# The Link



#### www.arcfc.org

**August 2019** 



#### **Celebrating 40 Years of Dedication**

A promise to her sister ignited a life-long commitment for Joanna Pierson to create enviable lives for people with developmental disabilities. Join us as we proudly celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Joanna Pierson as Executive Director of The Arc of Frederick County.

Beginning her career as the only paid staff of The Arc in 1979, Joanna worked with local and state advocates to create an agency with a division that provided services to more than 14,000 people with developmental disabilities In Maryland before spinning off that entity in 2006. Joanna's 40 years of leadership with The Arc has allowed her to create inclusive communities with her core belief that all people should live a life with purpose and meaning with people you care about and people who care about you.

As a life-long advocate, Joanna has a strong commitment to self-determination and partnering with people with developmental disabilities and their families to locate inclusive supports, and where supports currently do not exist, to be the leader who can excite and organize the community to establish new services.

This was particularly evident when in 2012, the Jeanne Bussard Center closed without notice, and dozens of people with disabilities suddenly found themselves without critical day services. Joanna immediately opened the doors of The Arc, welcoming each person and quickly assisting them with the help they needed to continue their jobs and maintain meaningful day connections. Joanna's ability to inspire others led the local community to rally behind her as The Arc purchased the building and opened a coffee shop, began a culinary training program, and created an event space that brings people with and without disabilities together for trainings, special events, concerts, art exhibits, with many other festive gathering in the works.

Joanna's commitment is not only to her local community. Joanna passes down her strong value based beliefs of how to support people as a professor with The University of Maryland's School of Social Work where she inspires the next generation of social workers. Her service as President of The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has afforded Joanna to make a positive impact for people with disabilities and their families throughout the country. Her travels to Russia, India, and Israel have allowed Joanna to create world-wide partnerships to share best practices around the globe.



As The Arc celebrates Joanna's 40 years as Executive Director, we thank you for your leadership and recognize that you lovingly fulfilled your promise to your sister, Marcia, to make a world where people can live the way they want to and be part of their communities.

### **Save the Date! Unity Campaign for Frederick County**

The Arc of Frederick County is proud to be a part of the 2019 Unity Campaign for Frederick County sponsored by The United Way of Frederick. From **September 9th through September 21st** you can make a donation to the Unity Campaign and designate The Arc of Frederick County. By making a contribution to this campaign, your donation will be matched (your donation will be doubled)! All proceeds will benefit children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities in our community. For more information visit <u>www.unityfrederick.com</u>. Thank you for your support!

## INAUGURAL HOLIDAY MARKET

Hosted by The Arc of Frederick County Saturday, November 16th from 10:00am-5:00pm 555 South Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701.

Hand-crafted items, food, and good music! Crafters tables and two chairs @ \$25 each, Food truck spots @ \$100 each

Contact Maya Howard at 301-663-0909 x158 or at mhoward@arcfc.org to secure your spot!

## We're Hiring!

Are you creative, energetic, and dependable?

Would you like to provide support for adults and children with disabilities to participate in community activities?

The Arc of Frederick County is seeking people who are interested in full-time and part-time job opportunities as direct support Coaches, who help people where they live or work or while participating in activities in our community. Great pay, flexible hours, Frederick County and Allegany County locations. Requirements for each position include a valid driver's license with good driving record, clear background checks, and participation in required trainings.

Apply Online at www.arcfc.org





# Thanks To Our Contributors

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620A Research Court Frederick, MD 21703 <u>www.arcfc.org</u> 301.663.0909 August 2019

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See our website for a listing of upcoming events





Achieve with us.