



Serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities  
Since 1952



**Achieve with us.®**

The Arc Muskegon  
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## Please Join Us

### Becoming an Arc Member Includes

- Membership to the State and National organization ([www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org))
- Quarterly Newsletters (Local/State/National)
- Monthly E-News
- Conventions, conferences and educational webinars (reduced costs)
- Insurance programs
- The Arc's Credit Card Program
- On Line Community and more....

### How Does My Membership Make a Difference?

- Monitor and participate in public policy/legislation
- Support research/prevention initiatives
- Develop best practices
- Increased opportunities for people with developmental disabilities
- Advocate for improved education, quality of life, employment and community integration
- Support the largest grassroots organization advocating for people with developmental disabilities and their families in the United States
- Improve public awareness regarding inclusion, employment, education, community living, rights and abilities of people with developmental disabilities and more.

**Achieve with us.®**

**Emphasizing abilities over disabilities.**

### MEMBERSHIP or DONATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

To Join (check one):

Individual/Family - \$25.00       Professional - \$75.00       Agnes Potuznik Honor Roll - \$125.00

Self Advocate - \$10.00       Preferred Provider - \$1000 - \$5000 (Please call for more information)

Your annual membership includes membership to The Arc Michigan and The Arc of the US.

OR

General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can also join or give a general donation on our website: [www.arcmuskegon.org](http://www.arcmuskegon.org)

Gift to The Arc Muskegon Endowment Fund (check payable to CFFMC) \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Our History

The Arc Muskegon is and always has been people – people with intellectual or other related developmental disabilities, parents, friends, family and professionals. In 1952, a group of concerned families and their friends formed an organization they called “Family and Friends of the Mentally Retarded”. In 1953, they joined the National Association for Retarded Children, later known as Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) and now we are The Arc. The word “retarded” was dropped from our language many years ago, launching the nationwide effort to remove it permanently in reference to people. **The acronym of ARC is long gone from our name and identity, yet sharing our history is important.**

The Arc Muskegon continues to be proudly affiliated with the state and national organization. Nationwide there are approximately **700** local chapters, **30** in Michigan.

The Arc is a membership organization, with a collective membership of approximately **140,000** people across the country. The Arc is the largest grassroots organization advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. **Join Today!!**

## Mission Statement

*The mission of The Arc Muskegon is to provide advocacy, education and support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and actively support their inclusion, equality and participation in the community.*

## What is an Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD)?

**Developmental disabilities** are a class of disabling conditions that usually originate before birth, shortly after birth, and before age **22** that will continue in some form over a lifetime. **Intellectual disability** is a developmental disability in which a person’s rate and degree of intelligence is lower than society as a whole. There are approximately **7.2 million** Americans with intellectual and or related developmental disabilities. Locally these numbers are equivalent to one in nine families who have a loved one with an I/DD.

## WHAT WE DO

### Advocacy Services

Self-Advocacy  
Education/Awareness  
Public Policy

### Family Support Services

Information and Referral  
Legacy Planning  
Independent Facilitation  
Membership

### Financial Services

Pooled (Irrevocable) Trust Services  
Representative Payee Services