



The Arc™

Jefferson, Clear Creek
& Gilpin Counties



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Achieve with us.

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The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties began in 1960 with a meeting of local parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and a handful of school district officials. Our founders came together to address the overall lack of resources for families with I/DD, working to create options to support their children in the schools and in their own homes. As resources became available and more families chose to raise their children at home, The Arc was there to ensure people with I/DD were welcomed into and supported in our community.

Today, The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties is one of nearly 700 chapters of The Arc across the United States. More than 140,000 members strong, we are a part of the largest national organization of and for people with I/DD and their families, serving birth through end of life.



“The Arc has brought us confidence as we live each day to the best of our ability and it has brought us hope for our future.”

~Becky & Heather, Arvada

The Arc in Motion

Welcome to The Arc's Annual Report for the period July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018! Among these pages, you will learn about the exceptional work done by this chapter throughout the year to help people with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) lead lives of their own choosing.

Advocacy remains the cornerstone of our work, and our advocates have spent the past year working with more than 1,100 individuals and 2,300 family members to resolve incredibly complex issues like:

- Homelessness
- Lack of educational supports
- Waiting lists for some adult services
- Transportation
- Abuse/Sexual assault
- Employment
- Financial exploitation

Each case requires hours of work and typically uncovers many other challenges that weren't initially identified.

In addition to this direct advocacy, The Arc was **very active in providing training** last year. We continue to offer our award-winning Mobilizing Families program as we have for more than 20 years, but in addition have developed new trainings in response to community needs. We are exceptionally proud of the Mandatory Reporting training spearheaded by our chapter and done in collaboration with representatives from police departments, Adult Protective Services, and provider agencies. Nearly 300 people are now trained and well-informed about their responsibilities to report the mistreatment, abuse, neglect and exploitation of individuals with I/DD.

As a result of the strong partnerships formed around the Mandatory Reporting training, we were invited by the District Attorney's office to participate in the development of a Family

Justice Center that will serve Jefferson and Gilpin Counties. The center will bring together in a single location the necessary support services

for survivors of abuse, sexual assault, and exploitation. We were excited to participate, and thanks to a great deal of hard work and the involvement of a number of The Arc's dedicated staff, **our Family Justice Center will be the first in the nation to be developed with people with I/DD in mind at its start**, rather than as an afterthought. This is truly a monumental achievement and its impact will be felt far into the future. Our dream will become a reality in late Spring/early Summer 2019, when PorchLight Family Justice Center will open its doors, ready to serve all survivors, including people with disabilities. Look for updates on this exciting venture throughout the year.

These are just some of the achievements of the past year, and I know that you'll value reading more about our **community outreach work and efforts to create systemic change**. In addition, you'll have the chance to meet some of the people who rely on The Arc for its life-changing advocacy. I hope these stories will provide you with a window into the world of our work and our families.

As always, **we are grateful for your dedicated support and partnership with us**. Together, we continue to make progress in creating a world where everyone can achieve their dreams. When we bring our Vision to life, we will have truly changed the world.



What We Believe

The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties has a deep commitment to our mission and vision. We also embrace the following values and principles, which were developed and adopted by The Arc's national headquarters, and we embody them in our work and lives.

Our Mission

The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Core Values

People First. The Arc believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths, abilities and inherent value, not by their disability.

Equity. The Arc believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to the respect, dignity, equality, safety, and security accorded to other members of society, and are equal before the law.

Community. The Arc believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities belong in the community and have fundamental moral, civil and constitutional rights to be fully included and actively participate in all aspects of society.

Self-determination. The Arc believes in self-determination and self-advocacy. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with appropriate resources and supports, can make decisions about their own lives and must be heard on issues that affect their well-being.

Diversity. The Arc believes that society in general and The Arc in particular benefit from the contributions of people with diverse personal characteristics (including but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender and type of disability).

Our Vision

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will live the lives they choose as valued and respected members of the community.

