



working with and for People with Disabilities for Over Fifty Years

# The Arc Works!

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July 2007

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## Get Ready for The Arc of North Carolina's Annual Convention!

**The Marriott Hotel at the Civic Center  
Durham, NC  
September 14-15, 2007**

There will be great keynotes, the annual awards dinner and informative breakout sessions. Get ready to meet fellow advocates, family members, self-advocates and others to have a great time and learn about educational issues, supports for people, effective advocacy and so much more. Turn to the next page or visit the convention web page <http://www.arcnc.org/information/convention.shtml>



# COMING TO CONVENTION

***Paving the Way...*** it is what The Arc has done throughout its history! People with disabilities and their families deserve person-centered supports, inclusive education, competitive employment, and options for community living that promote dignity and respect.

At the 2007 conference, The Arc plans to ***Pave the Way....*** towards inclusive community life, offering speakers and sessions that will propel us all forward in our thinking and in our advocacy.

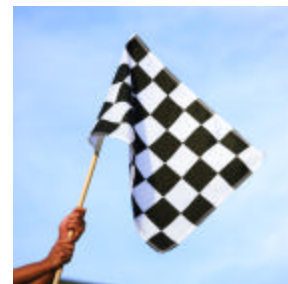
## **Opening Keynote by Al Condeluci, CEO, UCP of Pittsburgh/CLASS Building Community from the Inside Out**



The challenge of inclusion rests with not only understanding culture and community, but also finding ways within the culture for meaningful participation. Historically, people with disabilities have been kept apart from community. This exclusion has set a tone for the greater community that people with disabilities are better off in their own space. This presentation takes an active look and community and relationships with an effort toward building a community where each belongs.

## **Saturday Morning Keynote by Denise Ryan, FireStar Speaking Ladies and Gentlemen Start Your Engines!**

Fasten your seatbelts, folks as Denise takes us all on a wild ride! Wake up, get motivated and conquer those fears because enthusiasm and fear cannot occupy the same mind. Denise, the chief firestarter of FireStar Speaking, will get our engines revved up with her dynamic, humorous and thought-provoking session. Denise has re-energized thousands of people; waking them up to their full potential and helping them get everything they can out of their lives and their work.



## **Does Your Child's IEP Need a Tune-UP? Then Sign Up for IEP Roadside Assistance**



Bring your questions and your child's IEP and meet privately with a parent educator from The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC). **ECAC Parent Educators** can suggest ideas for improvement, offer troubleshooting tips, and share information and resources. Details will be in the convention registration.



## GOOD FRIENDS ARE ..... JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN

Judy Lewis, Volunteer Coordinator, The Arc of NC Guardianship Program

They could have been just “two ships passing in the dark”----however, The Arc of NC Guardianship Program came along and shined a light on that big dark sea.

First, is Fred Benson, an attorney in Charlotte and then there is Asbury, part time bagger at Food Lion in Charlotte. Now Charlotte is after all a pretty big place and the chance of these two getting together would have been pretty slim. But then, like a beacon light on that big dark ocean-----shines the light of The Arc of NC Guardianship Program and a long lasting relationship emerges.

I was lucky enough to be friends to each of these individuals. After meeting Asbury, I immediately thought of Fred Benson. Fred is just an all around great guy who serves in our community and state in so many ways as a volunteer. Because he is such a great volunteer and also is an attorney, I hesitated to ask him for yet “another volunteer favor” knowing that his schedule is so very busy. However, I did ask and he agreed to meet Asbury. We went over to Asbury’s apartment one night and after meeting Asbury, Fred said “yes”. That was November 2002. That was over four years ago and their friendship is going strong.

I met them for dinner some time later and asked the two of them about their relationship through The Arc of NC Guardianship Program and this is what they had to say;

**Question to Asbury:** How has knowing Fred changed your life? His reply was “It has changed my life a bunch. I am a friendlier person now and I don’t get bored like I used to. Fred is a good guy and a great friend.”

**Question to Asbury:** What kind of things do you guys do together? His reply was “We go out at least every two weeks. We go to functions at The Arc, out to eat, bowling, bingo, movies, checkers Games and the Moose Club Dance.”

**Question to Fred:** How has knowing Asbury changed your life? His reply was “I get out more now. We go out and have a good time and talk about a lot of things especially geography and travel and which cities are largest and etc.”

**Question to Fred:** What have you learned from knowing Asbury? His reply was “How people with developmental disabilities can live independently”.

