



The Arc Launches Sibling Project with New Partnership

Earlier this month, The Arc announced a new partnership with the national [Sibling Leadership Network \(SLN\)](#) and formed [The Arc's National Sibling Council](#) to foster the active involvement of siblings of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The sibling relationship is unique and siblings are critical to ensuring the full inclusion and participation of their loved ones in all aspects of life. The partnership with SLN and the National Sibling Council will connect siblings with each other and offer them opportunities to impact policy, service delivery and the quality of life for millions of Americans with I/DD through specialized programming, events and opportunities to connect.

We invite you to find out more about this new partnership and join the National Sibling Council today. Your membership in The Arc at the local, state or national level entitles you to be a part of the National Sibling Council and take advantage of opportunities created specifically for siblings of individuals with I/DD. Be the first to know about unique programs and resources as they become available from the Sibling Leadership Network, network with and find support from other siblings who share your concerns, attend events designed just for siblings and contribute to the leadership of The Arc with your valuable perspective.

"Families, including siblings, built The Arc into what it is today, and these initiatives build upon their decades-long work in the disability movement. Siblings don't always recognize their own unique ability to impact their loved one's life, and the lives of millions of other siblings just like them across the country, just by banding together, supporting each other, and speaking up," said Peter V. Berns, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc. "There is a tremendous opportunity in communities throughout the country to harness the power of siblings as advocates, working hand-in-hand with their brothers and sisters with I/DD, as a force for change. Siblings are a critical part of the movement to protect the rights of people with I/DD to be included in society."

[Be a part of the new Council by joining online today](#), a broad network of siblings supporting the advocacy and programmatic efforts of The Arc at all levels. As a member, you will not only receive the benefits that your chapter and our national organization already provide, but will become part of The Arc's leadership, participating in ad-hoc committees, task forces and face-to-face and online networking opportunities. The council will offer support and guidance and give members the chance to shape programs and offerings unique to their role as a sibling.

Those interested in becoming [Contributors to the Council](#), by donating additional funds, will ensure the establishment and sustainability of this essential new program. Go to the ["I Am A Sibling" page](#) on our website to learn more, join or contribute and be sure to tell other siblings you know about this unique new opportunity.

"Being a sibling of a person with I/DD is interesting, funny, frustrating, proud, challenging, loving and respectful. Growing up with my sister Martha, I could usually convince my parents to let her try something they were worried that she could not do by telling them that I would do it with her. How amazing it would have been to hear another sibling's stories - to learn how to manage something differently, to share anger, to boast of an achievement that to my friends might seem trivial, but another sibling 'knows' the triumph. The Sibling Leadership Network and The Arc's National Sibling Council are welcoming networks that identify with siblings, help them connect with information and with other siblings, and learn how to partner and to advocate." - Nancy Webster, Vice President of the National Board of The Arc of the United States and sibling to sister Martha who has I/DD.