Guiding Principles

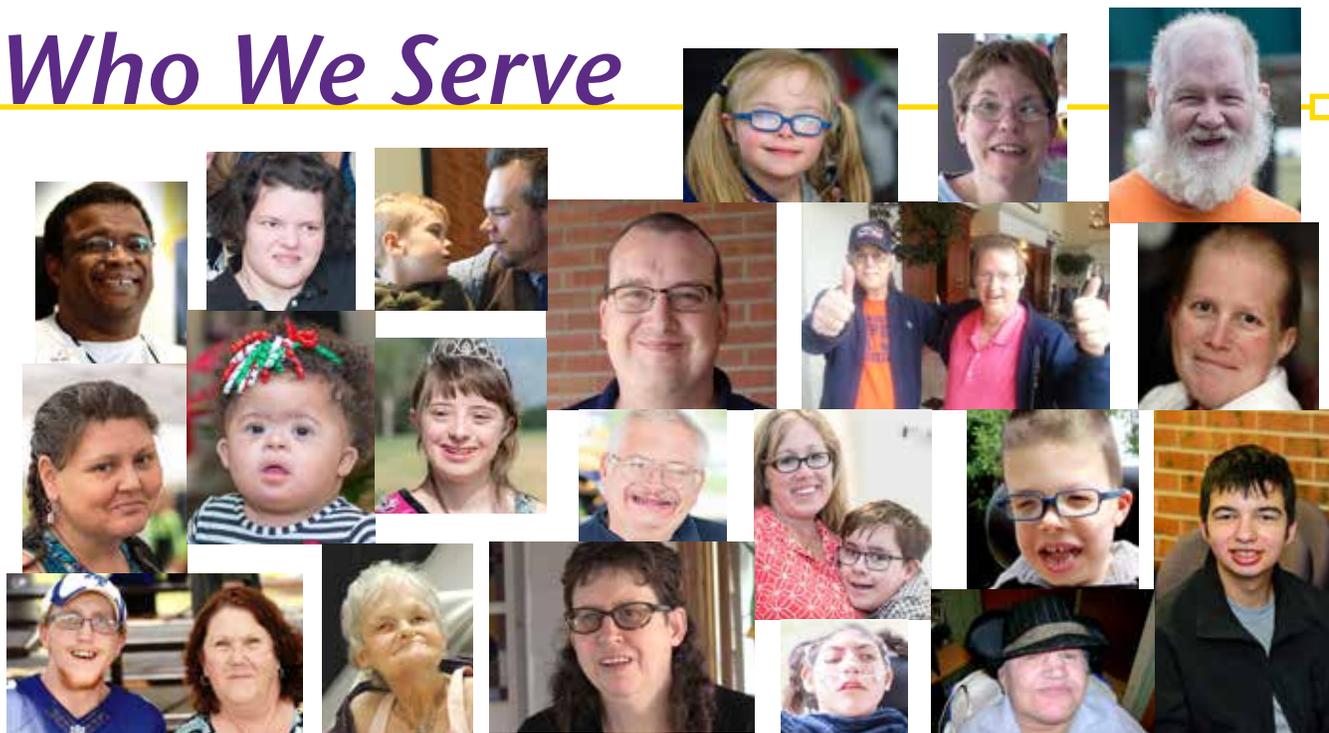
Participatory Democracy. The Arc acts to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents, siblings, family members and other concerned members of the public have meaningful opportunities to inform and guide the direction of the organization's advocacy, including determining policy and positions on important issues. The Arc strives for diversity in its leadership, as well as in all facets of the work of the organization.

Collaboration. The Arc works with individuals, organizations and coalitions in a collaborative fashion. The Arc values and promotes effective partnerships between volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization.

Transparency, Integrity and Excellence. The Arc conducts its business with integrity, accountability, and open, honest and timely communication. The Arc is committed to quality and excellence in all its does.



