

**Mission:** To serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential to participate in community life.

**Vision:** A community where disability is a distinction without a difference, where individuals will have choices on how they live, learn, work, worship, and play.

**Programs and Services:** The Arc Jacksonville has served our community's citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1965. The organization began within a grassroots movement to provide educational opportunities for special needs persons who were not well-served by the public education system. Over the decades, The Arc program has evolved and expanded to offer a wide range of services within community settings.

Today The Arc has an annual operating budget of \$8.3 million, serves approximately 500 individuals daily and provides employment for approximately 145 staff members as well as service opportunities for 33 AmeriCorps and 6 VISTA members. Traditional day programs are offered from a facility in downtown Jacksonville and one in the Westside. Residential services are available in five group homes nestled within the neighborhoods of Arlington, St. Nicholas, Ortega Farms and Mandarin. Additionally, The Arc Jacksonville Village, a neighborhood designed to promote an independent lifestyle for persons with I/DD, opened in May 2016. The Village is an affordable rental community located in a thriving suburban area that offers the 121 residents easy access to employment, transportation, shopping and recreational pursuits.

For those seeking post-secondary educational opportunities, Arc has developed two innovative transition programs. Xplore provides community-based experiential learning from a home base at Chets Creek Church, 4420 Hodges Boulevard, and On Campus Transition offers a four-year college experience, including peer residential living, on the campus of the University of North Florida. The Arc Jacksonville serves as a source of information and support for the entire Northeast Florida area through its advocacy program, called A.S.K. (Advocacy, Support and Knowledge).

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The Arc Jacksonville invites people of "all ages and stages" to share their expertise and passion with the persons we serve. Volunteer positions range from leading a fitness class or providing an experience in music, song and dance to sharing knowledge of computers, cooking or networking. First step is to contact us at [volunteer@arcjacksonville.org](mailto:volunteer@arcjacksonville.org), (904)355-0155, or SCAN to register for volunteering.

