An Update for I/DD Advocates

News and Events

Interns Wrap Up Their Work Period

Our group of five interns have completed their spring term with us, a great experience for them and for us. We're looking forward to some of them returning to work with us in the fall. Pictured below: the group posed together on their final day.
Autism Society of Alabama-Birmingham has Moved

ASA's new address is 4260 Cahaba Heights Court, Suite 188, Birmingham, AL 35243. All phone numbers are the same.

Your Arc at Work

Executive Director Speaks to Rotarians
ED Gena Richardson, a Rotarian herself, was invited to speak to the Montgomery Sunrise Chapter. Her talk addressed The Arc's role in advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the challenges that entails. As a result of her presentation, she received a commitment from an individual for a monthly contribution.

Apple Throws Support Behind Disability Emojis
Apple wants to see a host of new emojis introduced, all aimed at better representing people with disabilities in texts and other digital communications. Read More >

[Link](http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQozODdmM2YwMi1hZjQ3LTQ0M2QtY2NmYi1iNDNjZmJjZjc2NTkNCmh0dHBz]
Federal Budget Boosts Special Ed Funding, Addresses Autism Wandering

A $1.3 trillion government spending package will aid those with disabilities who wander while increasing special ed funding and tackling restraint and seclusion in schools, among other issues. Read More >

Kids' Show Features Cast With Autism

A first-of-its-kind kids' show with a star and core cast who are all on the autism spectrum is making its television debut. Read More >

Zappos, PBS Launching Apparel for Children With Special Needs

PBS KIDS is working with Zappos to introduce a clothing line aimed at meeting the unique sensory and adaptive needs of kids with disabilities. Read More >
We want to share your activities and achievements with our readers. Please submit material to bkoppy490531@gmail.com (http://www.thearc.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YT1lLTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzpia29wcHk0OTA1MzFAZ21haWwuY29tDQotLS0). Images and video welcome.

**Insurance Update**

State employees are now covered by health insurance for autism therapies which began January 2018. Please let ASA know if your Self Funded Insurance Employer/your company chooses to cover autism therapy for employees. We would like to announce their addition to companies who cover autism in employee health plans in AL.

More Details (http://www.thearc.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YT1lLTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzpia29wcHk0OTA1MzFAZ21haWwuY29tDQotLS0).

**People First Assistance to Attend SABE Conference**

People First of Alabama has some limited funds to assist self-advocates to attend the SABE National Conference (http://www.thearc.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YT1lLTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzpzdGF0ZUBwZW9wbGVmaXJzdGFsLm5ldA0KLS0t) being held in Birmingham June 7-9, 2018. Applications are due by May 15, 2018. Contact state@peoplefirstal.net for information and a copy of the form.

**Respite Program**

Autism Society of Alabama will offer respite programs throughout the state. Respite means break for a caregiver. A break can mean so much to a parent or family member caring for a child or adult with ASD. ASA will provide families with approximately 20 hours of respite once annually while funding is available. First serve basis. The Respite Program will serve families in all 67 counties.

More Details (http://www.thearc.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQowZmYwMzkwMC03YT1lLTRkM2ItMTg0Ny04Zjg0Y2U0MjAwODcNCm1haWx0bzpia29wcHk0OTA1MzFAZ21haWwuY29tDQotLS0).

This program will be broadcast on Thursday, May 10, 1-2:30 p.m. (Central Time).

To see the conference flyer for this program click here (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click? w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmODA1YzQ2YyZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2Y2ZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YyZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YzZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2Y2ZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YyZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9y)

To register for this program click here (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click? w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmODA1YzQ2YyZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YzZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YyZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2Y2ZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9yMjAuMC5ldC9oiYyZg1LTRlNGdgtOnQxMy01MWJmODA1YzQ2YyZgNCmh0dHA6Ly9y)

The Arc of the US Resources

Our National organization offers access to many resources to assist with a wide variety of needs. Check our list of resources (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click? w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjNhMC0xMDJjZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8v d3d3LnRoaWFyYy5vcmvc2hdC13ZS1kby9yZXNvdXJjZXMuGlua3MNCi0tLQ).

Articles of Interest

Homeowners with Developmental Disabilities Bond as Roommates

For 14 years, men with developmental disabilities have owned their own home, meticulously maintaining it like no one else, and they wouldn't have it any other way. Read More (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click? w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjNhMC0xMDJjZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8v d3d3LnRoaWFyYy5vcmvc2hdC13ZS1kby9yZXNvdXJjZXMuGlua3MNCi0tLQ).
New Rules Led Ed Department Ignore Disability-Related Complaints

Under a new set of guidelines, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is dismissing numerous complaints, and special education advocates say they have little recourse.

Read More > (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vZGlzYWJpbGl0eXNjb29wLnVzMTAubGlzdC1tYW5hZ2UvY29tL3RyYWNrP3U9ZWRkMWI1YjVhYzEyOGVjOTY5ODE0ZTdjNCZpZD04YjVkNDFmMWEzJmU9ZjlhZGlyYzY0Zg0KLS0t)

What the New Tax Law Means for People With Disabilities

The Arc of the US Spring 2018 National Policy Matters describes impacts of the new tax law and how they affect people with disabilities. Read More > (http://www.thearcofal.org/so/7MB-sRCK/click?w=LS0tDQowODZiY2I3YS04MjNmLTQ0ZjQtNjIhMC0xMDJiZjc3N2RlMTYNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnRoZWFyYy5vcmcvZmlsZS9wdWJsawWMtcG9saWN5LWRvY3VtZW50LzE4LTAzMS1OYXRpb25hbC1Qb2xpY3ktTWF0dGVyc18ucGRmDQotLS0t)

The Arc of The Bay: Thinking Outside the Box to Improve Their Community and Their Chapter

This Florida chapter has made great strides since adopting branding guidelines and new approaches to their operation. Read More >