Who We Serve



SARAH'S STORY

Sarah was born in 1964, and it was clear by age three that she wasn't developing typically. She wasn't speaking, her behavior was confusing and sometimes destructive, and she would often sit on the floor just rocking back and forth. At school, she would be sent home almost immediately after she arrived because of her behavior. Sarah was branded a problem child, and her parents were left feeling overwhelmed and lost.

Today, Sarah would likely be diagnosed with autism, but that word barely existed back then. Unfortunately, there weren't any existing programs or therapies, and no one knew much about kids like her.

Without adequate supports, Sarah was bounced around to situations that only

intensified her frustration, and in turn worsened her behavior. She was taken away from her friends and family, away from routine, and things escalated to a point where Sarah was in and out of the most restrictive level of institutional care.

Fortunately, she and her family got connected with The Arc. Sarah's advocate encouraged small, but important changes that broke the downward spiral. This allowed Sarah to develop the self-control she needed to achieve her highest potential and truly participate in life.

Today, Sarah is thriving. She has a job that she likes, and she lives in a host home with others. Sarah is a valued part of the community, and she enjoys life to the fullest.

"Before, we didn't even imagine that she could be out there on her own."
~ Sarah's mother

"I look at the progress she's made and it's incredible...I don't know what we would have done without The Arc..."
~ Sarah's sister

What We Do

The Arc works to ensure that the estimated 13,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties have what they need to become valued, contributing members of their communities and to achieve their dreams. In this report, you'll see that The Arc impacts the lives of people with I/DD in many different ways, allowing us to solve individual problems, modify systems, and create a community that embraces people of all abilities.

1,180
INDIVIDUALS
SERVED

2,326
REQUESTS
ADDRESSED



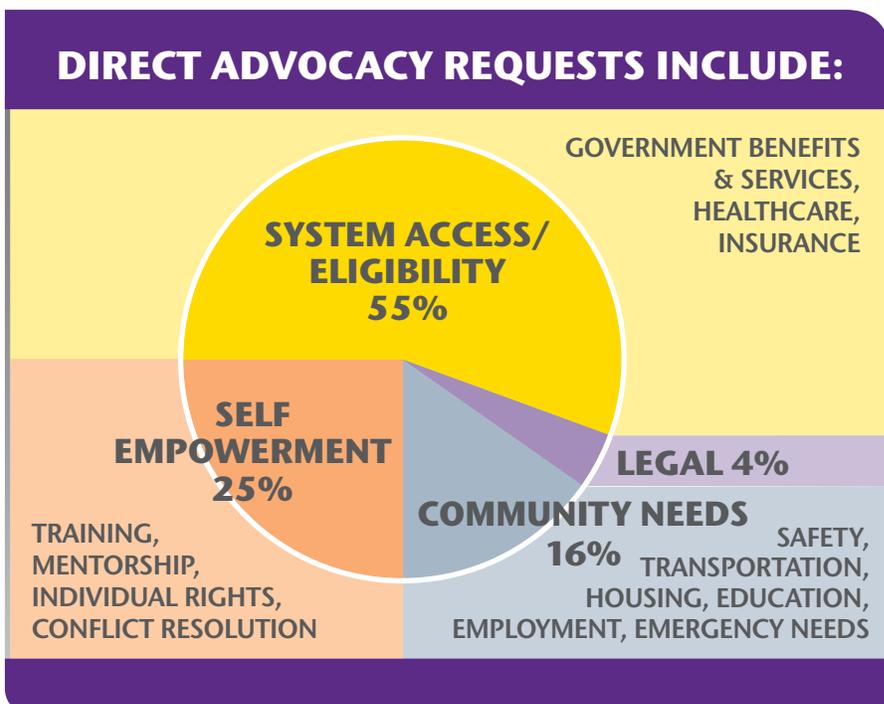
Direct Advocacy

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY NAVIGATE COMPLEX SYSTEMS & SOLVE PROBLEMS

For 58 years, direct advocacy has been the cornerstone of The Arc's programs. Our advocacy team works with individuals with I/DD and their caregivers to address concerns and empower actions in many areas, such as: education, insurance, government benefits, housing, employment and connecting with other community agencies. Direct advocacy can take minutes, hours, weeks, or months, depending on the complexity of the prevailing issue.

