

**Media Release**

**For Immediate Release by Carrie Redman**

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**The Arc Allegany-Steuben's Annual Membership Drive in Full Swing**

The Arc is the world's largest community-based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. With a strong network of members and affiliated chapters, The Arc is able to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire communities; and influence public policy.

Membership begins in your own backyard! The Arc Allegany-Steuben has been active in your community since 1961, and currently provides supports to approximately 1,000 local people and families who are dealing with the challenges of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Your membership contribution supports advocacy at the national level and helps to provide quality direct services to people and families in Allegany and Steuben Counties. As a member, you ensure that your neighbors with disabilities have the supports they need to grow, develop and live in the community.

When you support the Arc Allegany-Steuben, you are supporting:

**Human Rights** - For centuries, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been abused, neglected, segregated and treated as less than human. As the oldest and largest non-profit serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, The Arc is a major defender of human rights, advocating for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they may be full citizens of the United States.

**Families** - Currently in the United States, almost all children and about 75% of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities who need significant levels of ongoing supports receive most or all of their supports in the context of the family home. Most or all of the supports are provided by a family member. Often, families do not have the information or support they need. The Arc provides information and support to families of people with developmental disabilities across the country and at the local level.

**Research** - The Arc maintains a focus on the role of research to enhance the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc actively advocates for inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in research and then disseminates the research results and information to help people and families stay abreast of research developments.



*Achieve with us.®*

Ultimately, membership gives the Arc Allegany-Steuben the voice it needs to make sure policymakers listen to our positions and platforms, essential to our long-term survival and growth. Please consider becoming a member of the Arc Allegany-Steuben today.

A year-long Arc Allegany-Steuben membership costs \$5 or for a one-time contribution of \$50, you can become a Lifetime Member of the Arc Allegany-Steuben, with all the benefits of membership and no annual renewal to worry about - ever. All memberships include a free t-shirt and for a limited time, Lifetime Memberships are buy one, get one free; when you become a Lifetime Member, you can sign someone else up for free!

Visit [www.thearcas.org](http://www.thearcas.org) to sign up online today or call Myriah at 607-622-1893.

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