Since knowing Fred, Asbury has begun to eat a little differently also (even some green vegetables). And Asbury proudly announced to me that he has “stopped chewing tobacco”. When I asked him if it was hard to stop he said “no”. I asked him how did he stop and he said “I prayed about it”. Through Fred’s advocacy, Asbury moved to a different apartment which Fred felt would be safer for him. And, he recently moved into a house and had a very nice open house party.

Some of Asbury’s dreams are to some day own a condominium and he would also like to have a housekeeping job. You can bet that Fred is aware of his dreams and will be right along side of him helping to make them come true.

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## CAROLINA LEGAL ASSISTANCE DESIGNATED AS NORTH CAROLINA'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM

North Carolina's Protection and Advocacy System was recently redesignated to Carolina Legal Assistance (CLA). CLA will assume the protection and advocacy responsibilities on July 2, 2007. These services are currently provided by the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities (GACPD), a division of the N.C. Department of Administration. This action was taken at the request of the disability community and after consulting with the GACPD governing board. Feedback determined that advocacy services can be provided more efficiently and effectively in an independent agency. CLA is independent of the state and will be exclusively responsible for advocating for people with disabilities in North Carolina. For more information visit the CLA website. [www.cladisabilitylaw.org](http://www.cladisabilitylaw.org)

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## DISABILITY & ELDERLY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DEEM) INITIATIVE

The Division of Aging and Adult Services is pleased to announce the Disability & Elderly Emergency Management (DEEM) Initiative. The DEEM Initiative is a multi-agency approach for strengthening the ability of our State and communities to help seniors and persons (of all ages) with disabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from man-made or natural disasters. The project is currently collecting information and recommendations that will be consolidated into a State plan and presented at a western and eastern summit later this year or early next year. For more information and to **give your input** visit their website at: [www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/deem.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/deem.htm)

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## UCP Releases New Medicaid Report: The Plan For Inclusion

UCP has just released ***The Plan for Inclusion***, a menu of policy options and tactics designed to work in tandem with ***The Case for Inclusion***, a recently released UCP report which ranks and analyzes how states are serving Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities under Medicaid. The UCP state ranking data sheds light on areas where your state is underperforming while The ***Plan for Inclusion*** offers suggestions for action.

The Plan is intended to help advocates:

1. Understand the unique challenges within their state;
2. Communicate that information to policy makers, state administrators, the media and key stakeholders;
3. Prioritize areas needing attention; and
4. Match priority areas with action steps that have proven effective in other states.

Because every state is different and states vary greatly in their success in providing community-based supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, there is no one silver bullet. Every state has room for improvement and The Plan for Inclusion can be a resource to advocates as they create or review a work plan for change.

The full text of The Plan for Inclusion, the full text of The Case for Inclusion 2007 (UCP's state Medicaid rankings and analysis) and state-by-state data are available at [www.ucp.org/medicaid](http://www.ucp.org/medicaid).

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### **A Free Service for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind**

There is a free service for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind! The Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) <http://www.dcmp.org> is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to provide free-loan described and captioned educational media and also act as a clearinghouse of information about accessible media.

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### **Newsletter from The National Youth Leadership Network**

The newsletter is created by young people, for young people. We hope it will be a source of information and entertainment for you. If you have any ideas of stories that we should cover or topics that we should write about, please let us know! The newsletter can be found at: [http://nyln.org/newsroom/newsletter/Newsletter\\_Spring\\_06.htm](http://nyln.org/newsroom/newsletter/Newsletter_Spring_06.htm)

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### **New Report Underscores Housing Crisis Facing People with Disabilities**

***Priced Out in 2006*** documents the continued lack of affordable and accessible housing for people with long-term disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic illness, and mental illness. The national average for a one-bedroom apartment is at \$715 and a studio/efficiency is at \$633, and both are higher than the entire monthly income of people with disabilities who rely on the Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) program. The report is published by the Technical Assistance Collaborative and the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities, and is available to read and download at <http://www.tacinc.org/Pubs/PricedOut.htm>.

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## June News from NICHCY

Here's a sample of what you'll find:

- IDEA 2004 Part C Proposed Regulations issued.
- English and Spanish versions of: Opening Doors: Technology and Communication Options for Children With Hearing Loss, from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.
- New Rtl Article on Early Intervening Services, from Project Forum.
- Additional reports on Beginning Reading and English Language Learners, from The What Works Clearinghouse, and...
- Conferences galore, too many to choose from! Check out what's happening this summer and make your plan.

