



For people with intellectual & developmental disabilities

## Winter 2011 Newsletter

[thearcofislandskagit.org](http://thearcofislandskagit.org)  
 3045-The-Arc (304)584-3272  
[arcofislandskagit@gmail.com](mailto:arcofislandskagit@gmail.com)

### PLANS TO CUT STATE BUDGET WILL CRITICALLY AFFECT YOUR FUNDING!!! Advocates and parents come to Olympia and speak out - Make your voice heard!

Advocacy Day begins at 10:00am on Wednesdays during the legislative session. We start the day with an hour briefing on current issues and end with an afternoon of advocacy (about 3:00 p.m.). While we feature a highlighted topic each week, the morning briefing will also cover late breaking news on budget items and bills of interest relating to individuals with developmental disabilities.

We have additional funding for transportation this year to bring as many family members and self advocates down to Olympia as possible. Please [contact us](#) with one week advance notice if you would like to ride along. We would love to have you join us!

The \* items in red below are the largest events that are especially important. Please plan to attend at least one or both of these.

<b><u>2011 ADVOCACY DAYS</u></b>		<b><u>*January 19*</u> DD Briefing Legislative Reception</b>
<b><u>January 26</u> Session Overview</b>	<b><u>February 2</u> Budget Overview</b>	<b><u>February 9</u> Employment Funding</b>
<b><u>February 16</u> Medicaid State Plan Services</b>	<b><u>February 23</u> HCBS Waivers</b>	<b><u>March 2</u> Legal Issues</b>
<b><u>March 9</u> Family/Self Advocate Funding</b>	<b><u>March 16</u> Education Concerns</b>	<b><u>March 23</u> Legislative Budgets</b>
<b><u>*March 30*</u> → Independent Living Day Rally ←</b>	<b><u>April 6</u> Autism Issues</b>	<b><u>April 13</u> Session Wrap-up</b>



### The New Year & Spring is typically a time to PURGE AND ORGANIZE our homes...

To schedule our truck to pick up your donation of USED CLOTHING, BEDDING, LINENS, PURSES, SHOES & SMALL HOUSEHOLD GOODS, call our NW Donation Office

~1.800.446.4980 or e-mail [arcbhwa@callatg.com](mailto:arcbhwa@callatg.com) DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE!



We welcome your donations of any kind! Your generosity enables us to fulfill our mission - providing opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities! **(Tax deductible receipts provided for all donations.)**

For Ca\$h donations, **please make checks** payable to The Arc of Washington with "The Arc of Island & Skagit" on the memo line. Send to: The Arc of Island & Skagit, c/o The Arc of WA, 2638 State Avenue NE, Olympia, WA 98506

**Do you have a car or truck you don't know what to do with? How about an old boat or RV?** Don't worry, we'll take it! Donate your spare vehicles to The Arc of Washington State. This donation is *tax deductible*. **Plus, we'll come and get it from you** and do your IRS and Dept. of Licensing paperwork for you! For more information please contact our SW Donation Office at 1.800.826.4310 or e-mail [donate@arcwa.org](mailto:donate@arcwa.org)



## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH.

Sec. 3 of SB 6313 states, "Annually, during the month of October, each public school shall conduct or promote educational activities that provide instruction, awareness, and understanding of disability history and people with disabilities. The activities may include, but not be limited to, school assemblies or guest speaker presentations."

"It is important that our youth understand history in order to appreciate how individuals with disabilities have been viewed and treated."

### Key messages:

- We are all different in some ways. We are all alike in many ways.
- We are all more alike than different. Even though we are all different, we have the same feelings and enjoy the same things.
- It is okay to be different. Differences make us who we are.
- Kids with more noticeable differences, like all kids, just want to be themselves and have fun.

By teaching Disability History in schools, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that history is not repeated and that there continues to be movement towards an even more accessible society in future generations.

### History:

- Court Jesters – made fun of
- Locked up in cages in town squares where they were mocked & abused
- More recently referred to as "retarded" and placed in Institutions

**Not only do we want to make our school superintendents, administrators, and teachers aware of their requirements by law to teach Disability History Awareness, we want to give them the tools to do it.**

**Please help us by sponsoring a resource box... up**



### NOMINATE A LOCAL HERO!

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile for people with developmental disabilities? We want to hear how they are making a difference and acknowledge their efforts with a special award. Contact us for nomination information or to donate a prize.



**Goals for People with developmental disabilities:**

**Equal Opportunity  
Full Participation  
Independent Living  
Economic Self-Sufficiency**

**Resources:** Books, DVD's, Games & Written Materials. Prices Range from \$10 and up per item. Complete Box: \$500. Sponsors will receive recognition with their names/ logos attached to the individual resources & box(es).

**TO SPONSOR A RESOURCE BOX (OR PORTION THEREOF), FOR AN ISLAND OR SKAGIT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, PLEASE CONTACT US.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

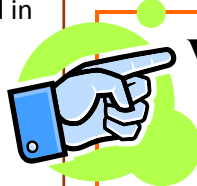
**We are here for you!**

**How can we help? Contact Us:**

**[www.thearcofislandskagit.org](http://www.thearcofislandskagit.org)**

**[arcofislandskagit@gmail.com](mailto:arcofislandskagit@gmail.com)**

**3045-The-Arc (304)584-3272**



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

**BOARD MEMBERS needed for The Arc of Island & Skagit on an annual basis!**

Board members are:

- \* Individuals with developmental disabilities
- \* Parents, guardians, or family members of someone with developmental disabilities
- \* Service Providers for people with developmental disabilities.

To be a Board Member requires a commitment of 3-4 hours per month for meeting preparation and meeting attendance. Board meetings are held approximately once a month for 2 – 3 hours. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, call 3045-The-Arc.