

FY 2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025





Who We Are



The Arc of Northern
Virginia is a local chapter
of the largest national
non-profit organization
serving people with
intellectual and
developmental disabilities
(IDD) and their families.

Our Mission

The Arc of Northern
Virginia promotes and
protects the human rights
of people with IDD and
actively supports their full
inclusion and participation
in the community
throughout their lifetimes.



What's Inside

The Arc. Northern Virginia

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Letter from Melissa & Michael

As we reflect on this past fiscal year, we are filled with pride and deep gratitude—pride in the powerful work we've accomplished together and gratitude for the tireless dedication, passion, and resilience of our community. For more than 60 years, The Arc of Northern Virginia's mission has guided us: to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and to support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. It is not just a statement—it is our compass, our call to action, and our promise to the people we serve. This year, that promise has felt more urgent than ever.

Across Virginia and the country, the disability community continues to face significant challenges—from threats to Medicaid and critical services to ongoing barriers in housing, education, employment, and inclusion. Yet in the face of these obstacles, we are continually reminded of the strength of our movement. The truth is: we've been here before. And we've always found a way forward, together.

In FY25, we expanded our programming, deepened our advocacy efforts, and strengthened our infrastructure to support people with IDD across every stage of life. Our team hosted more than 45 webinars on topics ranging from Medicaid navigation to Supported Decision Making and financial planning. We conducted over 2,500 direct consultations through our Information & Referral program, helped establish 102 new Special Needs Trusts, and continued to manage more than \$70 million in assets to ensure families have long-term financial security.

Our Tech for Independent Living program also grew, using custom-built lessons and community-based training to help 365 people with IDD build the skills they need to live and travel independently—and to equip 101 disability professionals with the tools to better support their clients. At the policy level, we achieved major advocacy wins in the General Assembly, including new mandates to support inclusive education, emergency planning, and communication access for individuals with disabilities. Our annual bus trip to Richmond once again empowered self-advocates and families to speak directly to legislators and influence public policy.

We also listened closely to the lived experiences of those we serve. Because inclusion is not just about presence—it's about belonging. It's about ensuring every individual with a disability has not only the right, but the support, to live A Life Like Yours. With more than 39,000 people with IDD living in Northern Virginia, and many still unaware of available services, our goal is to expand our reach so families find us before they are in crisis—offering trusted guidance, practical tools, and a path forward.

We remain deeply grateful to the families who trust us during their most vulnerable moments, to our staff who work tirelessly and compassionately, and to our funders, volunteers, and partners who make this work possible. Together, we are building a community where people with IDD are supported not just to survive, but to thrive.

Sincerely,

Michael Thomas,

President, Board of Directors

Michael a. Thomas

Melissa Heifetz,

Melissa Heifetz, Executive Director

Our Mission in Action

We're proud of all we've accomplished this year, but we know the challenges families and individuals with IDD face remain significant.

That's why we are:

Providing Practical Support Across the Lifespan

Helping individuals with IDD and their families navigate school, work, housing, legal, and financial systems by offering expert advice and direct support from early childhood through aging.



Answering Questions and Offering Resources

When Families Need Them
Most: Responding to
thousands of inquiries
annually with personalized
support, multilingual
resources, and accessible
webinars.



Empowering Independence Through Skill-Building Tech

Using innovative tools like our Arc2Independence app, hands-on training, and peer-led programs to teach life skills, build confidence, and support greater selfdetermination.



Standing with People Who Have No One Else

Acting as guardian, support coordinator, and partner for individuals who lack family support and ensuring their needs are met with dignity and care.



Championing Self-Advocacy and Inclusion

Creating safe spaces for individuals with IDD to use their voices through public speaking, selfadvocacy training, and leadership development.



Driving Change Through Advocacy and Public Awareness

Educating lawmakers, influencing public policy, and fighting for inclusive laws, funding, and services that improve lives.



