



**February 13, 2024**

**The Arc Maryland Annual Awards Program**

The Arc Maryland is planning to hold our Annual Meeting and The Arc Maryland Awards celebrations at The Arc Maryland Convention on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. Connecting with people, honoring outstanding achievements, and celebrating accomplishments are always important to us; so many wonderful people and groups have done incredible things.

**The Arc Maryland Awards Program** is designed to recognize those individuals, groups, and local chapters of The Arc whose contributions in the field of developmental disabilities represent meritorious service or achievement and warrant special statewide recognition and honor.

**Nominations for Awards must be received by Wednesday, April 3, 2024.**

The Awards presentations will be held throughout the day on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. The details include:

- Chapter Volunteer of the Year Awards will be presented at a breakfast celebration from 8:00 – 9:00 am.
- Individual Awards will be presented during luncheon reception from 12:00 – 1:30 pm.
- The Chapter DSP of the Year Awards will be presented at a cocktail reception from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

For more information and questions, contact Sharon Dols at (410) 571-9320 or by email at [sdols@thearcmd.org](mailto:sdols@thearcmd.org).

**The Arc Maryland Mission Statement**

The Arc Maryland works to create a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

## **The Arc – 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).

Award honorees will be selected based on accomplishments of individuals or groups, working for the advancement of people in accordance to The Arc's Core Values, Position Statements and Mission. To obtain a copy of The Arc's Position Statements, go to [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org).



**2024 AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM**

**Submit to:**

The Arc Maryland  
8601 Robert Fulton Dr., Ste 140  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Email: [sdols@thearcmd.org](mailto:sdols@thearcmd.org)

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: Wednesday, April 3, 2024**

**(Please print or type information)**

**NAME OF AWARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINEE:** \_\_\_\_\_

***(PLEASE VERIFY SPELLING OF NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON PLAQUE)***

**HOME ADDRESS OF NOMINEE:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE: (Note cell, office, or home)** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ON BEHALF OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST NUMBER TO REACH YOU:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NATURE OF SERVICE OR ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Please describe in no more than 300 words, the nature of activity and contribution for which the individual/organization merits recognition by The Arc Maryland.

Endorsements of awards nominations by other individuals or organizations or materials supporting the nomination are encouraged but not required. For help in completing the Awards Nomination Form, please contact Natalie Dohner at [ndohner@thearcmd.org](mailto:ndohner@thearcmd.org) or (410) 571-9320, ext. 203. ***Awards Descriptions are listed on the pages below.***

## **THE ARC MARYLAND AWARD PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

The Awards Program celebrates the mission and accomplishments of The Arc through recognizing and honoring individuals and organizations that further The Arc's mission and goals. To build greater cohesiveness and continuity with that mission, the Awards Program is designed to reflect the Association's mission statement, core values, and state and national position statements.

### **1. Legacy Award**

This award is presented on those occasions where the **individual's lifetime work leaves a legacy** for the future and mission of The Arc.

### **2. The Lorraine Sheehan-Bernard A. Gould Award for Volunteer Governmental Affairs Service**

This award is presented to **an individual who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service in governmental affairs** in one or more of the Association's priority goals areas. This award will be conferred at such times as the Awards Committee feels warranted, to only those candidates whose contributions have been exceptional.

### **3. Outstanding Advocate of the Year Award**

This award is presented for advocacy leadership on behalf of persons with **intellectual and developmental disabilities** and their families, including systemic change, legal advocacy, and professional endeavors that increase the rights of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have inclusive lives.

### **4. School Inclusion Award**

This award **recognizes a school, teacher, educator, administrator, support personnel, student, or other education professional** who has demonstrated excellence in providing quality inclusive educational opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, reflective of The Arc position on education and inclusion of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This may include early education, secondary education (including school-to-work transition programs), and higher education.

### **5. Employer of the Year**

This Employer of the Year is **presented to a private employer, business, or firm** with an exceptional record and commitment to provide competitive employment opportunities where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

6. **Stanley S. Sidle/William Ohge Jr. Memorial Citizenship Award**

This award honors **an individual with intellectual/developmental disabilities, (who is affiliated with The Arc)** for outstanding participation in or contribution to their community. Achievements may include community leadership, contributions to his/her community and/or self-advocacy.

7. **Community Professional of the Year Award**

This award recognizes an **executive/manager of an organization or community professional (this person is not an employee or board member of any chapter of The Arc in Maryland)**. Honorees' work will have direct relevance to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They may have demonstrated sensitivity and the ability to provide outstanding quality services which results in increased independence and inclusive lives for people with I/DD. The recipient(s) may demonstrate excellence in any of the following areas: residential supports, family supports, individual supports, employment supports, health supports, behavior intervention or support, or mentorships. Staff of The Arc employed at any level are not eligible for this award.

8. **The Arc Outstanding Employee of the Year – Administration/Program Management**

This award is presented to an **employee of The Arc in Administration/Program Management** at the state or local level who has made the greatest contribution to his/her organization and the mission of The Arc through both personal and professional efforts. This award recognizes the vital role of Arc employees in complementing volunteer efforts.

9. **The Direct Support Professional Award (Gilbert John Zucchi Award)**

**Each chapter of The Arc in Maryland is invited to nominate ONE Direct Support Professional for statewide honor and recognition.** The DSP shall be deemed to exemplify the qualities of Gil Zucchi, including superior moral strength and integrity, devotion to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities beyond the call of duty, warm personal relationships, respect, thoughtfulness and fairness in relationships with persons with developmental disabilities. This award is presented to The Arc employees in Direct Support who have made the greatest contribution to his/her/their chapters and the mission of The Arc through both personal and professional efforts.

10. **Chapter Volunteer of the Year**

**Each chapter of The Arc in Maryland is invited to submit ONE nomination of a person who demonstrates dedication to The Arc's Mission** through volunteer service to the organization and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These nominations are reviewed by The Arc Maryland Executive Committee.

**Other Awards**

These awards may be presented as deemed by The Arc Maryland Executive Committee and Awards Committee and are not subject to the public nomination process:

- **Legislator of the Year** – selected by the Chair(s) of The Arc Maryland Governmental Affairs Committee and Executive Director and affirmed by the Executive Committee.
- **President's Cup** – selected by the President of The Arc Maryland.