

The Arc of Texas *2017 Annual Report*



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OUR MISSION

The Arc of Texas promotes, protects, and advocates for the human rights and self-determination of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

OUR VISION

The Arc of Texas envisions a world where Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their communities, where quality supports and services are available to meet their needs and choices.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



For more than six decades, The Arc of Texas has worked diligently to promote, protect, and advocate for the human rights and self-determination of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Advancements in legislation, employment, and educational funding for people with disabilities are priorities for The Arc of Texas. Our leadership and our close working relationship with coalition partners have combined to strengthen programs and services. We are proud of the legacy we have inherited from the scores of nonprofit professionals who have led this organization since 1950. We pledge to continue their efforts with solid leadership and innovative programs and services.

2017 heralded our highest attended Wings for All® event in Houston, and a series of innovative special education best-practice seminars at our 25th anniversary *Inclusion Works!* Conference. Our Government Affairs team continue to be trusted resources for Texas legislators, who invited them to testify five times at the Capitol on policies that affect people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The Master Pooled Trust grew 15% in 2017 and celebrated its 20th anniversary in November.

Momentum continues to build in all of the advocacy efforts, programs, and services offered by The Arc of Texas and its chapters. Since 1950 we have helped ensure that Texas citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to care, the right to live in the community of their choice, and inclusion in all aspects of society.

We invite you to review this report of The Arc of Texas' accomplishments in 2017.



2017 at a glance

Our programs thrived in 2017 and helped families with intellectual/developmental disabilities across Texas. We celebrated our 25th Anniversary *Inclusion Works!* conference and completed our 6th Wings For All® event.

Our Government Affairs team continues to make strides in advocacy for employment, education, and community-based service opportunities for Texans with disabilities. This year, we were awarded funding for a Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) Policy Fellow to join our staff.

Our Master Pooled Trust celebrated its 20th anniversary in November. It continues to be the first Texas-based special needs pooled trust designed to improve quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Inclusive • Dedicated • Determined



INCLUSION WORKS!

The Arc of Texas' *Inclusion Works!*

Conference continues to be the trusted resource for scholars, students, parents, educators, school administrators, and para-professionals passionate about inclusive education. *Inclusion Works!* is the largest Inclusive Education Conference in Texas, and provides a learning environment to collaborate with each other and push forward best practices that promote inclusive education as a human right for all. This year's conference provided the more than 500 attendees an opportunity to deepen their understanding of how to mainstream inclusive education from the classroom through the school district, and how to advocate for inclusion, equity, and diversity within the school system. The keynote sessions and the 35 specialized breakout sessions provided insight on the benefits of inclusive education for all students, while also shining light on the challenges to inclusive education that still require our attention. Our 2018 *Inclusion Works!* was filled with optimism and renewed determination to work collectively because inclusion works.

This year's *Inclusion Works!* Conference drew 582 attendees from across the state of Texas for 2 days of fun and informative sessions. Overwhelmingly, attendees responded in conference evaluations that they are likely to attend future *Inclusion Works!* conferences and recommend to friends.

We look forward to seeing you at
***Inclusion Works!* 2019**



Attendee Reviews

"Attending this conference has given me enough information to go back to my school district and start working and doing better in several areas, while also encouraging others around me to do the same."

"In one session we had an open discussion initiate between parents and teachers that was so helpful for both groups! Inclusion Works! was insightful and engaging."

"I loved the ability to select from a wide range of breakout sessions, and especially enjoyed the chance to network with other Special Education teachers."

Programs



Alongside our local chapters, we hosted 5 Wings For All® Events in 2017, serving 498 Texans in San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas.



Wings for All® is an airport rehearsal program for families with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). Attendees practice going through security and boarding an aircraft while airport staff learn how to best support people with I/DD, helping ensure a comfortable experience when it is time to travel for an actual trip.

"After attending the Wings for All® event in Houston, I'm optimistic we could one day take Josiah on an actual flight, not something I would have ever imagined prior to today."

-Sandy, Mother and Attendee

Local Chapters

Local Arc chapters provide regionally-focused services and programs, and are a powerful extension for furthering the mission and goals of The Arc of Texas. In return, The Arc of Texas strives to provide technical and programmatic assistance and guidance to its local Arc chapters in key areas including fundraising, financial management, grant writing, advocacy, and program development. Together we are stronger. To find more information about the local affiliate closest to you, go to www.thearcoftexas.org/chapters or call 1-800-252-9729.