Read all about it and more, at: <http://www.nichcy.org/newsuse.htm>

Oh, and don't forget about NICHCY's training modules on IDEA 2004. More are comin' all the time, all through the summer. See what's available for download, at:

<http://www.nichcy.org/training/contents.asp>

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### Breaking the Silence on Crime Victims with Disabilities

Breaking the Silence on Crime Victims with Disabilities-Addressing the long-neglected needs of crime victims with disabilities is the focus of a new partnership announced today by the National Council on Disability, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and the National Center for Victims of Crime.

The ultimate goal of this partnership is to foster greater public awareness about crime victims with disabilities and to forge a national commitment to better serve this particularly vulnerable population. More information can be found at

[www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/2007/crime\\_victims.htm](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/2007/crime_victims.htm)

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### The Riot Website Revamped!

Dear Riot Readers,

Please take a look at our new website! We hope that you like it. It has a sharper look and is easier to use. Go to: [www.theriotrocks.org](http://www.theriotrocks.org)

On the site, you can easily find your way around. Look at the current issue of The Riot! Find old issues. Write Cubby for love advice. Get a Riot! t-shirt. Help us out with a donation. Send us your ideas or comments.

Send this link to your friends. Tell them that they can sign up for free to get The Riot!.

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## Resources on Self-Advocacy and the Internet

- <http://www.aina-ri.org/> This is the web site of Rhode Island's statewide self-advocacy organization Advocates in Action.
- <http://www.selfadvocacy.com/> "Advocating Change Together (ACT) is a nonprofit disability rights organization run by and for people with developmental and other disabilities. We are committed to freedom, equality, and justice for all people with disabilities."
- <http://www.fvkasa.org/> "Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) is a national, grassroots network of youth with special needs and our friends, speaking on behalf of ourselves. We are leaders in our communities, and we help spread helpful, positive information among our peers to increase knowledge around various issues. We are an organization created by youth with disabilities for youth to educate society about issues concerning youth with a wide spectrum of disabilities and special healthcare needs. KASA believes in supporting self-determination, creating support networks and proactive advocacy for all youth with disabilities in our society."
- <http://www.libertynet.org/speaking/web.html> Learning the Web. This page was developed by Speaking for Ourselves to help users learn the web.
- <http://www.hsri.org/leaders/> The Self-Advocate Leadership Network is a team of self-advocates and professionals who will travel anywhere to train others on self-determination, community integration, participant-driven supports, and systems change. The purpose of the Leadership Network is to prepare self-advocates to play a leadership role in guiding developmental disabilities systems change in ways that promote self-determination, community integration, and participant-driven supports.
- <http://www.SelfAdvocateNet.com/> "This is the home page of the SelfAdvocateNet. We are based in the lovely Fraser Valley of Beautiful British Columbia, Canada. Recently we have begun networking across our region. The region is quite large, about 50 kilometers from one end to the other. We have worked hard to develop this web site as a way of staying in touch not only across our region, but across the province and the world beyond."
- <http://www.sabeusa.org/> "OUR MISSION: To ensure that people with disabilities are treated as equals and that they are given the same decisions, choices, rights, responsibilities, and chances to speak up to empower themselves; opportunities to make new friends; and to learn from their mistakes."

- <http://indie.ca/roeher> A Straightforward Guide to the Internet: This guide provides a basic introduction to the Internet. It is written in plain language, with lots of images. Produced in an easy-to-read, larger than usual format, A Straightforward Guide to the Internet is divided into short manageable chapters. It explains what the Internet is, how you get connected, what e-mail is, and how to “surf the net.”

- <http://www.ctserc.org/library/bibfiles/self-determine02-03.pdf>

This is a comprehensive bibliography on self-determination and self-advocacy. It contains two sections: (a) references to journal articles, books, instructional materials, and inservice educational material; and (b) a variety of web sites.

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**Until next time.....The Arc Works!**

Are you a member of The Arc? If not, please consider joining. [Click Here](#) to find a local chapter serving your area. If not, call 1 -800-662-8706 and join The Arc of NC.

YOUR membership makes a difference in the lives of North Carolinians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

When you join a local or state chapter of The Arc you also automatically become a member of The Arc of the United States. See all The Arc of the United States has to offer at [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)

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