

We help extraordinary people live more ordinary lives

The Arc of San Francisco was founded by parents — more than 50 years ago

In 1951, a group of parents, concerned about the lack of services for their sons and daughters with developmental disabilities, founded The Arc of San Francisco. Since then, we've become a primary resource for people with disabilities.

We have a mission — to make a real difference

Our goal is to provide our clients with the means to lead comfortable, productive lives in their community and to enjoy the freedom and opportunities everyone deserves. We are guided by our mission statement: *To serve people with developmental disabilities, individuals with similar needs and their families by providing access to a full range of services that advance self-determination, dignity and quality of life.*

The Arc helps clients become more independent

With training and on-going support, The Arc enables people with developmental disabilities to live ordinary lives, hold interesting jobs, earn steady paychecks and become integral members of the community. The Arc's creative and social programs connect our clients to educational opportunities, help them express themselves through art, music and cooking, and develop and maintain a supportive network of friends.

For a moment, take a look into their lives

Rob delivers mail to over 300 people a day and knows everyone's name. Gail makes regular trips to the library. Jill has enrolled in a class at the community college. Hector has found a great roommate, watches lots of TV, eats way too much pizza, and has, hanging on his wall, a picture he painted himself. And Anna just got home from volunteering her time working with children at the local hospital.

What we are looking to achieve for our clients, in every way, is simple, everyday living. When we succeed at that, it makes us feel that we've achieved something truly important.

"As parents of a young man with severe disabilities, his father and I tried to do as much for Joseph as we could. Since we discovered The Arc, our son is able to contribute to society and lead his own independent life."

— Pat Napoliello
Parent of Joseph, client of
The Arc of San Francisco



The Arc of San Francisco is part of a national non-profit organization

While a wholly independent agency, The Arc of San Francisco is a chapter of The Arc of the United States, one of the country's largest nonprofit membership organizations. With over 200,000 members, The Arc is a leading legislative advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

How you can help us help our people

Our mission is ambitious. But our financial and material resources are inadequate to support our vision and goals. If you want to help us help others, here are some suggestions:

- Volunteer at The Arc
- Donate Used Goods
- Become a Member
- Become an Employer
- Make a Donation
- Make a Planned Gift



"Audi has been with us for many years. He helps us with cleaning the exercise machines, stocking bathroom supplies, and dusting. He is great to have around; our members just love him. I encourage others to hire from The Arc. The workers really value their jobs and getting a chance."

— Gloria Lee
Manager, Pinnacle Fitness



The Resource for People with
Developmental Disabilities

For more information about our client services, please contact us today:

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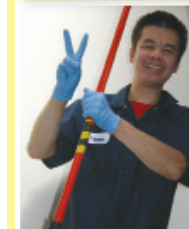
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Self-determination



Dignity



Quality of life



Transforming our clients' lives is our life's work

Time and time again, members of The Arc of San Francisco's staff have witnessed the changes and transformations in our clients' lives. There's **Betty** who took her first job as a coffee station attendant at a law firm at age 40, creating a new life for herself with a paycheck that keeps her in the latest styles when she goes out to lunch with her work friends. There's **Bill**, who never thought he could live on his own but now lives independently in his own studio apartment.

With a little opportunity and some support, people with disabilities are changing their lives — coming into their own while becoming more integrated in our community.

Living more independent lives

The Arc works to provide access and support to safe, affordable housing, so that clients can live on their own, in their own homes, in their own neighborhoods, with a sense of belonging, security and community.



Finding productive and satisfying jobs

Through The Arc, clients get the training, opportunity and support necessary to hold meaningful jobs — both part-time and full-time. That means they can earn their own spending money, learn life skills, and develop a network of friends and colleagues who respect and admire them.

Making the most of our community

With our help, clients learn how to use public transportation to get from place to place. Enroll in courses at the community college. And find volunteer jobs, which helps the community and teaches valuable work skills at the same time. All of this is done with an eye toward enabling the client to choose his or her own interests, goals, schedule and support.



People with developmental disabilities are people first. When most people hear the term “developmental disability,” they might think only of mental retardation. However, we serve clients with other disabilities including autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy. That said, like everyone else, our clients possess a wide range of skills, abilities, talents and charm that they contribute to our daily lives. They come from large and small families, they are Moms and Dads, sons and daughters, friends and neighbors. They are, above all, fellow citizens who deserve our respect and support.

Experiencing the Bay Area — and exploring new talents, too

Through The Arc, clients get to take advantage of social and recreational opportunities to which they may otherwise never have access. From sporting events and travel adventures to bowling and barbecues, clients enjoy a range of activities throughout the Bay Area and California.

We also connect people to classes and experiences that offer ways to grow creatively. The Arc's innovative art classes produce some outstanding results in painting, sculpture, ceramics, and other media. These important means of self-expression highlight individual personalities and abilities in ways you can't imagine.