NORTH TEXAS

The Arc of Wichita County, Inc.
The Arc of Denton County
The Arc Greater Mid Cities
The Arc of North Texas
The Arc of Gregg County
The Arc of Panola County
The Arc of Smith County

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

The Arc of Fort Bend County
The Arc of Greater Beaumont
The Arc of Katy
The Arc of Greater Houston
The Arc of Spring Branch/Memorial

SOUTH COASTAL AREA

The Arc of Calhoun County
The Arc of El Campo
The Arc Gulf Coast
The Arc of Matagorda County
The Arc of Wharton

CENTRAL TEXAS

The Arc of Bryan-College Station
The Arc of Bell County
The Arc of McLennan County
The Arc of Milam County
The Arc of the Capital Area
The Arc of Gillespie County
The Arc of the Hill Country
The Arc of San Antonio

PANHANDLE

The Arc of Potter and Randall Counties

WEST TEXAS

The Arc of Brown County
The Arc of El Paso
The Arc of Howard County
The Arc of San Angelo

Government Affairs

The 85th Legislative session was particularly hard on Texans with disabilities. Lack of funding and competing priorities make disability advocacy more crucial now than ever. In 2017, we were able to prevent large steps backwards in disability rights, while taking progressive steps forward for our community. We could not have done it without our members' support.

We continue to train and educate individuals with disabilities, families, allies and policy makers on issues affecting Texans with disabilities and our communities. The more we educate and empower, the more we can accomplish in the 86th Legislative session. We can all agree that we'd like to see a world where people with disabilities are included and supported in their communities. We must fight to make sure we move beyond idealism, into necessary funding and policies that protect and promote the rights of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

500 Advocates Trained
on issues affecting Texans with
Intellectual/Developmental
Disabilities

Invitations from Legislators **5**
to testify at the Capitol on policies affecting the lives
of Texans with Intellectual/Developmental
Disabilities

10 Legislative Wins in 2017
killing and amending bills that negatively
impact the lives of Texans with
Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

2018-2019 Priorities

The Arc of Texas advocates across the board for the educational, judicial, health, and employment rights of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), identifying barriers, promoting policies and changing attitudes that lead to self-determination and positive outcomes for Texans with I/DD.

Improve access, delivery and quality of community-based services for Texans with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Support competitive, integrated employment opportunities for transition age youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Advance criminal justice best practices to remove the barriers to justice that Texans with IDD face when they come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Enhance Texas' public education system to provide evidenced-based, effective educational supports and services for students with disabilities in the least restrictive setting.

Master Pooled Trust

The Arc of Texas Master Pooled Trust is the first Texas-based pooled Special Needs Trust designed to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities while providing resources for their ongoing supplemental needs.

Trust Balance at the end of 2017: \$87 Million

Growth in 2017: \$13 Million

195

new enrollments

3,042

accounts since inception

2,010

total accounts at the end of 2017

148

counties served in Texas



“The Arc of Texas was referred to me by my lawyer. I was worried because I had heard that Special Needs Trusts were hard to deal with, but I never found this to be true while working with The Arc of Texas. The main thing I appreciate is that I trust them. That’s really meant a lot to me, not having to worry.”

Mary Lehman
Primary Representative for
Master Pooled Trust Beneficiary

Financials



TOTAL REVENUE:	\$2,136,342*
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$2,116,508*

(*FIGURES ARE UNAUDITED)

Your donations help empower over half million Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Your support...

Allows us to advocate for Texans with intellectual/developmental disabilities at the Capitol

That means we are a positive presence at the Texas Capitol during legislative sessions. We communicate the needs of our intellectual/developmental (I/DD) community to legislators, share our knowledge of I/DD to help form policies to aid our community, and fight to make sure proposed bills that negatively affect people with I/DD do not pass.

Advances Special Education Support and Practices

That means we provide the largest Special Education Conference in Texas, *Inclusion Works!*, training hundreds of Texas educators, administrators, self-advocates and parents in cutting-edge special education practices. Additionally, our IDEA Manual helps parents navigate IED's and working with school districts. Strengthening the way we teach students with I/DD empowers their independence, self-confidence, and inclusion in their communities.

Supports Programs And Local Chapter Resources

That means Texas families have access to programs such as Wings For All®, an experience described as "life changing" by participants. Our programs aim to provide the specific and often overlooked needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes employment training workshops, special education resources, and trainings with local police departments on how to best support Texans with I/DD.

Provide Master Pooled Trust Quality Support

That means we are able to provide friendly, informative customer care for people and families with special needs trust accounts. We understand the importance of financial peace of mind, are well immersed in the I/DD community, and work closely with beneficiaries to best fit their needs. We're not just a voice on the end of a phone line, we are a professional team invested in our clients quality of life.



The Arc of Texas

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MISSION

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