



Celebrating 50 Years!
1965-2015

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Faces of the The Arc

Cheryl Morgan

Director, On Campus Transition



Cheryl Morgan joined the On Campus Transition program in 2013 and loves working with the students, knowing that OCT makes a significant difference in their lives.

Arc Village Construction Begins

Bulldozers, saws, hammers, etc. will be humming soon as The Arc Village construction begins this month. The Village will be Florida's first affordable lifestyle community that is designed to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live independently while venturing into the greater community for employment, education and recreation.

Signatures to construction/development financing documents gave the "green light" to start the \$18.7 million build. Summit Contractors will lead the project according to architectural plans and specifications from PQH Group. The 97 one- and two-bedroom apartments, arranged in duplex or triplex villas along a circular drive, will be completed in phases. Moving date for the first group of residents is anticipated for March 2016, with the final group moving in June 2016.

A vision for The Arc Village was set in 2006 by families, program participants and The Arc Jacksonville board of directors. Land for The Village was deeded to The Arc Jacksonville in 2010 by the State of Florida. Funding to build the project has been secured through a combination of tax credits awarded by The Florida Housing and Finance Commission, state grants and The Arc Jacksonville capital campaign. An endowment to assist future residents in the case of unanticipated financial emergencies has been established at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The remaining Village fundraising objective is to raise \$700,000 from the private sector prior to resident move-in to provide furnishings and equipment for the community center, vehicles for resident transportation and initial staffing to support full operations prior to full resident occupancy. To achieve the \$2 million goal for the

Before coming to The Arc Jacksonville, Cheryl spent a few years as a middle school special educator. It was during her doctoral studies at the University of Florida that she learned about post-secondary education programs for young adults.

Cheryl hopes that within the next year the OCT program will "continue to stay on the cutting edge of post-secondary education for adults with intellectual disabilities," she said. Her goals are "to expand our UNF class options and internship opportunities."

When Cheryl isn't working, she's spending time with family and friends, reading, going to the beach or traveling.

Because of The Arc... I am making a difference in the lives of young adults and I have my dream job.

Amazon Wish List

The Arc Jacksonville's programs are always in need of items to enhance daily activities. **We have created a wish list of these items on Amazon.**

If you would like to purchase any of these items, they can be mailed to:
The Arc Jacksonville
Attn: Development
1050 North Davis Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209

AmazonSmile

Go through AmazonSmile for all of your Amazon purchases and 0.05% is donated to The Arc Jacksonville.

Don't forget Mother's Day is coming soon. Amazon is a great place to find a gift she'll love, while also giving back to The Arc Jacksonville.

endowment fund, another \$1 million will be sought from area philanthropists and charitable foundations.

EmployMeFirst Website Launch



Kelsey Adams, W&O Supply

The Arc Jacksonville recently launched our EmployMeFirst website. The website is not only a place where people with disabilities can look for jobs and post their skills, but it is also a place where employers seeking a diverse workplace can list their job opportunities and find potential employees.

[Read the full article written by the Florida Times Union](#)

Travel Training with JTA

Our Xperience Program partnered with JTA to provide travel training to participants.

JTA travel trainer Jessica Perez worked with participants weekly to teach them how to ride public transportation independently.

Individuals were taught to read a bus schedule, access the JTA website to plan their trip and proper bus etiquette.

Xperience participants put their skills to practice by riding the bus to and from the library.



Mission Moment

Students from The Arc Jacksonville's On Campus Transition Program (OCT) at The University of North Florida are interviewed for this month's Mission Moment. Our OCT program serves young adults 18 and older who have completed high school coursework. The program's key focus is on academic enhancement, career development, university life, health/personal growth, independence and community life. Students are encouraged to become self-advocates while enjoying the college experience.

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On April 24, 2015 The Arc Jacksonville celebrated the graduation of six OCT students. Congratulations Andy Cox, Cara Stieglitz, Hayley Hess, Lamar Thompson, Nathaniel Brackett and Sean Hall on all their hard work. The Arc Jacksonville wishes you much success!

[Click here to learn more about three students currently enrolled in our OCT program.](#)



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