



FRIENDS of The Arc

advocacy self-determination quality of life inclusion independence dignity pride fulfillment productivity

www.thearc.org

This Month

[MEET OUR NEW CLIENT OF THE MONTH!](#)

[PULSE Volunteers Sip in Support of The Arc](#)

[FY09-10 Annual Report: "Making an Impact"](#)

[Parents in Partnership March: "Healthy Habits"](#)

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CALENDAR

CLOSURE

The Arc will be closed Thursday, March 31, 2011 (Cesar Chavez Day)

EVENTS

LGBT Support Group
Tues, March 1, 15, 29
3-4:00pm
The Arc of San Francisco
1500 Howard St. (@11th),
SF, CA 94103
Info: Lulu Haggerty
lhaggerty@thearc.org

"We Gotta Dance!"
Friday, March 18
7:00-9:00pm
The Arc of San Francisco
Admission: \$1.00
Info: Jacy Cohen
jcohen@thearc.org

The Arc Family Coalition Meeting

During "We Gotta Dance!"
Friday, March 18
7:30-9:00pm
The Arc of San Francisco
Info: Jackie Kenley
jksfo@pacbell.net

2011 Information and Resource Conference

Sponsored by
Support for Families of
Children with Disabilities
Saturday, March 19
8:30am-3:30pm
John O'Connell High School
2355 Folsom St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
Info: (415) 920-5040 or
supportforfamilies.org

Board of Directors Mtg.

Tuesday, March 22, 2011
5:30-7:00pm
The Arc of San Francisco
Info: Elisabeth Clobucker
eclobucker@thearc.org

SAVE THE DATE

The Arc Walks for March of Dimes
April 30, 2011
Info: Virginia Wan-Noguiera
vwannoguiera@thearc.org

[More Info](#)

Dear Meredith,

In this month's *Friends*, we bring you an up-close look at how The Arc impacts our clients and their quality of life, and our fight to protect services for people with developmental disabilities. Thank you for your part in our success!

Sincerely,

Laura

Laura Repke
Director of Development and Community Relations

Arc Advocates Protest State Budget Cuts

Clients, families and caregivers from The Arc are stepping up visits to City Hall and Sacramento to ensure the deep budget cuts to services to people with developmental disabilities do not take effect.

The Arc is actively meeting with legislators throughout the month of March to discuss alternative proposals, and progress is being made. Thanks to the efforts of Senator Mark Leno, the additional \$750 million in cuts proposed by the governor were reduced to \$530 million (\$174 million of which is designated for community services critical to Californians with developmental disabilities).

However, advocates say supporters need to keep the pressure on to avoid further devastating cuts that are still on the table. "There are a lot of people who would be affected by these cuts," comments Liz Elmore, a self-advocate from The Arc. "I was almost homeless. Today I work at Trader Joe's and live independently because I have the support I need--it's really important to me."

The Arc is participating in focus groups and working with the Department of Developmental Services on ways to save money without impacting the services of our clients directly. The next budget revision will be published in May, hopefully indicating more realistic options to support our clients in the community.

[Watch KTVU2 and KDTV-Univision news clips](#)



Arc Advocates were among the hundreds protesting further cuts to services for people with developmental disabilities at the California State Building in San Francisco.

Getting the Job Done with Zach



Zach on the job at the new Lowe's.

The new Lowe's Home Improvement store on Bayshore Boulevard may seem vast to the first time visitor, but Zach, 24, walks through the aisles with assurance. If he doesn't know where an item is, he confidently directs customers to the front desk for further assistance, as he's been trained to do.

Getting used to the busy retail environment was a challenge at first; Zach sometimes has difficulty in social situations and initially needed help taking instruction and staying focused. This is his first paying job.

But with support from his Arc job coach and his supervisor at Lowe's, he's become a reliable, successful employee. Every shift, he puts on the miles collecting and stacking carts, directing customers around the store and spotting for the forklift driver. Not only does he stay on top of all

his regular tasks, he takes initiative to see where else he can be of assistance.

Zach says he likes it now when there's lots of people coming and going and he's got lots to do. His co-workers think he's great and so does Lowe's HR Director Denza Young. "He's earned this job and we think he's fantastic," she says.

Thanks to Zach's good performance, we hear Lowe's is considering two more positions for clients of The Arc. "That's money in the bank," says Zach.

Kelly Takes Her Fight to Sacramento



Kelly is exhausted. "You don't get much sleep when you go to Sacramento, but it's worth it," she said.

Kelly, her mom Kay, The Arc's CEO and COO and other advocates made the trek to the state capital recently--another in a series of visits to legislators holding the fate of services to people with developmental disabilities in their hands.

"I told Senator Leno and the others that if my job services are cut, I'm in big trouble--and I speak for all the clients of The Arc," she said. Kelly's most recent job was in retail, but The Arc is helping her find a new position in office services--maybe at a law firm like where her mom works downtown.

"People come to The Arc because they need these things," Kelly added. "They need job coaching and a place to live and help to stay healthy. It doesn't make any sense to cut these services--that's why I went to Sacramento," Kelly said.

Asked how she thinks the meetings went, Kelly was thoughtful. "I didn't see anyone taking notes--that worries me. Are they taking us seriously? I hope so. I'm a fighter and I will stick up for The Arc--it's my family. I'm not giving up."