The needs of an individual or family ebb and flow over time, and many people need direct advocacy multiple times throughout their lifetimes. Arc advocates use each interaction to empower both individuals with I/DD and their families how to be lifelong advocates for themselves and their loved ones in all areas of life.

"The disability system is like a secret society. You have to know the rules and the code. You have to know the right way to say it. The Arc tells you how to do that, which is wonderful." ~ Kathy, Arvada



Training

EDUCATION WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR COMMUNITY

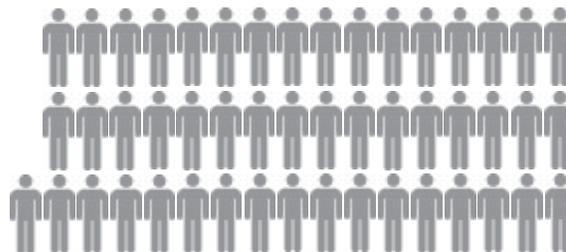
The Arc develops in-person and web-based training sessions that provide clear, accessible, and trusted information, as well as hope, confidence, and brighter futures. These activities involve both our advocacy and community outreach teams, and are aimed at people with disabilities and family members, as well as partners both within and outside of the disability community.

*Mobilizing Families • Guardianship • Transition Options
Crisis Intervention Training • Mandatory Reporting
LifeAbility Talks*



FAMILIES LEARN TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AT OUR AWARD-WINNING TRAINING, MOBILIZING FAMILIES.

AVG. 43 ATTENDEES PER TRAINING



Systemic Advocacy

AN ESSENTIAL VOICE IN COMMUNITY & PUBLIC POLICY

As part of our goal to help people with I/DD achieve greater levels of independence and inclusion, we provide a critical voice in policy deliberations that take place within our systems: community and civic organizations, federal, state and local government. Arc staff members participate on committees and actively maintain partnerships with a wide variety of these agencies and organizations both within and outside of the I/DD community. These include our school systems, law enforcement, community-centered boards, and organizations related to human rights, early intervention, aging, and employment, just to name a few.



Our systemic advocacy is critical in ensuring that the human and civil rights of people with disabilities are protected in decisions that affect them and their families.

For more information about our systemic advocacy, please see our Public Policy Agenda on page 10 and also online at www.thearcofco.org. The Arc's community partnerships will continue to ensure that people with I/DD will be well represented at forums that literally shape their lives.



What We Do

Empowerment of Self-Advocates

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH I/DD IN DRIVING THEIR OWN LIVES



The Arc provides opportunities for adults with I/DD to develop their ability to advocate for themselves and pursue their own interests. With this in mind, we actively support activities that will empower adults to build the self-advocacy skills that will benefit them in all aspects of life.

People First of Jefferson County: a local group led by self-advocates, addressing disability/inclusion issues

Speaking for Ourselves - Colorado: a statewide self-advocacy group made up of local chapters, including People First

Rocky Mountain Partners AKtion Club: a Kiwanis Club in which self-advocates work with community leaders in service to the community.

Coffee House: a monthly social gathering in the community for self-advocates, which promotes relationship-building

95
SELF-ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

1,887
ADULTS WITH I/DD ATTENDED

Community Outreach & Events

46
OUTREACH EVENTS

6,184
PARTICIPANTS

CREATING A WORLD THAT EMBRACES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

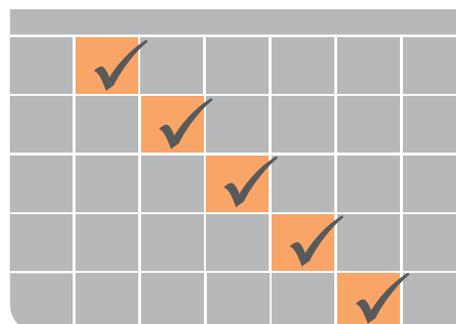
For those who don't have a close relationship with someone with a disability – and sometimes within the disability community itself – both misinformation and uncertainty can create many social barriers that limit opportunities for people with I/DD. Through presentations to city councils and commissions, civic groups, service clubs and community organizations, The Arc helps break down these barriers by sharing the many talents and abilities of people with I/DD.