We believe that every person deserves the opportunity to thrive, and we're here to walk alongside them and their families every step of the way.

DD Waiver Support Coordination Where We Work People First for Young Adults Information & Referral Public Guardianship special Needs Trust ALLY Togstmasters Transition POINTS **Fairfax County Arlington** County City of **Alexandria** City of **Falls Church Loudoun County** Prince William County Rappahannock County **Culpeper County Fauquier County** State of VA Washington, DC Montgomery County, MD **Prince George's** County, MD State of MD

Community & Connection

Building Connections. Empowering Lives.

This year, thousands of families, advocates, and partners came together to strengthen inclusion across Northern Virginia.





1,816 participants joined **46** live webinars and virtual programs.



Resources on our website were accessed **75,000** times



2,537 families helped via phone, email, and our online portal



35,500 plays of our informational YouTube videos

"You are a
lifeline and
you have no
idea how
much it
means to me."

- Northern Virginia Parent "The information you provided has been so informative and will definitely relieve some of the uncertainty and overwhelm the family might be experiencing. It's difficult to fully express over email, but I truly appreciate your help. I wasn't even sure where to begin."

-School Social Worker "I don't know how
I could have
lasted as far as I
have without The
Arc of Northern
Virginia all these
years."

- Northern Virginia Parent

Advocating for Change. Supporting Every Individual.

legislators engaged, resulting in 15 bills & amendments passed Established 102 new Special Needs Trusts in FY2025, now managing 1,955 trusts totaling \$70.5M+ in assets

individuals
supported through
DD Medicaid Waiver
case management

individuals served
through Public
Guardian of Last
Resort program

80+ participants across22 advocacy &work-readiness events

185 participants across33 bilingual TransitionSeries sessions

225+ for safer
community
trained interactions

150+ people with IDD75+ first responders

498 app users on Arc2Independence, learning skills to be independent in their communities.

55 blog posts by self-advocates facilitated by the Trippett Fellowship since April

At The Arc of Northern Virginia, our mission comes to life through programs and initiatives that support individuals with IDD and their families across their entire lifespan.

Here's How We Bring That Mission To Life



Education & Empowerment

We create and host educational webinars so families, professionals, and individuals with IDD can access timely guidance. Some of our popular topics last year included navigating Medicaid waivers, Trust Talk Tuesdays, Social Media Safety, Empowered Budgeting and Supported Decision Making. Our online resources remain available as long-term tools.

Advocacy & Policy Change

Our advocacy team advanced inclusive policy solutions at the state level. In FY25, we met with 47 legislators and supported 48 legislative initiatives, 15 of which became law, including improvements to education, emergency planning in IEPs, communication access, voting rights, and more. We also mobilized families and self-advocates to participate in legislative town halls, virtual meetings, and our annual advocacy bus trip to Richmond, giving people with IDD the opportunity to speak directly with lawmakers about the policies that impact their lives.



"The Arc of Northern
Virginia is the most
effective advocate in the
General Assembly."
Virginia Delegate Patrick Hope

Tech for Independent Living (TFIL)

Our Tech for Independent Living program empowers people with IDD to build critical skills for greater independence through technology-based learning and real-world community experiences.

Last year we expanded the reach of our Arc2Independence app to 498 app users and 101 providers who each support multiple people through the app. The app continues to provide lessons in transportation, safety, employment, and daily living, and last year we launched several new features including Google Maps integration with preset addresses and linked lessons to goal notifications. Our footprint also grew geographically, with clients now in Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

Community engagement remains a hallmark of our work. In FY25 we hosted 26 travel training trips across the DMV area on both Metro and public buses. We organized three Cooking Clubs, eleven TFIL Talks, three Arc2Independence Connects, one Lunch Bunch, three Safety Events, two DMV Connects, and one Wings for All event.









Transition POINTS: Lifespan Support

Transition POINTS supports individuals with IDD and their families at every major life stage. In FY25, we offered dozens of webinars and events, including our six-week Transition Series, focused on critical topics like employment, independent living, and aging.

