

The Arc of Colorado would like to highlight our local units who are the backbone and the grassroots of this organization. Each unit has its own mission and goals and reaches out to meet the needs of their membership and we want to share their work.

The Association For Community Living In Boulder County

Mission Statement

We believe that people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities belong in the community in natural proportions—to live, to work and to participate fully in all aspects of community life. The ACL in Boulder County exists to ensure these rights by acting as a catalyst to promote attitudes, practices, programs, and policies that result in full participation.

The first meeting of the association was held at the Bowers' home in June, 1962, in Boulder, Colorado. The ensuing forty years have seen thousands of volunteer hours and thousands of meetings with self-advocates and families and agencies. Special education issues and the impacts of an under-funded adult service delivery system require advocacy more than ever, to monitor actions and articulate concerns about dignity and human rights.

In October, 1999, the Board of Trustees of the ACL expanded the advocacy vision of the association by purchasing a large home on five acres in the middle of Boulder County. With the assistance of many other volunteers, the Board of Trustees has created a new ACL Learning Center. Courses are offered for adults with cognitive disabilities and their friends in the community. The goals are friendship and learning for everyone.

In the spring of 2002, the ACL developed a relationship with Community Food Share of Boulder County. Crops from the ACL Learning Center Garden are provided to others needing food through the CFS distribution center. ACL students also have garden plots for their vegetables and flowers. CFS volunteers have been very gracious with their time and talents in making the new gardens a place of beauty and bounty.

Professors and students from the Computer Science and Architecture departments at the University of Colorado at Boulder have made major contributions of time and expertise in developing a Technology Clubhouse. Students can use computers, record and play videos, or create digital image notebooks for garden plans, recipes or correspondence with friends and family. Technology with accommodation is offered to every student, for their benefit and pleasure.

The ACL hosts the Colorado team for Positive Behavioral Supports, an adjunct to the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center programs offered nationally. The team works to increase understanding of Positive Behavioral Support, and to have constructive impacts in the lives of individuals with challenging behavior as well as the lives of their families and friends.

Our vision for the future for everyone includes accomplishment and the satisfaction of learning and creating, while forming new friendships based upon shared interest. Please join us. Our website is www.aclboulder.org.