



Community Integration Associates

1745 State Street • Salem, Oregon 97301
Tel: (503) 541-2726 • Fax: (503) 363-7168

ARC

Milestones

Attached is a history of the Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States. Although the Developmental Disabilities movement includes many more organizations than the ARC, the history of the ARC does encompass much of the last 40 years in the field.

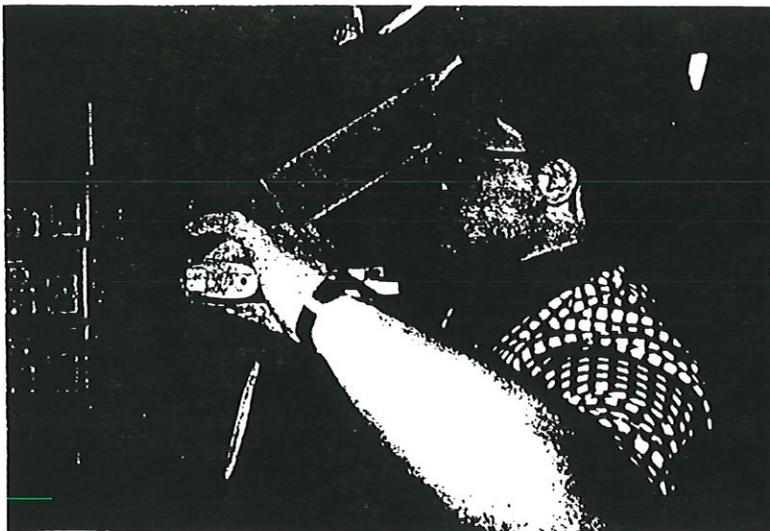


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Association for Retarded Citizens

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The Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States has a rich history of improving the lives of people with mental retardation and their families. The ARC also has led the way in research and has educated millions regarding prevention of one-half of the known causes of mental retardation. Leading to ARC's strong leadership role in the field of mental retardation today are the following major events and accomplishments.



1950 The first convention of the "National Association of Mentally Retarded Children" was held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at the Radison Hotel in Minneapolis, Minn.

1952 The organization became the National Association for Retarded Children and produced a national newspaper, *Children Limited*.

1954 The first National Headquarters opened in New York City. President Dwight Eisenhower declared the first National Retarded Children's Week.

1955 The Association's first film, "Tuesday's Child," was produced. Membership rose to 29,000 with 412 local chapters.

1956 "Federal Program of Action for America's Retarded Children and Adults" was presented to Congress. Testimony was provided on bills to expand teaching and research in the education of children with mental retardation.

1957 The Association supported Social Security coverage for adults disabled in childhood, funding for medical facilities for people with mental retardation through the Hill-Burton Act and increased appropriations for vocational rehabilitation programs.

1958 *Mental Subnormality*, an important cornerstone in research literature in the field of mental retardation, reported findings of a three-year association survey.

Concurrently, support began for research projects and policies formulated for comprehensive programming and institutions.

1959 The ARC published a landmark report, *Decade of Decision*, describing the association's accomplishments and prospects for meeting service needs of people with mental retardation.

1960 *Decade of Decision* was presented to The White House Conference on Children and Youth. Membership totalled 62,000. The association was approved as one of 10



voluntary health organizations by the President's Committee on Fundraising in the Federal Service.

1961 Under an association grant, a new screening test for phenylketonuria (PKU) was discovered by Robert Guthrie.

1956-61 Federal Support for mental retardation services and research increased from \$14 million to \$94 million.

1962 The association received the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation International Award.

1963 The President's Panel on Mental Retardation recommended the Mental Retardation Reconstruction Act, maternity and child care projects, expansion of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and establishment of special education programs.

1964 Membership totalled 100,000. The first interorganization conference on mental retardation convened with representatives from 28 national organizations.

1965 The association's On-the-Job Training Project was established.

1968 ARC stepped up insistence on immediate eradication of inhumane treatment and improvement of institutional care.

1969 ARC was a co-sponsor of Project Star, a national demonstration of minority and poverty outreach approaches. We initiated the annual holiday card fund-raising program.

An ARC Governmental Affairs office was opened in Washington, D.C., to increase visibility in the nation's capital and attempt to influence federal policy toward children and adults with mental retardation and their families.

1970 The National Headquarters was moved from New York to Arlington, Texas, a city more centrally located for the growing membership.

The ARC supported an amendment to the Medicaid program to finance residential programs and develop standards to upgrade participating institutional programs. This program is known as the "ICF/MR Program."

The ARC also joined with other disability organizations to create the Accreditation Council on Services for People with Developmental Disabilities (ACDD), a national standard-setting and accrediting body. ICF/MR programs were required to meet ACDD standards to promote upgrading of residential programs.



photo by Diane & Dick Collier

1971 National and state offices of ARC began to join court suits to defend the rights of citizens with mental retardation living in state institutions and to ensure their right to education. Advocacy intensified to strengthen individuals' rights to be served by community-based residential services. Other stepped-up efforts took on such diverse issues as immigration, benefits for dependents of service people, early childhood, fair labor

standards as applied to workers with mental retardation, lead paint poisoning and immunization programs.

1973-76 ARC emphasized the complex issues surrounding the use of human subjects in research, both biomedical and behavioral. We made one of the major presentations to the National Commission on Research on Human Subjects.

1974 Reflecting a growing service to adults as well as children the Association for Retarded Children's name was changed to the National Association for Retarded Citizens.

