



The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region (The Arc NCR) 1953-2018

1953 Our organization, now known as The Arc NCR, is established by a group of parents seeking educational and vocational opportunities for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The original name of our organization is The Northern Maryland Association for Retarded Citizens (NMARC).

The first meeting was held at the Bodts' home in Otter Point.

Har-Haven School, the first school for children with disabilities, is founded. The school is held in Havre de Grace Baptist Church for 12 children. Claire Gray is the School Director.

The group joins The National Association for Retarded Children.

1954 Har-Haven School is incorporated into the public-school system, later to become *John Archer School*.
President Dwight Eisenhower declared the first National Children's Week.

1959 An application is made by the agency for a sheltered workshop. A sheltered workshop refers to an organization that employs people with disabilities separately from others and pays sub-minimum wages.
The agency joins The Maryland Association for Retarded Children.

1961 Bill #221 passes which permits school attendance to age twenty-one.
Harford County day care is established.

1963 The first summer camp is at Emmorton Special School.

1964 Religious classes and scouting is started by the agency.



1965 The sheltered workshop, called NMARC Industries, is started in a private home in Havre de Grace. The first product is rubber doormats.

The Maryland Trust for Retarded Citizens is conceived as an offshoot of NMARC, which provided support for the lifetime of a person, when parents are unable to provide care.

1966 NMARC Industries, the sheltered workshop, is moved to the Aberdeen Municipal Building.
Cecil County starts their first activity center.

1967 The first county funding is given for the sheltered workshop. The first supervisor is hired.
In December, the winter recreation program is started and a Director is hired for this program.

1968 The first funding for the residential center is received on July 10, 1968.

1969 Cecil County families “break away” to form their own association.
The first vocational rehab, DOR’s, is funded.
A workshop director is hired.

1970 The first vocational evaluator is hired.

In November, the Work Activity Center is state approved. The Work Activity Center is a training center for individuals with disabilities to help develop skills that would aide in finding outside employment.

1971 The Work Activity Center is opened as a program of the sheltered workshop, NMARC Industries.

1972 In April, fifty acres was bequeathed to NMARC by a family of someone the agency supported, for group homes and an activity center, later known as “*Brook Forest.*”



- 1973** The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, also referred to as the Civil Rights Act for Handicapped Individuals, provides protection with regard to employment, accessibility, education; and health, welfare and social services.
- 1975** The Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act mandates that each state establish a state protection and advocacy agency. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ensures that all children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education.
- 1976** Groundbreaking ceremony for Brook Forest takes place.
Colonel Robert McEvoy is the Executive Director.
- 1978** The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments provides comprehensive services focusing on independent living and a revised definition of developmental disability.
- 1979** The month of March becomes Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, designated by The Arc US and The Advertising Council.
- 1980** NMARC seeks a waiver to use federal dollars for construction of a community home.
- 1982** Five individuals from NMARC repair autos at Gulf Station.
- 1983** House Bill #662, which redefines habilitation, moves towards de-institutionalization.
- 1984** Richard Blair is the Executive Director.

The Planning Committee presents a 5-year plan to the Governing Board for NMARC Industries.

Vocational news: The annual customer billings total \$61,000, annual client payroll is \$31,000, floor space occupied is 5,300 sq. ft., the largest contract is Murray Corporation (packaging and assembling car parts), and the janitorial crews clean 3 sites occupying 12,000 sq. ft. weekly.



The Developmental Disabilities Act established the concept of supported employment, independence, work and community integration.

The Habilitation Amendments Act of 1984 establishes the client assistance program.

1985 John Archer School has four graduates to NMARC's Training Program, known as the Work Activity Center.

There are two graduates of the Work Activity Center training program.

Janitorial services secured the contract for the Mary E.W. Risteau District Court and Multi-Purpose Center.

1986 Bob Hockaday organizes the first job development resulting in individual placement at the U.S. Postal Service.

NMARC purchases the Granary Road facility in Forest Hill.

1987 NMARC moves to Forest Hill. There is a dedication of NMARC's new building at 501 Granary Road.

The first work group placement is held at Marriott Travel Plaza.

1988 NMARC introduces "Family Support Services" for families with children under the age of 21.

Harold Lootens is President of the Governing Board.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act provides stiffer penalties for discrimination and expands the coverage to individuals with disabilities and families with children.

