



Jefferson, Clear Creek
& Gilpin Counties

What We Believe

The following Core Values and Guiding Principles were developed and adopted by The Arc's national headquarters. The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties embraces these values and principles and embodies them in our work and lives.

Core Values

People First. The Arc believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths, abilities and inherent value, not by their disability.

Equity. The Arc believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to the respect, dignity, equality, safety, and security accorded to other members of society, and are equal before the law.

Community. The Arc believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities belong in the community and have fundamental moral, civil and constitutional rights to be fully included and actively participate in all aspects of society.

Self-determination. The Arc believes in self-determination and self-advocacy. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with appropriate resources and supports, can make decisions about their own lives and must be heard on issues that affect their well-being.

Diversity. The Arc believes that society in general and The Arc in particular benefit from the contributions of people with diverse personal characteristics (including but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender and type of disability).

Guiding Principles

Participatory Democracy. The Arc acts to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents, siblings, family members and other concerned members of the public have meaningful opportunities to inform and guide the direction of the organization's advocacy, including determining policy and positions on important Arc.

Collaboration. The Arc works with individuals, organizations and coalitions in a collaborative fashion. The Arc values and promotes effective partnerships between volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization.

Transparency, Integrity and Excellence. The Arc conducts its business with integrity, accountability, and open, honest and timely communication. The Arc is committed to quality and excellence in all its does.

Achieve with us.



Our Promise

The following statements were developed by this Arc chapter to articulate how we choose to work within the organization as well as in the community.



As advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

- We base our interactions, whether internal or external, on The Arc's Core Values and Guiding Principles.
- We are responsive and honor our commitments to the people we serve, to one another, and to ourselves.
- We respect individuals and families wherever they are on their journey and meet them there.
- We begin all relationships from a position of trust, and make every effort to see all sides of any situation.
- We listen with both open hearts and minds.
- We communicate honestly, tactfully and with respect, always.
- We use our resources effectively and efficiently to best serve our community.
- We provide people with factual, unbiased information to enable them to make informed choices.
- We provide and gratefully accept constructive feedback given in the spirit of moving the mission forward.
- We strive to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, as we value maintaining long-term, systemic relationships with our community and the people we serve.
- We commit to being informed on issues concerning and resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Our Purpose

Founded in 1961, The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties is one of more than 700 chapters of The Arc across the United States. More than 140,000 members strong, we are a part of the largest national organization of and for people with I/DD and their families, promoting and protecting their human rights and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. We foster respect and access, giving people with I/DD the power to achieve full and satisfying lives.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Providing leadership in addressing the choices and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families while safeguarding the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, facilitating choices, and promoting independence and inclusion in community life.