The Arc's annual Summit of Hope luncheon is a special event designed to inform the public about the true impact of The Arc. In addition, each year, The Arc hosts a picnic and a holiday party for the individuals and families we serve, as well as the friends, allies, and professionals that make up the fabric of our community.

EXPERIENCED SELF-ADVOCATE AND ARC BOARD MEMBER DONNA GUNNISON SPEAKS AT THE 2018 WOMEN'S MARCH ON COLORADO IN DENVER



OUTREACH EVENT EVERY 8 DAYS (AVG)



THE FISCHERS' STORY



For Matt and Jenny Fischer, life was all about caring for their nearly two-year-old son, Max, and baby twin girls, Penny and Cici. It was a happy time, during which the biggest challenge was dealing with the chaos that comes with having three young children in the house. Matt and Jenny never thought about disability, until one day when the twins were 11 months old. While eating her dinner, Cici choked on a piece of food. Paramedics rushed to the house and were able to resuscitate her, and then life-flight her to the hospital via helicopter.

An MRI showed that Cici had experienced global brain damage. The family learned that she would have ongoing difficulty with communication, feeding, movement, and muscle control. They spent 6 weeks in the hospital, where the twins celebrated their first birthday in the cafeteria.

Matt shared that, once Cici was able to come home, he was delighted, but devastated at the same time. Life, as he knew it, was over and he couldn't see how to pick up the pieces that remained.

Fortunately, the Fischers connected with The Arc through old friends. They were told about Mobilizing Families, a training for parents of kids with special needs. Matt and Jenny began to see that there were resources that could provide guidance, help, and support.

They attended The Arc's training, which taught them how to navigate the complex world of disabilities. As participants in the training, they became part of a community of families who could understand their challenges and provide crucial support. The Fischers started to believe that life could be good again.

Cici and Penny are now ten years old, they have a second brother, and life is in full swing. Despite her challenges, Cici is thriving, and her ability to communicate has flourished. Her defining characteristics are her tremendous strength, joy, and sense of humor, not her disabilities. Through the support of The Arc, family, and friends, the Fischers have once again found themselves in a very happy place.

"The Arc sees Cici, and The Arc hears her voice. The Arc saw that the day of her accident wasn't the end of our story, it was the beginning. The Arc is our ally. They believe the broader community will be better off for having a chance to know Cici." ~ Matt Fischer

THE ARC'S 2019 POLICY AGENDA

For 58 years, Colorado chapters of The Arc have advocated for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live independently, exercise control over their lives and contribute to their communities. Below are excerpts from the 2019 public policy agenda spearheaded by The Arc of Colorado and created for all Colorado chapters of The Arc. The full agenda is available on The Arc of Colorado's web site at www.thearcofco.org.

Funding and policy changes to strengthen the Colorado Medicaid State Plan, state programs, and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waivers for people with disabilities to include support for:

- Therapeutic, out-of-home placement, and intensive treatment options for children with I/DD and dual diagnosis/secondary diagnosis of serious health, mental health, and behavioral conditions;
- Increased standards for health, fire, and safety as they pertain to IRSS settings;
- Increased funding for family support including respite and other services needed to maintain family stability;
- Accelerated Medicaid waiver simplification with the purpose of creating single, easily accessible HCBS waivers for 1) all eligible children and 2) all eligible adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Each waiver should further access to quality services and supports when and where needed throughout their lifetimes.

