



CHARITY SPOTLIGHT SERIES

LYNX INVESTMENT ADVISORY

*1100 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 300,
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ARC OF HOWARD COUNTY

*Bringing a sense
of pride & accomplishment*



When we think of essential workers, nurses, doctors and first responders immediately come to mind. Few of us, however, think of the employees at organizations like Arc of Howard County, MD. But the work they do—**helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve full and meaningful lives**—is just as critical to the safety and well-being in the daily lives of those they serve.

The Arc of Howard County was founded in 1961 by parents and supporters searching for a better way to assist family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities to engage more fully in the community and with their own families and friends.

From that simple beginning, Arc has grown, and today provides different levels of assistance to nearly **300 individuals** in Howard County and their families. These include: partnering with local organizations and businesses to offer a range of community-based activities and experiences; offering individualized assistance to those living independently as well as 24 - hour nursing care to fully dependent individuals, and respite care to family caregivers; and working with individuals to identify and apply for employment opportunities, as well as provide on-the-job coaching and support.

Since 2014, Arc has also partnered with Howard County government and other county

organizations in **Project SEARCH Howard**—an internship program for transitioning high school students with developmental disabilities. During the course of a school year, students participate in three, 10-week internships covering a wide variety of career paths to help them transition to the workplace. Through both classroom and workplace experiences, interns gain training and practical experience that help them become more marketable in their job search and more productive members in the community.

We often forget the powerful impact work has in defining who we are. How often is the first question we ask a new acquaintance “What do you do for a living?” It gives many of us purpose, structure and direction, and allows us to become independent, contributing members of our communities.

Arc and Project SEARCH Howard -- enables those with extra challenges to achieve this in their lives.

During an interview for this profile, Barbara Moyer, Director of Marketing, Communications and Events at Arc said she was “*never so proud*” to work for a non-profit as she has been during this Covid 19 pandemic. “*It is places like The Arc of Howard County who have always been there for people, even before this crisis began, and will continue to be there, long after this crisis has passed.*”

www.archoward.org

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