



The Arc[®]

Opportunity in
North Central Massachusetts

Achieve with us.[®]

2014 *Annual Report*

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Growth through opportunity.



Self-Advocates attend the All Aboard The Arc event on Boston Common to rally for inclusion. - May 2014

BY THE NUMBERS

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Arc of Opportunity remains as vibrant and relevant today as at our founding in 1952! Read some of the highlights from FY 14.

- Selected to participate in HealthMeet an initiative funded by the CDC and led by The Arc of the US
- Added a new VOIP phone system with features that enhance communication throughout the organization
- Adopted iCentrix an electronic case record system, which gives the staff up-to-date info about individuals they support
- Created three new VP positions to better support the organization's needs – Home Supports, Day Supports and Human Resources
- Added three clinical positions – ABA clinician, art therapist, and horticulturalist
- Additional Physical Therapy Aid hours to support the continuing needs in Day Habilitation
- Added an LPN to the Day Habilitation nursing staff
- Built two fully accessible group homes with engineered shelter in place room
- Increased focus on job placement with anticipation of center-based work slated to close in June 2016
- Partnered with Fitchburg State University and Fitchburg Art Museum through a National Endowment grant for the Arts to bring internationally renowned artist Caleb Neelon to work with our individuals to paint a mural on the exterior of the building

What can you expect for FY 15? Greater emphasis on young people. Another accessible group home. Positive behavioral supports. Sexuality education. Emphasis on living out our organizational values. More supports for individuals on the autism spectrum. Emphasis on transitioning work-center individuals into more community based activities.....and so much more.

The Arc needs each of you and all of you to continue our important work. Join us!

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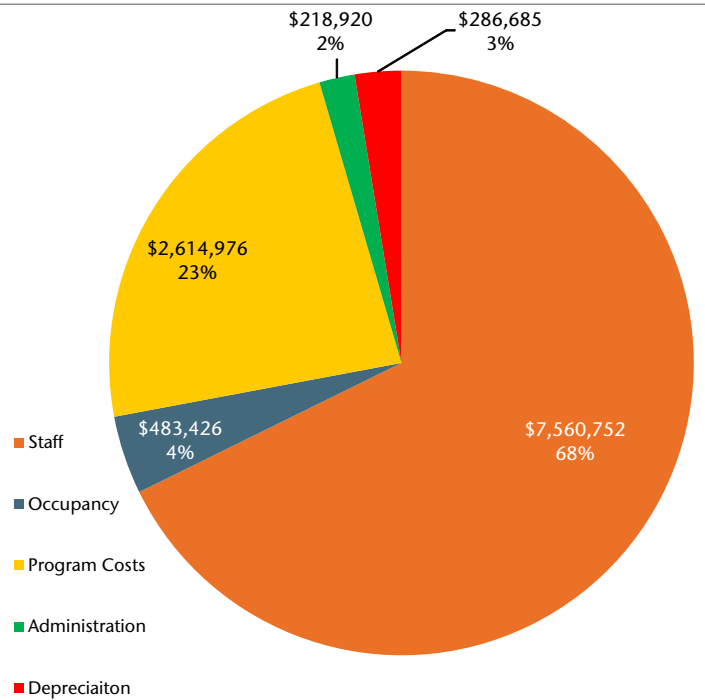
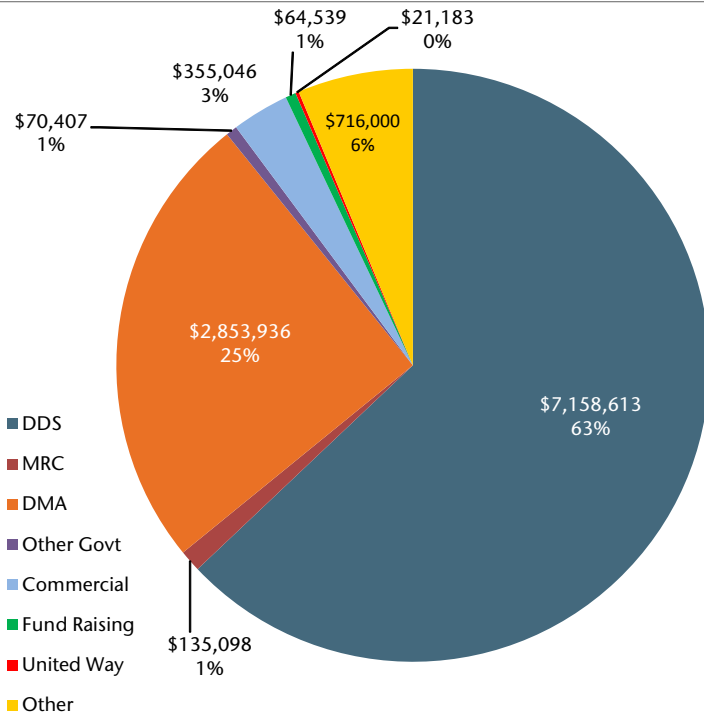
Did you know?