Protection of civil rights for people with disabilities including:

- Policies for representatives of people with I/DD to ensure that the needs and choices of people are respected and honored;
- School discipline policies that provide positive behavioral supports for students with disabilities that minimize seclusion, restraint, and involvement of law enforcement;
- Appropriate accommodations and modifications to support individuals with disabilities in the criminal justice system.

Colorado students with disabilities have a Constitutional right to free, appropriate educational opportunities with accompanying supports in the least restrictive environment. Colorado must provide for:

- Alternatives to harmful disciplinary practices such as suspension and expulsion for young students and requirements that schools to work to de-escalate minor school infractions rather than call for police department assistance;
- Expansion of Inclusive Higher Education programs in the Denver-Metro area and along the Western slope; and encourage future and current programs to attract and support degree seeking students;
- Special education services provided in the least restrictive and most inclusive setting by qualified teachers, staff and therapists for all eligible students including an appropriate continuum of services, para-professional support, and related supports including transportation;
- Meaningful transition services for students with disabilities that are person-centered and that prepare them for continuing education and/or work-based experiences, resulting in competitive integrated employment, and successful community living.



What Lies Ahead

The Arc's Strategic Goals 2017-2021

The Arc's Strategic Plan is designed to guide the organization over four years, with each year bringing new initiatives to support the goals within the plan. Below are The Arc's goals, which were established at the beginning of the 2017-18 fiscal year. For a more detailed look at our Strategic Plan, visit www.arcjc.org.

1) Community life

Individuals with I/DD and their families will have access to a full community life, one which allows access to every aspect of life readily available to the greater population, and are empowered to live as independently as possible with full inclusion in the community.



2) Technology

The Arc promotes and facilitates the use of cutting edge technology that advances our values, improves access to our programs, reduces stress on organizational and community resources; and informs and empowers the I/DD community by providing immediate access to resources, information, connections and support.



3) Self-determination/empowerment

Individuals with I/DD are advocates, empowered at every age to lead cultural change in our community so that it fully embraces and supports all people.



4) Governance

The Arc ensures effective governance of the organization to allow fulfillment of its mission and pursuit of its vision.



“The work of The Arc won't be done until people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are treated with the same rights, respect and opportunities that everybody else is.”

~ Aaron, Lakewood • Former Board member & sibling advocate

Our Donors

The Arc's donors are helping us improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to The Arc during our 2018 fiscal year, including our many donors who have asked to remain anonymous. We truly appreciate the generous support of our community.

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The Community of Hope is a giving circle of donors who have made a significant investment in the future of The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties and the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community.

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Ann Todd
Victoria Treadway
Mary Tribby
Matt & Jackie Triplett
Scott & Michelle
Trudeau
Nicole Trujillo

Trumpet Behavioral
Health
Amy Trunoske
April Tuite
Amy Turner
Antonio Urioste
Jill Van de Water
Jack Van Duine
Eric Van Zytveld
Connie Vance
Julie Vanek
Louise Vaughn
Jimmy & Christine
Verretta
Al & Carolyn Vigil
Julie & Ray Vigil
Cheryl Wakeman
Tom Walker
Vicki Walker
Sally Walker-McDowell
Brian Watson

Jenica & Ryan Watts
Donna Wegman
Mary Jo Weiker
Stephen Weinstein
Jeanne Weis
Judy Welde
Bradford West
Paula Westerfield
Westerra Credit Union
Janine Westlund
Shelly Whitehead
Heidi Willcox
Heather Seemann &
Mark Williams
Kathryn Williams
Frances Wilson
Joan Wilson
Sue Windels
Beverly Winters
Betsy Lay & Alison
Wisneski

Rod & Laura Witte
Linda Wogan
Julie Wolfinger
Genevieve Wooden
Amy Woszczyński
Kimberly Wybenga
Jeff Yaeger
Pamela Yoder
Deb York
Mark Young
Bob Zachman
Corinne DePersis &
Dominic Zarlengo
Gordon & Kaethe
Zellner
Susan Zimmerman
Don Ziska
Sharon Zuckerman
Talya Zuckerman

