Community Organizing For Impact
A View From the Field

Creating Advocacy Impact Teams
College Students as Advocates
Creating Advocacy Impact Teams

• Strategy: At The Arc’s statewide annual DD Day in the State capital we try to have visits with all State legislators

• Challenge: The Arc Baltimore’s area (Baltimore City and County) has 14 legislative districts, each with one State Senator and (usually) 3 delegates

• Need: To develop enough ‘teams’ to cover as many as 50 visits in a single day
Creating Advocacy Impact Teams

- Recruited parents/family members, Board members and other volunteers, staff and self-advocates to ‘join’ an Advocacy Impact Team: “Make a Difference”

- Promoted through staff and membership mailing (letter and flyer), newsletter, social media

- Simple sign-up process - by phone or e-mail - no forms

- Orientation/training offered - includes role playing/mock visit
Advocacy And You: Now's The Time

Please consider joining one of our new Advocacy Impact Teams - if you haven't already. Plus, take advantage of an education program on January 19th at 6:30, Advocacy and You: Now's the Time!, to learn more about the challenges we can expect in the upcoming General Assembly and how you can be an advocate for the funding, programs, and policies affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Both of these opportunities are intended to strengthen our impact on the legislative process during the upcoming MD General Assembly (running from January 13th-April 11th) - and prepare for Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis on February 10th (if you can plan to attend).

Also, note the actions required to participate -- contact information to sign up for the impact team on the flyer and rsvp for the education program.

Developmental Disabilities Day In Annapolis

This year's theme is "Equal Rights and Opportunities." Please join us as citizens with developmental disabilities, families, providers and advocates convene in Annapolis to meet with legislators about critical disability issues at Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

10 AM - Registration & Cont. Breakfast, Legislative Briefing & Program

After briefing, we will meet with Legislators

Loews Annapolis Hotel- Atrium & Ballroom
126 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

If you would like to attend or need more information, please contact Nina Georgopoulos at 410-296-2272 ext. 5210. If there is enough interest in transportation, we will provide a bus to Annapolis. Please be sure to let us know if you are interested. We will cover all fees for those registered through us.
Creating Advocacy Impact Teams

SUCCESS

• Recruited more than sixty individuals, some from nearly each of the State legislative districts in the Greater Baltimore area

• Enabled us to have enough teams to meet with 44 Baltimore area representatives (or their staff) on DD Day in Annapolis
College Students as Advocates

• Longtime relationship with local University

• Students taking a writing course (“Rhetoric”) would interview individuals/families, on the waiting list as well as ‘success’ stories

• Created compelling personal stories to distribute to State legislators during the State legislative session
This year, one student was so impressed by the success of her interviewee that she volunteered to testify with him at the legislative hearing on the State DD budget.