We hosted monthly family support groups, bi-monthly Lunch & Learn discussions, and "Chat with an Attorney" sessions to guide families through special education challenges. We also participated in school transition fairs across Northern Virginia and expanded our outreach to non-English-speaking families through translated resources and Spanish-language webinars.













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Special Needs Trusts & Future Planning

We empower families to secure the future for their loved ones. In the last year, we established 102 new Special Needs Trusts, bringing our total to 1,864, with over \$70 million in assets held. We also conducted 175 personalized consultations to guide families through financial planning and the trust process.



"Every county school system across NOVA should contract with The Arc of Northern Virginia to provide these courses to their Families AND Transition Coordinators. As a person who transitioned his son two years ago, I can attest this info and support is priceless!" - Doug McCallum, Local Parent

Information & Referral Services

Our team answered more than **2,500 inquiries** through phone, email, and website portal. By providing personalized support, up-to-date toolkits, and accessible materials, we help families navigate crucial decisions with confidence.



Public Guardianship

We serve as a trusted anchor for those without family support. Our Guardianship program served **45** individuals.

DD Waiver Support Coordination

We provided Medicaid Waiver case management to 109 clients to ensure that they maintained preferred case management providers through their state-funded DD Medicaid Waivers. We secured supplemental funding to cover needs not included in Medicaid Waivers, such as adaptive equipment, camps, and recreational programs, which enhance their quality of life.





Safety Trainings & Criminal Justice Reform

In partnership with Arlington and Fairfax County Police Departments, we hosted three Safety Trainings during FY25. These sessions prepared over 150 individuals with IDD and more than 75 police officers and first responders to engage safely and confidently during community interactions.

These training sessions built mutual understanding, improved communication skills, and equipped officers with the tools needed to recognize and appropriately respond to people with IDD.





Self-Advocacy & Leadership

Through People First for Young Adults and People First/"A Life Like Yours" (ALLY) Toastmasters, we offered 22 self-advocacy and work-readiness events in FY25. These sessions supported more than 80 participants in developing essential skills in public speaking, social connection, and leadership, and empowered them to speak up for their rights and take active roles in shaping their lives.

























Stories of Impact



Taking Flight: Toryn's Story

For Toryn and his family, the Wings for All program opened the door to new possibilities. Designed to help families with autism and other developmental disabilities practice the activities that take place during airport travel, the event gave Toryn the chance to practice checking his luggage, getting a boarding pass, going through security, waiting at the gate, boarding a plane, and riding the tarmac. Using his iPad to share his name and answer questions, Toryn did "pretty awesome," his mom shared, and proudly showed he was ready to take on the skies.

Not long after, Toryn used his iPad to tell his family and teachers that he wanted to try a real flight. They packed his favorite snacks, sensory toys, and headphones, said a prayer, and set off for Orlando to celebrate his sister's graduation with a vacation at Disney. Even with an hour delay, a storm with turbulence, and more delays on the ground, Toryn "did uh-may-zing!" He rode real deal roller coasters for the first time, met Minnie, Pluto, Rapunzel, and Tiana, and even declared favorites like the Space Mountain and the Seven Dwarfs ride. Reflecting on the trip, his dad wrote, "While there was plenty of nervousness building up to this trip, Toryn assured us he wanted to try to fly, we listened... and we triumphed! My heart is FULL. This was a success every angle you look at it!"

Stories like Toryn's show how The Arc of Northern Virginia's Wings for All program can transform what once felt impossible into a joyful family milestone.

