. [Read more here.](#)



## DONATE YOUR CAR TODAY



Do you have an old car, truck, boat taking up space in your garage? Consider donating it to The Arc Georgia. All donation proceeds benefit The Arc Georgia. We accept any vehicle with a title regardless of whether it runs, and we arrange free, convenient pickup or towing. [DONATE YOUR](#)

[CAR TODAY!](#)

## [FROM OUR DIRECTOR](#)

Transition -a hot topic in the disability community- is coming at me from all sides. I understand the trials of transition, because I live it! One of my sons is beginning college while the other is transferring to a college out of state. My middle son, who struggles with transition, and I just moved from an area we have lived in for more than 20 years to a community just south of Atlanta. Whew!



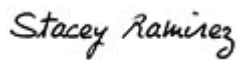
I often tell my middle son that change is the only thing we can count on in life. We, then, visualize our goals to be sure that these changes continue to support our life. But, what if our transition were to lead to a dead end?

What if the next turn is off a cliff into a world of “100-year waiting lists” for services? Sadly, this is the reality for many people with I/DD and their families.

The Arc Georgia wants to build a bridge at the edge of this cliff. We envision a bridge with many designations to allow for individual choice for an interdependent life in the community. To construct the bridge, The Arc Georgia is working with statewide advocates, agencies, and local chapters to establish an infrastructure through policy and legislation that respond to life-span issues such as: early diagnosis and referrals, cultural competent supports for families before crisis, inclusive education, people with developmental disabilities at the voting poles, accessible communities, choice in competitive wage employment, life sharing, home ownership, increasing transportation options, aging supports, and helping individuals and families plan for the future.

We NEED your help! Join us in constructing strong, diverse communities to include people with intellectual or developmental disabilities,

Sincerely,



Stacey Ramirez

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **2016 NCE SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**



The Arc Georgia will be at the NCE Summer Leadership Institute in Palm Springs, CA on July 18-20.