

SECURE

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Sustaining Momentum for the Advocacy to Come

Randy Patrick doesn't have a family member with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). But for as long as he has been able, he has been focused on enhancing the quality of life for people in his hometown of Aurora through volunteer work. When Randy found The Arc, he knew he had found a community where he would gain as much as he gave.

Randy's involvement and passion for The Arc of Aurora and supporting people with IDD—including positions on the chapter's board—eventually led to four terms on the state chapter board as President. There, Randy learned about the broader work of The Arc across the country including public policy advocacy and support for families as they seek to find housing, good caregivers, financial stability, and employment for their loved ones.

Randy takes great pride in a major statewide advocacy effort in which he was actively involved: a statewide ballot initiative in 2008 asking Colorado voters to increase the state sales tax by .01% to end the waiting list for services for people with IDD.

The effort failed, but the benefits of the aggressive campaign were significant and continue to this day. As Randy said, *"While we lost, it gave us wide recognition and built awareness about the needs of people with IDD that we could not have otherwise accomplished. The voice of The Arc in Colorado was heard across the state—a voice to be reckoned with. Winning isn't always the most important outcome. People now know who we (The Arc) are, and more importantly—know more about the people we serve."* A few years later, Randy was elected to the national board of The Arc of the United States.

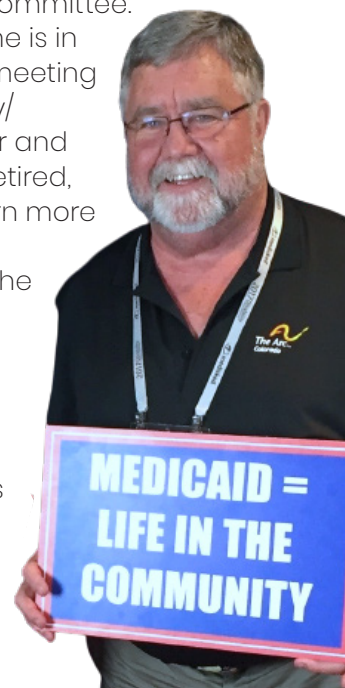
We appreciate and respect the people we serve and help them become independent and self-sufficient. We listen and find that, just like everyone, sometimes all they really need is an "attaboy,"
— Randy shared.

One of his pet peeves is when he approaches a person with IDD and instead of the individual speaking for him or herself, a well-meaning caregiver speaks for the person. Randy feels very strongly that every person's voice has meaning.

He is encouraged by the evolution he has seen over time in how self-advocates have become empowered to speak for themselves and advocate for their needs.

As we look to the future of the disability movement, Randy knows that to continue the programs and advocacy that have led to such progress, we must continue to raise our visibility and improve fundraising.

He is currently a member of The Arc's National Resource Development Committee. He told us that he is in the process of meeting with an attorney/financial advisor and now that he is retired, he wants to learn more about planned giving and that he plans to make a commitment in support of The Arc to continue contributing to the movement's progress even after his tenure in leadership is long past.



Unique Opportunities for Donors in the Wake of the CARES Act

By Lauren G. Dell, Esq.

The headlines from 2020 are full of the hardships caused by our shared challenges, from COVID-19 to unemployment to stock market volatility. However, these challenges have also come with silver linings in both the increased ability of communities to connect remotely and an increased ability of donors to have an outsized impact on the charities that they care about.

In particular, the CARES Act, the stimulus act signed into law in March and expanded in April, provides the following benefits toward charitable giving:

- ▶ The Act allows taxpayers to take an above-the-line deduction for charitable cash contributions up to \$300 for the 2020 tax year. **This deduction is available for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions and will apply to all years moving forward.** This means that individuals can receive a benefit from gifts to charity even if they do not itemize deductions on their income tax returns – something that is not the case in most years.
- ▶ For taxpayers who itemize deductions, the CARES Act increases the charitable deduction amount for cash contributions to public charities. For individuals, the amount has been increased from 60% to 100% of adjusted gross income (also referred to as “AGI”), and for corporations, from 10% to 25% of taxable income. It is important to note that this provision applies to cash contributions made to public charities, and will not apply to contributions made to private foundations.
- ▶ Above the deductibility cap of 100% of AGI for individuals, additional contributions may be carried forward and deducted over the next five years. The same carryover period will apply to corporations exceeding their cap of 25% of taxable income. (Note that each partner or shareholder in a partnership or S-Corporation must make carryover elections separately.)
- ▶ Although the CARES Act eliminates the need to take Required Minimum Distributions from qualified retirement accounts, **donors can direct distributions from their retirement accounts to go to charities without having to pay income tax on the retirement account distribution.**

The CARES Act creates an opportunity for all individuals to make a long-lasting difference. By providing benefits to donors of all giving levels, the legislation

recognizes that small acts of caring, generosity and thoughtfulness can combine to create a legacy of kindness and compassion.

Want to know more about planned giving in light of the CARES Act? Please contact The Arc’s Development Department at plannedgiving@thearc.org or 202.600.3487. Any business or tax discussion contained in this communication is not intended as a thorough, in-depth analysis of specific issues.

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Investing in the Future
Fall 2020 | ISSUE 14

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Self-Advocates Fight for COVID-19 Relief Legislation

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, The Arc’s [Grassroots Advocacy Network](#) of people with IDD, families, supporters, and chapters has been educating lawmakers about the needs of people with IDD and their families.

Our network has been extremely active during this pandemic, emailing, calling, and tweeting at their legislators and sharing their personal stories over 100,000 times! Self-advocates have led this charge, sharing why it is important that COVID-19 relief legislation includes:

- ▶ Dedicated funding for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS). Access to HCBS will limit the risk of people with disabilities being put in institutions.
- ▶ Personal protective equipment (PPE) for direct support professionals.
- ▶ Paid leave for all caregivers.
- ▶ Economic impact payments for all people with disabilities.

In July, our [National Council of Self-Advocates](#), a nationwide group of people with IDD who provide feedback to The Arc to improve the effectiveness of our work for people with IDD, met with our policy staff to learn more on [COVID-19](#). The Arc has recently developed and shared a plain language video series for self-advocates inspired by this discussion on our COVID-19 resource page at TheArc.org/CovidResources.

Want to learn more? Contact Claire Manning, Director of Advocacy and Mobilization at manning@thearc.org.

*“I lived in a nursing home for 9 years. I live on my own now with assistance from caregivers. If they do not get the protective equipment and benefits they need and I don’t continue receiving food assistance, SSI, and a full supply of medication, **I will be forced to go back into an institution** which will violate my ADA rights. [We need funding for] home and community-based services in the corona relief package.” -Stephen*





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FALL 2020, ISSUE 14

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Your Annual Distribution Could Be Tax-Free!

If you make your annual distribution to a nonprofit (like The Arc) you will not have to pay taxes on the withdrawal (up to \$100,000).

You need to transfer the money directly from the IRA to a charity like The Arc for it to count as the tax-free transfer.

LEARN MORE BY VISITING: TheArcLegacy.org



bbb.org/charity

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance National Charity Seal carries a lot of meaning for both donors and charities. After undergoing a rigorous evaluation by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, The Arc is proud to have received their seal for meeting the Standards for Charity Accountability!



Achieve with us.®

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