Emily & Kathy's Story

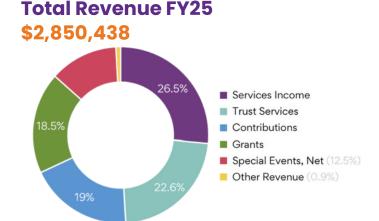
As the mom of an adult daughter with disabilities, Kathy has spent years navigating the complexities of Virginia's disability services system. Emily, who is mostly non-speaking, continues to amaze her family with her memory and how she takes in the world around her. When the supports Emily had in place were no longer meeting her needs, Kathy and her husband realized they needed to advocate for a more sustainable plan for her future. Despite their best efforts, they encountered repeated roadblocks. That's when Kathy reached out to The Arc of Northern Virginia and connected with Director of Advocacy Lucy Beadnell, who became a *pivotal* ally in the process.

"Lucy was a tremendous source of support," Kathy shared. "She has answered many questions and provided valuable advice, and always responds as if you are the only person she is helping that day, which I know is not the case." Over the years, The Arc of Northern Virginia has supported Kathy's family through Lunch Bunch meetings, webinars, professional referrals, and consistent advocacy at the state level. After much persistence and support, Emily was recently approved for a new program that more fully meets her needs, a critical step forward for her long-term stability and quality of life. Kathy's advice to others: educate yourself by gathering information, talking to others who've walked the same path, and focusing on the facts. She also emphasized how important it has been to know that "while families like hers are stretched thin, The Arc of Northern Virginia is out there fighting for them."



By the Numbers

The Arc of Northern Virginia's financial year reflects a strong commitment to using resources responsibly and in direct support of our mission. We remain focused on what matters mostprograms, services, and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We strive to ensure only a small portion of expenses is allocated to essential administrative and fundraising functions, ensuring that our community's support goes where it has the greatest impact. This careful stewardship allows us to maximize the positive outcomes and meaningful difference we make in the lives of those we serve.



Total Expenses FY25

29.8%



Revenue

Revenue	2024/2025
Contributions	\$541,979
Grants	\$528,012
Special Events, Net	\$357,585
Services Income	\$755,390
Trust Services	\$642,852
Other Revenue	\$24,620
Total Revenues	\$2,850,438

Expenses

Total Expenses	2024/2025
Programs (TP/TFIL), Outreach, Advocacy, and I&R	\$877,088
Guardianship & Case Mangagement	\$868,825
Special Needs Trust	\$520,899
Total Program	\$2,266,812
Management and General	\$382,205
Fundraising	\$267,235
Total Support	\$649,440
Total Expenses	\$2,916,252

Ways to Get Involved

Donate to The Arc of Northern Virginia

Join us in making a meaningful difference. Your support fuels inclusion, advocacy, and empowerment for individuals with IDD and their families.



Attend or Sponsor a Special Event

Join one of our signature events! From the Gala and Benefit Breakfast to Team Challenge, Sip and Support, and Arctoberfest, there are many fun and meaningful ways to get involved. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for individuals and organizations looking to make a deeper impact while gaining visibility in our community.



Advocate: Join our advocacy campaigns, attend town halls, participate in Richmond bus trips, and share your story with elected officials.



Volunteer

Bring your time and talents to our programs and events.



Provide Grant Funding

Grants help us deliver critical programs that support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across Northern Virginia. Your investment fuels long-term change and creates a more inclusive community for all.

Partner With Us

If you're a school, nonprofit, business, or community organization looking to cohost workshops, host events, or enhance disability support. Reach out to explore a partnership.





stay Informed: Subscribe to our newsletter, follow us on social media, and access our blog to stay updated on advocacy alerts, community events, and resources.

Whether you're looking to donate, volunteer, sponsor an event, join us at a fundraiser, or partner with us as a business or foundation: we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at Development@thearcofnova.org to learn more about how you can make a difference.













Donor Recognition

At The Arc of Northern Virginia, none of the progress and impact we celebrate this year would be possible without the generosity and commitment of our donors.

From individual supporters who believe in our mission to institutional partners who provide critical resources, your contributions fuel our work to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The donors listed on the following pages represent those who contributed \$100 or more between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

We are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership in building a more inclusive and supportive community. Thank you for standing with us every step of the way.









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