The Arc of Opportunity employs 220 staff, 167 full time and 53 part time.

BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE

EXPENSES



[Click here for more financial information including The Arc's 990 form.](#)

Service Statistics

Individuals may be counted in more than one program

Day Services

Day Habilitation	73
Elder Services	15
Supported Community Options	46

Family Support

Information and Referral	183
Workshops & Trainings	22
Legislative Alerts	610
Support Groups	162
Self-Advocacy	53
Family Events	428
Giving Tree	136
Mailings	1270

Vocational

Employment Resources	59
Competitive Job Placements	19
Assessments	30
Group Work Sites	32

Residential Supports

Supported Community Living	49
Shared Living	30
Adult Family Care	59
Group Homes	36
DESE / DDS	19

Recreation

Weekend Recreation Club	925
Bowling & Mini-Golf	93
Special Olympics	228
Holiday Parties	159
Dances	934
Fishing Derby	81
Trips	132

PROGRAMS



The Arc of Opportunity offers a wide variety of programs that advance our mission to create and support lifetime opportunities in the community for individuals with disabilities and their families to reach their fullest potential by providing advocacy, education, employment, residential and recreational services to enhance quality of life.



On a typical day at The Arc of Opportunity up to 274 individuals may be in and out of the building Monday through Friday attending one of our Day Programs such as **Day Habilitation**, **Community Based Day Supports** or **Vocational** programs. Beyond the exciting programs that happen within our walls, many more opportunities happen throughout the community. Individuals are supported to live in their own apartments through the **Supported Community Living** program, children in elementary and secondary schools are able to remain in their family's home through our **DESE / DDS** program, individuals are supported to live with families or community members through our **Home Based Support** programs, and **Family Supports** offers many educational, **Recreational** and social opportunities throughout the region.



For detailed information on each of the programs, click on the program names described above!

To stay up-to-date daily of all the exciting things that take place at The Arc, please join us on:



GROWTH THROUGH OPPORTUNITY.

Lisa is an individual in her late fifties who attends The Arc of Opportunity's Day Habilitation and Recreation programs. In the beginning of FY2014, The Arc was able to afford to bring on part-time horticultural and art therapists offering new opportunities for individuals in all of our programs.

Lisa initially started in the art therapy and horticultural groups, she struggled to get along with peers, was reluctant to participate in projects and wasn't able to make a connection between the program and her own life.

In time, Lisa started to dabble in some of the projects and it became an avenue to explore

her interests and expand on her skills. She began to develop and strengthen relationships with her peers through group projects and often assisted others with cutting, painting or pasting. She developed a sense of purpose through the programs and has taken personal responsibility in tending to the plants on the days that horticulture groups do not meet. She even started to suggest project ideas and activities in both groups including the thought to paint memorial stones for a couple of people who suddenly passed away that attended the programs.

Lisa has become very interested and invested in what she does

in both the art therapy and horticulture groups. Now on her own time, she buys art and horticulture supplies with her own money and creates things on her own. She has integrated what she has learned into her life and overall has a more positive and flexible demeanor. Lisa has become a role model for her peers and a pleasure to work with. Lisa has become an inspiration to the horticultural and art therapists encouraging them to work harder with her and the other individuals with similar challenges.

The horticulture and art therapy programs have given Lisa and all who attend, a quiet space, a sense of ownership, and some peace in their busy day.



Left is pictured Lisa working on her art; Below is pictured Lisa holding one of her art pieces with Krista Bebez, Art Therapist at The Arc of Opportunity.



Read more success stories by clicking [here](#).

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