



Realizing potential. Achieving goals.

The 2000's: Family Supports

People with Cognitive Disabilities Speak for Themselves

James was three-years-old when he was admitted to a pediatric facility. We could no longer take care of him. When he was six, Dr. André Blanchet asked us if we could take James home if we were given adequate supports. We jumped at the chance. That was ten years ago.

Mary Ellen Mayo
*Chair, The Arc of Massachusetts,
Governmental Affairs Committee*

A new century began with a bang, as Judge Douglas Woodlock ruled on the Boulet case, that the state must pay for the 2,437 individuals on the Waiting List at the Department of Mental Retardation. Between 2000 and 2006, every person must be served. This was a huge turning point for families. A system that had been completely driven by people moving from the large facilities could now focus on the thousands of community families in need. So many parents were in crisis and now would have the opportunity to see their son or daughter move into their own home.

With support from the Department of Mental Retardation and Shriver Clinical Services, Family to Family received a grant to coordinate fifteen Support Centers, providing clinical supports, bi-weekly support groups and mentoring to Boulet families.

In 2002, the Paul A. Dever School closed and Governor Mitt Romney called for the closing of the Fernald School. Some parents reacted with the same passion as they had thirty years ago in opposition to the decision. The facility remains open.

This excitement and progress did not last too long, as the economy soured and services were being cut. Dental care, prescription glasses, and prosthetic devices were taken away, and in 2004 Governor Romney announced that 800 people would lose day and work opportunities. This did not sit well with The Arc of Massachusetts, and in no time we were blocking Beacon Street with the hundreds of individuals and families protesting these proposed cuts. Full funding was restored.

With the internet, The Arc is able to connect with thousands of families instantly. Universal Health Insurance is on the front burner. The Self-Advocates do not want to be called Mentally Retarded. Through Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, legislation was filed to change the name of the Department of Mental Retardation to a Department of Developmental Services.

The Findlay Trust provided a tremendous boost by giving The Arc of Massachusetts a grant of nearly \$1 million for capacity building and innovative projects.

The Arc looks to the future

It's up to us ...

Remembering the Past • Celebrating the Present • Securing the Future
Making it a better world



Dana Dancereau, Maureen Sullivan, Leo Sarkissian and John Robinson host Play on the Parquet



Evelyne and Reggie Milorin present at Arc/MDDC legislative reception



Erica Thomas and James Nadworny



Arc 2004 Board of Directors

2000: The decade opens with a huge victory for families. The Arc-sponsored Boulet lawsuit - named for Edmund Boulet, son of Arc members Gerald and Mary Ann Boulet - is settled, providing services for 2,437 people on the DMR Waiting List. Neil V. McKittrick, now a partner at Goulston & Storrs, argues the case in U.S. District Court, winning pro bono service awards from both the Massachusetts and American Bar Associations.

Evelyne and Henry Milorin spearhead The Arc's effort to reach out to diverse cultural groups. (Evelyne would later become a Kennedy Fellow and winner of the Barbara Gopen Award.)

2001: The entire disability community mourns the death of Gunnar Dybwad.

Jim Brett succeeds Marty Krauss as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Mental Retardation.

The DMR budget is reduced by \$44 million. The Arc joins with partners to lead a rally in front of the State House that stops traffic and business on Beacon Street. Thousands within the Arc community participate over several months of advocacy. Their combined efforts pay off - the funds are almost completely restored.

2002: The Paul A. Dever State School is closed.

2003: Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change celebrates the passage of Ch.171, an Act to Support Individuals and Families with Disabilities.

New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft visits the State House to see his son Joshua receive an award for helping kids with disabilities. Ann Jones, Sherri Dottin, Maureen Sullivan, and Lucie Chansky continue their good work in organizing the Distinguished Citizen Awards.

Governor Mitt Romney calls for the closure of the Fernald State School.

2004: With a record-crowd rally in front of the State House, The Arc leads the fight to restore funding in the FY05 budget for work, day, and transportation services for 800 people.

The Arc-sponsored Workforce Study Bill is passed. The bill is a key step in raising wages for direct care workers.

The Arc makes good use of its online Action Center, which allows constituents to contact their legislators electronically on issues of importance. Under the leadership of Action Center administrator John Thomas, The Arc of Massachusetts and its constituents outperform all other Arc chapters in the nation in e-mail output. Massachusetts online advocacy matches the output of all other states combined.

GBArc, supported by The Arc in Massachusetts and spearheaded by CEO Terri Angelone and President Dick Beard, hosts the 2004 National Convention of The Arc of the United States. The consensus feedback is that the convention is "a fabulous event."

Governmental Affairs Committee parents are recognized for their good work: Carol Beard, Julia Blake, Lucie Chansky, Evelyn Hausslein, Mary Ellen Mayo, Jerry Silbert, George Smith.

Mass. Advocates Standing Strong files legislation to eliminate use of the pejorative term "mental retardation" by changing the name of the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) to the Department of Developmental Services.

2005: The Arc of Massachusetts hosts Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM).

The Arc, under the leadership of President André Blanchet, M.D., implements capacity building and innovation projects through the support of the Ronald W. Findlay Trust.

Fifty years is a lifetime ...

Today

but our work is never done.



Dybwad fellows Dan Becker, Allen Crocker, Mary Lou Maloney, Angela Becker



James Mayo goes to the prom



Anne Fracht receives Distinguished Citizen award



Mary Ann Boulet receives distinguished Citizen Award