NMARC submits the request for state funds to renovate the lower level of the facility.

NMARC buys an agency van to be used for the janitorial crew.



People First of Harford County is formed. People First is a self-advocacy group comprised of individuals with learning difficulties, people with intellectual disabilities, people with developmental disabilities and/or people with disabilities who speak up for themselves and work to improve the lives of their members.

The Residential Services Program provides services to 50 individuals and opened 3 new Assisted Living Units (ALU's) in the community.

1989 The Bel Air New Car Dealers sponsor NMARC's Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

Vocational News: The annual customer billings total \$260,000, annual client payroll is \$115,000, floor space occupied is 14,000 sq. ft., the largest contract is Risteau/District Courthouse at \$84,000, and the janitorial crews clean 18 sites occupying 500,000 sq. ft. weekly.

1990 Transitioning youth funding through the state is approved and NMARC accepts first transitioning youths. A transitioning youth is a student with a disability who is three years from graduating high school. It is when the individual, along with family members, the school system, and service providers, begins to plan for life after high school.

Tim Quinn is the Executive Director.

President Bush signs the American with Disabilities Act on July 26, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

1991 Richard Kolchin is President of the Governing Board.

In July, The Work Activity Center merged with the NMARC Industries' sheltered workshop.



1992 In January, Job Coaches move to NMARC.

NMARC Industries share “Top Honors” at the Annual Awards Banquet of Harford Community on Employment of People with Disabilities.

“Reruns Thrift Store” is named and opens its doors for business. Reruns Thrift Store sold apparel and other home items that were donated by Merry-Go-Round retail chains when their operations closed. Reruns Thrift Store is owned by NMARC, employs supported individuals, and proceeds go directly back to supporting individuals within the organization.

“Person centered” planning program begins.

NMARC’s five-year plan includes opportunities for children with disabilities.

1993 NMARC celebrates its 40th anniversary.

NMARC Industries is recognized by the Harford County Department of Economics Development and the Chamber of Commerce as an outstanding business for contributions to employment.

Lorraine Bergkvist is President of the Governing Board.

Following the lead of The Arc of the United States, 150 local and state chapters by July had changed their names from Association for Retarded Citizens to The Arc. NMARC changes its name to The Arc of Harford County.

1994 Vocational Services works with DORS to access services for people with low or no vision. Eleven folks that receive services of The Arc of Harford County apply.

Money Magazine ranks The Arc US as the fifth of thirty-two organizations in the social services category with 87.9% of its funds spent directly on programs and services.



1995 “Teens First” meets for the first time in August. Teens First is a self-advocacy group for teenagers with disabilities.

The janitorial crew has been providing janitorial services at the Mary Risteau building for 10 years.

NCE honors Tim Quinn, The Arc of Harford County’s Executive Director, for outstanding professional achievement for inclusive programs. NCE is a professional development program for staff of all chapters of The Arc.

Kelly McElwain is President of the Governing Board.

1996 The Governing Board votes to discontinue sheltered employment at NMARC Industries.

New jobs are created; 5 at McCormick & Company, 12 at Warner Brothers and 5 at Frito Lay.

The Arc of Harford County introduces the theme, “Rising to the Challenge.”

1997 Reruns North East Thrift Store opens in January.

The Arc of Harford County provides job placement and training services to people on the job.

The Arc of Harford County introduces the theme, “The Power of Stories.”

1998 Jeffrey Foucault is President of the Governing Board.

The Arc of Harford County introduces the theme, “Building Bridges.”

The membership of The Arc of Harford County votes to change the name of the agency to The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region (The Arc NCR). 2018 is the 20th anniversary of the agency’s name change.



1999 Major Jesse Bane is President of the Governing Board.

The Arc NCR administrative offices experience a devastating electrical fire in March. The administrative offices move to the O'Neill Building in the Forest Hill Business Park for a four-month period.

The administrative offices move from Forest Hill to the newly renovated offices in July.

The majority of vocational services move to the administrative offices in September.

Transportation, Meaningful Day, and Janitorial Services remain at the old site of the sheltered workshop, formerly known as NMARC Industries.

The Arc NCR hosts its first Cecil County golf tournament at Chantilly Manor in Rising Sun.

