2020

The Arc
of Delaware

Annual Report

Welcome to The Arc of Delaware!

Although 2020 started out normally, the Covid-19 pandemic explosion in March presented new challenges to how we could continue serving persons with IDD safely and effectively.

As businesses began shutting down and health guidance recommended self-quarantine, many people around the country found themselves homebound and isolated from their friends, with no outside activities available and no end date in sight. For persons with IDD, who rely heavily on their routine of daily work and social interactions, these changes also posed a significant risk to their mental health.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, members and dedicated staff, The Arc of Delaware was able to continue advocating for people with IDD throughout the state while adapting our services in creative ways to meet their emerging needs.

For example, our most popular community event by far has been our monthly dances, consistently attended by several hundred people with IDD. When the venues shut down in 2020, we switched to virtual dance parties. By hosting Zoom sessions with dedicated DJs and their popular music, people could still see each other and dance together 'in the cloud' via free video conferencing technology.

Our employment team also adapted services to enable continued support as needed for essential workers. In fact, despite the limited number of open businesses in 2020, we were still able to help people land new jobs. For example, because we were not permitted to accompany one nervous candidate during a prospective employer interview, we spent many hours ahead of time role-playing and preparing her to discuss her resume and experience with confidence. These efforts boosted her self-esteem and resulted in a successful interview and job offer.

We are proud of the adaptations we implemented despite extreme challenges to keeping everyone safe. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to continue serving the 150 individuals who rely on The Arc of Delaware for help with living, working and socializing in their communities. And with your sustained support, we can build on these to better serve those who need us now and in the future.

Gary Heckert
President

The Arc
of Delaware

Our mission: We promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, actively supporting full inclusion and participation in the community through advocacy & services.

Adjusting to Change on the Job

"Annie" was a long-term employee at the local supermarket. In addition to rounding up carts, she helped keep the store in order and the customers smiling.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, her store implemented many new policies and procedures to keep everyone safe, including different shift hours, scheduled wipe-downs of equipment and one-direction aisles, along with masks and social distancing. Customers were suddenly tense and anxious, and some seemed to lose patience more easily.

All these simultaneous changes to her established routine and environment threatened to overwhelm Annie, which put her job as an essential worker at risk.

Fortunately, The Arc of Delaware employment team was able to guide her through these changes, helping her understand the whys and hows of each new task.

They also helped Annie acquire the additional supports she needed to adjust to the changes, build her coping skills and keep her job.

Virtual Dance Parties

Hundreds of people with IDD in Delaware look forward to the Friday night dances held by The Arc of Delaware each month.

When the venues shut down in 2020, The Arc switched to virtual dance parties to help offset the pandemic isolation.

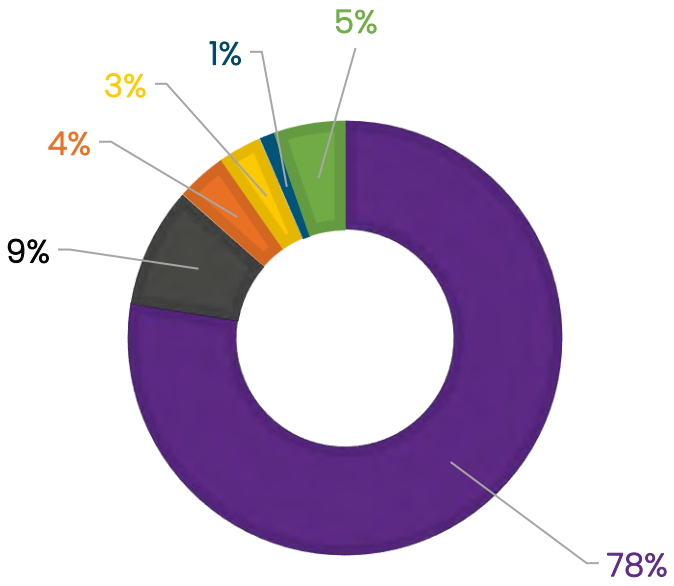
DJs played their popular music and sometimes offered ‘open mic’ time so that attendees could see each other, chat and move around within the safety of their own homes.

“These virtual dances were the highlight of my son’s time at home during the pandemic. Each month, he made sure he was in his party clothes and seated in front of the computer before 7:00, ready to rock out when the DJ started the music. He was so happy to see all of his friends on Zoom, and really enjoyed laughing and dancing with them again.”

2020

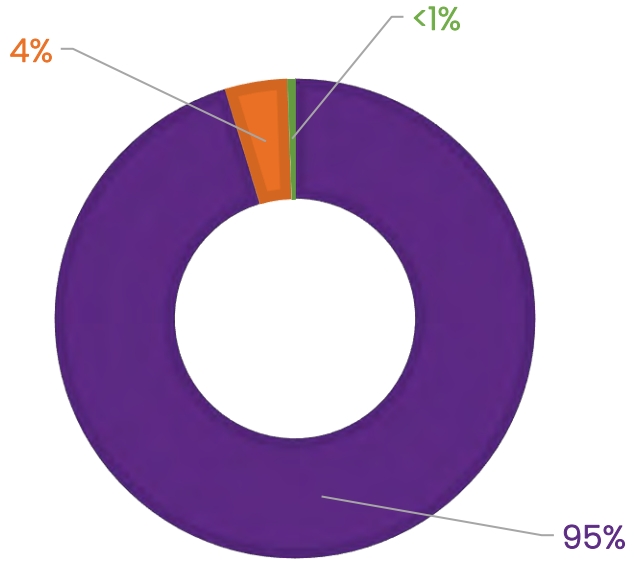
REVENUE

- Rental Income
- Program Fees
- Special Events
- Foundations & Grants
- Contributions
- Investment/Other



EXPENSES

- Programs & Services
- Administration
- Fundraising



The Arc of Delaware

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And don't forget to follow us on social media!

The Arc
of Delaware

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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