

The Arc of Whatcom County 2015 Report

As lead agency for **Whatcom Taking Action**, we have helped

- build, enhance and maximize community partnerships;
- improve health and developmental outcomes by engaging families as partners, leaders, and agents of change in local policy-making;
- improve care-coordination and support medical home activities.

The **SEAS** (Single Entry Access to Services) **phone line** has been established, providing a centralized connection accessing services for all children with special health care needs.

Our **Smiles of Life Calendars** are displayed in over 850 homes, schools, medical offices and businesses in Whatcom County.

Our **Young Adult Self-Advocacy** group continued their "Hunger Takes a Holiday" campaign and in the fall months collected over **100 pounds of food** for the Bellingham Food Bank. They also successfully planned and facilitated an all-ages, all-abilities **Halloween Party** for community inclusion.



Our mission: to improve the quality of life, increase the independence and assure the full inclusion in the community of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our vision: to be an effective resource, a strong advocate, and a dedicated base of support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

We provide services to individuals and families based on the principles of self-determination. People with developmental disabilities and their families want services and supports delivered by a system that allows them choice and control over their lives. People with developmental disabilities are equal citizens, people first, and the disability is secondary. People with developmental disabilities have needs, wants and dreams like everyone else, and with respectful support, information and advocacy, these needs can be met and dreams achieved.

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In 2015, The Arc of Whatcom County provided:

- **Family Support Events** for **710** individuals, including the **Down syndrome Outreach Buddy Walk** and **Spring Fling**.
- **Inclusion Advocacy, Disability Awareness and Outreach** to over **189** community members.
- **Informational and educational newsletters** to over **1,637** individuals and families in Whatcom County.
- **Information and education** to **450** requests for individualized problem solving, identifying needs for support, developing plans for action with individuals, parents and caregivers.



- **Advocacy Training** to **134** individuals including legislative advocacy, school partnership and self-advocacy.
- **Technical Assistance, Resources and Support** to **314** educators regarding inclusion and self-determination.
- **Electronic Alerts** to **1,436** individuals with timely information on local, regional, state and federal activities, trainings and events.
- **416 informational packets** on hiring caregivers, legal planning, and financial planning information.
- **Senior Family Support** to over **170** aging caregivers with information, coaching and direct advocacy in long-term planning.

Board of Directors:

Missy Bartel, Bobbie Wiley, Susan Radke,
Todd Childs, Dale Whipple, Susan Larson

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