The Arc NCR wins the 1999 MACS "Innovation Award."

The Arc NCR introduces the theme, "Focusing on the Future."

The Arc NCR forms a Futuring Committee.

2000 Accelerating onto the world's "information superhighway", The Arc NCR acquires an Internet address and its own homepage on the worldwide web.

The Arc holds a membership meeting in February to discuss the following:

- Direct Care Campaign - goal is to bring staff wages up to \$9.50 for direct support to be competitive with other similar human service wages.
- Futuring Committee - addresses future issues and scenarios and how people we employ and support will be affected in the new millennium.

The Arc NCR implements MANO's Stands of Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector.



The former site of NMARC Industries officially closes its doors as a sheltered workshop and begins a community based program.

The Treatment Foster Care (TFC) program opens to assist children with disabilities in finding a safe, supportive foster care home.

2002 Nancy McKee is President of the Governing Board.

2003 The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region's Foundation and its supporting Foundation Board is established. The first Chair of the Foundation Board is Ken Kozel.

The organization is now in the preliminary stages of a capital campaign to fund the construction of a new building as well as renovate existing office space, a project of 21,000 square feet. The project will cost a total of \$2.78 million, of which \$1.47 million in matching funds will be provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for FY 2003 and will be available in July 2002.

2004 Patricia Ourednik is President of the Governing Board.

Psychological Support Services begins at The Arc NCR.

2005 Michele Stutzer is President of the Governing Board.

Home and community based services become a formal state plan.

2007 Ray Maskell is the Chair of the Foundation Board.

Patrick Neary is the President of the Governing Board.

2008 The state of Maryland announces the closure of the Rosewood Center, an institution for people with developmental disabilities. The Arc NCR begins accepting individuals from Rosewood Center.

2009 Rosewood Center officially closes its doors.

Sandra Kyle is the President of the Governing Board.



2010 In January, Tim Quinn, The Arc NCR's Executive Director of nearly 20 years, passes away.

"Rosa's Law" becomes a federal law. The law removes the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from federal health, education and labor policy and replaces them with People First language "individual with an intellectual disability" and "intellectual disability."

Mark Dardozzi is Chair of the Foundation Board.

In August, Shawn Kros becomes the Executive Director/CEO of The Arc NCR.

2011 Nancy Brugh is the President of the Governing Board.

2013 Gary Stokes is the President of the Governing Board.

Brad Stover is Chair of the Foundation Board.

2014 The ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act passes in to federal law. The ABLE Act allows for the creation of tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. Millions of individuals with disabilities depend on a wide variety of public benefits for income, health care and food and housing assistance. Eligibility for these public benefits require meeting a means or resource test that limits eligibility to individuals to report more than \$2,000 in cash savings, retirement funds and other items of significant value. To remain eligible for these public benefits, an individual must remain poor. The ABLE Act recognizes the extra and significant costs of living with a disability. These tax-advantaged savings accounts can be used to cover qualified disability expenses such as, but not limited to, education, housing and transportation not covered by insurance, Medicaid or Medicare.

2015 The Ethan Saylor Alliance was passed and was aimed at providing increased training for members of law enforcement and other public service entities on specific needs of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

2016 The ABLE Act passes in to state law.



2017 The ABLE Act is open for families and individuals to begin participating.

Brad Stover is President of the Governing Board.

Kathy Proctor is Chair of the Foundation Board.



History of The Arc NCR's Name What Does Our Name Mean?

Our name is “The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region,” or “The Arc NCR,” for short. The correct use of our name means a lot. It represents supporting people with differing abilities over the arc of their lifetime. It means the only “r” word we use is “respect.” We invite you to read below and learn the history of our name, and the impact our name is making today.

1953 10 families from Harford and Cecil Counties started the organization in their basement. The parents incorporated and named it “Northern Maryland Association of Retarded Citizens (NMARC).”

1993 A movement began nationally to eliminate the use of “retarded” when referring to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 1993, the “ARC” acronym was officially removed by The Arc of the United States. Our agency’s name changed to “The Arc of Harford County.”

1998 Our name became “The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region.” This name promotes our mission and “The Arc” represents how we provide services over the “arc” of a lifetime. Our new name also encompasses the region we serve - Harford and Cecil Counties in the northern Chesapeake region of Maryland.