



## Media & Press Kit

*This information packet will be useful in learning more about our organization.  
For further inquiries, please contact Ashley Winkle at 256.383.1472.*

### **Contents**

- Background
- Fact Sheet
- Noteworthy
- Recent Press Releases
- Membership & Giving
- Programs
- Contact Sheet

## Background

The Arc of the Shoals is a non-profit organization founded in 1958 by parents concerned about the exclusion of their children with mental retardation from public schools. Today, our mission has expanded far beyond its original intent.

Over the years The Arc of the Shoals has undergone several name changes. Originally, known as Muscle Shoals Association for Retarded Children and then the Association for Retarded Citizens we eventually changed our name to The Arc of the Shoals. Though our name may have changed several times, our devotion to people with disabilities in the community has been unceasing.

The Arc of the Shoals provides a community-based, family-centered advocacy and support system for all persons with developmental disabilities in Colbert and Lauderdale Counties. The goal of The Arc of the Shoals is to provide opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities by assisting them in accomplishing their goals of learning, living, working, and recreating where they choose.

The Arc of the Shoals has broad community support with local, state and private funding. We have a broad membership of family members, interested area residents and professionals. We are also a United Way Agency and a member of The Arc of Alabama and The Arc of the United States.

# Fact Sheet

## Mission

The Arc of the Shoals is committed to providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to assist them in accomplishing their goals of learning, living, working and recreating where they choose.

We are further committed to providing advocacy and education services for people with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and the community at large.

## Purpose

The overall purpose of The Arc of the Shoals is to promote the general welfare of persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. All program goals and objectives will be organized with this purpose in mind.

## Where We Are

The Arc of the Shoals main office is located in Tuscumbia, Alabama off Old Lee Highway at the Hope Haven Adult Training Center.

## Contact Information

**The Arc of the Shoals  
100 Lamar Avenue  
PO Box 501  
Tuscumbia, AL 35674**

Phone: 256.383.1472  
Fax: 256.383.1486  
Email: [info@thearcoftheshoals.org](mailto:info@thearcoftheshoals.org)

## Leadership & Management

The Arc of the Shoals is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and managed by paid professional staff.

Board President: Murray Townsend  
Executive Director: Donna Basden Akins

## Noteworthy

- As three women neared retirement age in October, 2006, The Arc of the Shoals along with Habitat for Humanity dedicated their fourth group home constructed together. The home will address the changing needs the women moving from other residential programs of The Arc of the Shoals and provide the services the women need to maintain quality of life. The 1,638 square foot structure includes handicap accessible features, four bedrooms, a living area, two bathrooms, a kitchen and an office.
- When Alabama's Waiting list case was filed in 2000, the State of Alabama claimed all persons with disabilities who needed services received them. In September 2006, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation acknowledged that more than 1,520 persons with developmental disabilities are on the State's Waiting List, and that the Waiting List grows by 30 to 40 individuals every month.
- As a result of the Alabama state waiting list, The Arc of the Shoals began looking for other sources of funding for persons with developmental disabilities. In 2007, The Arc of the Shoals began the necessary actions to create the SMILE tax. The SMILE tax proposes to tax soft drinks two cents, dedicating the funds to serve persons who are not yet served and those who are currently under served.
- In 2006, The Arc of the Shoals was named recipient of a \$14,500 grant from the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities. The grant was used to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in gaining access to services, supports, and information on disability issues offered across the lifespan in the Shoals area.
- In 2007, The Arc of the Shoals was named recipient of a \$61,937 grant from the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities. The grant was used to create a café style restaurant and catering service that will not only provide jobs for persons with Developmental Disabilities but provide an outreach to the community where the two can become interconnected with one another.

## Recent Press Releases

### New State Revenue Proposed for the Waiting List

TUSCUMBIA, AL (February 27, 2007)- In 2006 over 1400 people were on the Alabama Waiting List for Mental Retardation services. In 2007 the number on the state's Waiting List has over 1600 persons waiting for services. Over 40 people per month are being added to this list. Some have already waited for as long as 10 years.