The association worked for two major programs which had a significant impact on the lives of people with mental retardation - Supplemental Security Income and Title Twenty Social Services.

1975 ARC members' hard work securing the right to a public education for all children, regardless of their handicap, was rewarded by passage of Public Law 94-142, the Education of All Handicapped Children Act.

1976 With the International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap, the ARC was host to a "Symposium on Normalization and Integration: Improving the Quality of Life," featuring international experts.

1977 The ARC received two federal grants for the establishment of the federal program information and assistance project. The project trained hundreds of advocates in the states about federal programs and developed three comprehensive federal resource guides.

1978 ARC's activities were directed toward extending and strengthening two federal acts, Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities.

1979 The month of March became Mental Retardation Month, designed by the ARC and The Advertising Council. Also, ARC addressed the issue of meeting the mental health needs of individuals with

mental retardation and focused attention on legislation to ensure funding for community housing.

1980 "NARC" became the Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States in the most significant name change of our history. State and local chapters nationwide also adopted a uniform identity by becoming ARC of...

1981 The ARC media Campaign was launched with 200 participating chapters using a common strategy and set of broadcast and print advertising materials to build awareness of the association locally, statewide and nationally.

1982 The death in Indiana of a baby born with Down syndrome sparked renewed efforts by ARC toward protecting the lives of other so-called "Baby Docs" born with mental retardation.

Also, in 1982, the innovative Bioengineering Program was launched to utilize technology to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

At the 1982 National Convention, delegates approved a resolution declaring the right of all peo-



photo by Jean B. Morgan

ple to community-based services, regardless of the severity of their handicaps.

1984 The ARC spearheaded meetings of national medical and disability groups leading to the signing of the "Principles of Treatment of Disabled Infants" and the passage of the "Baby Doe" Amendments to the Child Abuse Act protecting newborns with disabilities from the withdrawal of medical care.



photo by Diane & Dick Collier

1985 The ARC Bio-engineering Program scored its first success when research was completed proving a computer system equipped with voice recognition and environmental control capabilities could be configured for use by people who are profoundly mentally retarded and severely physically impaired.

The ARC continued its work toward community integration through support of the Community and Family Living Amendments.

The Association also celebrated its 35th anniversary with an open house at National Headquarters in Arlington, Texas.

1986 It was a banner year for key legislative victories with no less than 11 major laws enacted by Congress and signed by President Reagan. Among that total was the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (P.L. 99-457). The law mandated a new preschool program for three-to-five-year-olds and early

Intervention services to infants and toddlers from birth through age three.

1987 The ARC teamed with Johnson & Johnson to launch a three-year awareness and fund raising campaign that reached an estimated 75 million households.

To ensure the availability of community health care for people who have mental retardation, the ARC joined with several other organizations to form the national Consortium of Community Health Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

The ARC Media Campaign was recognized by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as a finalist for an Emmy Award nomination.



photo by Diane & Dick Collier

The ARC's On-The-Job Training Project changed its name to National Employment and Training Program in order to reflect its greatly expanded scope. In 1987 the NET Program encompassed such activities as supported employment, professional and volunteer training, job development and placement and more.

1988 The ARC State Prevention Information Network was begun to allow the National Headquarters and state affiliates to share current information on the prevention of mental retardation.

An ARC "Status Report on Waiting Lists for Community Services" revealed more than 139,000 children and adults on waiting lists for community services across the country.

The education of young women in high school and college was enhanced by the ARC's new curriculum on the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Alcohol-Related Birth Defects. Also

In 1988, the ARC worked toward the successful passage of the Alcohol Beverage Labeling Act to warn consumers that birth defects may result from the consumption of alcohol.

The Foundation of the Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States was established to provide a permanent financial base for ARC of the United States.

The ARC played a major role in achieving enactment of two civil rights laws passed by Congress: The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988, which prohibits housing discrimination based on disability, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act, overturning a Supreme Court decision that narrowed rights protection under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

1989 ARC's "We the People" project produced a curriculum to educate students with mental retardation about the U.S. Constitution.

The 1980s growth of the self-advocacy movement, in which people with mental retardation actively speak out about their own needs and desires, could be partially measured through a new ARC-produced workshop manual showing 368 self-advocacy programs across the United States.

The ARC joined amicus curiae briefs filed in several U.S. Supreme Court cases. In opinions voiced there and before other high courts, the ARC fought against the death penalty for inmates with mental retardation; demanded the guarantee of a free, appropriate education under P.L. 94-142; supported the right of a child with mental retardation and AIDS to be in school with her classmates; and sought to protect individuals with severe impairments from the withdrawal of life-sustaining nutrition.

The ARC supported a new federal law allowing Social Security recipients, including those with mental retardation, to buy into Medicare programs, thus allowing them to work and maintain vital health care coverage. The ARC launched its national Planned Giving Program with the dual purpose of providing a service to ARC's donors and securing greater financial stability for the association.

1990 In 1990 ARC of the United States began a year-long celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) capped a very successful year in the ARC's efforts to secure rights protection, as well as better federally-funded services and benefits. The ADA



photo by Pat Waisanen

attacks discrimination against people with mental retardation and other disabilities, particularly in the areas of employment, transportation and public accommodation.

The association also joined the battle against AIDS with a new three-year project to develop an education strategy to teach people with mental retardation how to prevent the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

The ARC created the Strategic Planning Working Group to help guide ARC through the 1990s and beyond. The 15-member committee examined programmatic areas along with ideas and issues designed to make structural and financial changes throughout the ARC, including all levels and all chapters.

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