

More than 300 individuals have graduated from The Arc's Partners in Policymaking program, a leadership training program for adults with disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. They have touched and changed the lives of thousands more through projects ranging from a website [www.providinghands.com](http://www.providinghands.com) designed to provide links to resources for family members and self-advocates to a Buddy Walk that raised over \$10,000 in Charles County.



*"I continue to create change..."  
Tonia Ferguson  
with her son,  
Jared.*

*"It helped us look outside our family. And when you learn how to help others, you learn how to help yourself as well."  
Richard & Valerie Sharp*



Partners began in 1987 in Minnesota and is now found in 46 states and five countries. More than 13,000 people have completed Partners training including 300 in Maryland.

Our vision in Maryland is to recruit participants who come from every corner of the state and who represent many different types of developmental disabilities. We encourage applications from young adults with disabilities to family members with children with developmental disabilities interested in becoming strong leaders in the disability movement.

***"It was worth the big commitment. Partners provides truly relevant information which I have been able to use on a practical level."***

***"Through Partners, I have found my voice!"***



***For additional information or to request an application please contact:***

The Arc of Maryland, Inc.  
49 Old Solomons Island Road, Suite 205  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-571-9320 \* 888-272-3449

Or go on-line to  
[www.thearcmd.org](http://www.thearcmd.org)

*Maryland Partners in Policymaking, a program of The Arc of Maryland with funding through the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Department of Rehabilitative Services & Private Contributions. For more information on supporting the program contact The Arc of Maryland.*



***Inspiring a brighter future for people with developmental disabilities & their families through leadership training***

*A program of*



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM!

Partners in Policymaking is a national leadership-training program. Partners is about systems change - creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with developmental disabilities for inclusive lives. It is based on the belief that the most effective and enduring public policy decisions are made by the people who need and use services in partnership with elected officials and other policymakers. It is about becoming confident in yourself, competent in the knowledge and information you will receive, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise you bring to the program.

So....

Are you interested in advocating for yourself and for others?

Are you committed to attending all meetings and completing all assignments?

If yes, then request an application today!

## CLASS FORMAT

- Eight overnight weekend sessions are held throughout the year
- Sessions include an overnight session at the Maryland General Assembly
- Partners select and complete a project for systems change with homework assignments
- Lodging and Meal are provided at no cost to participants.

## WHAT YOU LEARN!

History of the Disability Movements: Parent, Independent Living and Self-Advocacy

Education: Inclusion—IDEA, Federal & State Laws, the IEP & IP Process

Building Inclusive Communities— Service Coordination, DDA System, Waivers, Housing, Supported Employment / Businesses, Personal Assistant Services, Self-Advocacy

Federal & State Policy & Legislative Issues, Impacting the Legislative Arena , Visiting the Maryland Legislature, State Budgets, How a Bill Becomes a Law, Contacting & Meeting Legislators

Severe Disabilities and Supports for Inclusion, Assistive Technology , Behavioral Supports Transition Planning, DORS Services

Tools for Effective Advocacy: Media, Boards of Directors, Forming Friendships, Grant Writing, Grass Roots Organizing, Public Speaking, Advocating Strategies

Financial Planning, Wills & Living Trusts, Creating Visions for the Future



*At Partners, I learned a lot about many organizations and wanted to start my own...I am working and fighting for people's rights...I am making a difference."*

*Anna Burkett (left)*

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The Partners in Policymaking doesn't create a citizen or an advocate, it provides the access and support for citizens like Anna to emerge. The Partners empowers.

- 85% participate in advocacy groups
- 68% participate in grassroots activities
- 90% serve on boards, committees and task forces
- 100% are dedicated to changing the world for people with disabilities

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Partners graduates are:

- Board members of many local groups supporting people with disabilities
- Members of their local Special Education Advisory Councils
- Kennedy Fellows
- Directors of Public Policy
- Members of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities
- Advocacy Leaders

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## You Can Too!

**Partners in Policymaking is seeking a diverse group of highly motivated and enthusiastic men and women from across Maryland to participate in the Partners in Policymaking Program**