Our Corporate & Community Partners



The Colorado Health Foundation™

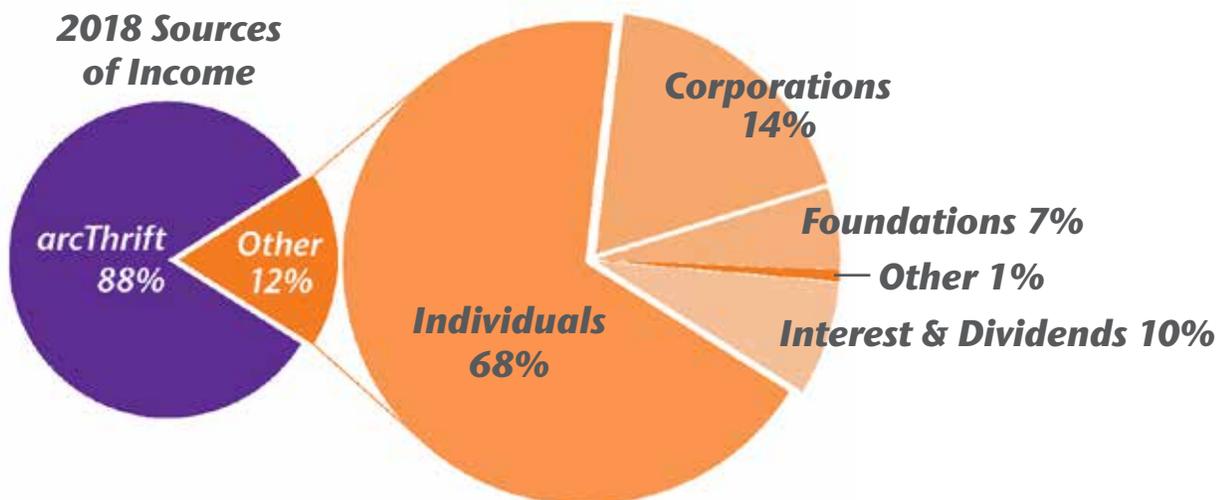


*A.V. Hunter Trust • Activity Options • Developmental Disabilities Resource Center
Genesee Commercial Group LLC • GoldStar Learning Options
JFK Partners • Megan's Place • Payless Plumbing • Pinnacle III
Seaque Wealth Management • Trumpet Behavioral Health*

Our Financial Position

The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties has been fortunate to have earned revenue through our partnership with arcThrift Stores, a separate nonprofit organization formed in 1968 to provide financial support for Colorado chapters of The Arc. In 2018, arcThrift contributions comprised 88% of our income. **As the demand for our services is constantly growing, we seek additional funding from individual donors and grantmakers to meet the needs of our community.**

Fiscal Year	2018	2017
Total Revenues	\$1,192,055	\$1,144,189
Total Expenses	\$1,149,551	\$1,097,251
Revenues by Source		
Foundations and Corporations	\$30,500	\$60,270
Individual Contributions	\$99,673	\$89,386
Earned Revenue (arcThrift)	\$1,045,538	\$1,006,875
Interest and Dividend Income	\$14,214	(\$13,754)
Other	\$2,130	\$1,412
Expenses by Type		
Programs	\$983,408	\$966,748
Administration	\$97,897	\$94,979
Fundraising	\$68,246	\$35,524
Program Expense/Total Expenses	86%	88%
Assets & Liabilities		
Change in Net Assets	\$42,504	\$46,938
Total Net Assets	\$1,454,989	\$1,412,485



86% of The Arc's funding supports programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families



Jefferson, Clear Creek
& Gilpin Counties

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Lakewood, CO 80401

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***Believe in me
and I can achieve
anything.***

Advocacy | Community Inclusion | Training

Achieve with us.