This is not a new problem. In 1998 The Arc held its first Waiting List meeting. When a person with mental retardation reaches the age of 21 they are not always able to attend day habilitation centers. Parents are forced to quit work to care for their child with mental retardation. Aging parents are anxious because lack of state funding for residential programs makes the future care of their child uncertain. In 2004 there were over 12,000 persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in Alabama being cared for by parents over the age of 60.

Members of the Alabama Legislature have wanted to help, but most state revenue is earmarked. It is difficult to help these families without taking away from other just causes.

If each soft drink sold in Alabama were to have a two-cent (2¢) "SMILE" tax, then the state could provide services to all of the persons with mental retardation who are on the current Waiting List and many more who are waiting to be added to the list. (excerpt)

# Membership and Giving

## Membership

If you support our cause and want to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities become a member of The Arc of the Shoals. To become a member, contact us at:

**The Arc of the Shoals  
PO Box 501  
Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
256.383.1472  
thearcoftheshoal.org  
info@thearcoftheshoals.org**

## Giving

The Arc of the Shoals accepts gifts of cash, check, stock, matching gift programs, pledges through bequests, trusts, and other planned gifts. For more information, contact The Arc of the Shoals at 256.383.1472 or email us at [info@thearcoftheshoals.org](mailto:info@thearcoftheshoals.org).

# Programs

## Hope Haven Adult Training Center

In operation since 1958, Hope Haven assists adults with developmental disabilities in becoming as independent as possible. Training is tailored to the individuals we serve and includes independent living, economic self-sufficiency and self care. Focus is placed on integration into the community in an effort to enhance social skills.

Hope Haven receives funding from the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Medicaid, the Special Education Trust Fund and United Way. There are no fees for attending. Monitoring of the program and its records is done on an annual basis at minimum. Quality Assurance Reviews are held to insure quality of services.

## The Phyllis Lyle Work Center

The Phyllis Lyle Work Center is a component of Hope Haven and like Hope Haven, there are no fees for the program participants. The Work Center's goal is to teach skills needed to hold a job in our community. The goal is accomplished in part by performing contract work for local businesses such as Whitesell Manufacturing, Shoals Tubular and Allegra Printing. The Work Center also specializes in custom screen print orders of any size. The program is reviewed for effectiveness, participant payroll and record keeping annually at minimum.

## Supported Employment Program

In conjunction with Alabama Rehabilitation Services, The Arc of the Shoals assists consumers in becoming gainfully employed by matching them with jobs, assisting with job coaches and providing follow along services to insure their success.

Employers of persons with developmental disabilities in our area include: Frank's Restaurant, ECM Hospital, Helen Keller Hospital, Hardees, the Florence Recycling Center and Matt Pro.

## Supervised Living Program and Supervised Community Living Home

The Arc of the Shoals helps nineteen people in the Supervised Living Program and Community Living Home by providing transportation, money management, medical care, advocacy services and training in independent living skills. The people in both programs live in their own apartments within a community apartment complex. The Arc of the Shoals receives funding from the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation's for the programs and our agency meets the standards set forth by that agency.

### **Great Hall Intermediate Care Facility (ICF/MR)**

The ICF/MR receives funding from Medicaid and the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation. No fees are charged to the eight people who live in the home. Intensive training and supervision is provided on a twenty-four hour basis. The program must meet the standards of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Medicaid and Department of Public Health. The majority of the people who live in the home were institutionalized prior to moving to the ICF/MR.

### **The Jim Bell Home**

The Bell Home is a handicapped accessible co-ed home where three people live. Respite services are also provided in the home. Funding comes from United Way and the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation's Medicaid Waiver. Residents pay room and board, as Medicaid will not pay for these expenses. Twenty-four hour supervision is provided in the Bell Home, as well as assistance with personal care needs, meal preparation, medical management and independent living skills training. Programs must meet the standards of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

### **The Torbert Home**

The three men who live in the Bob Torbert Home receive twenty-four hour supervision, assistance with personal care needs, meal preparation, medical management and independent living skills training. Funding for the home is through the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation's Medicaid Waiver program and the United Way. The residents pay room and board expenses. The home meets the standards of the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation and Medicaid.

### **The Bill Trapp Home**

The three women who live in the Trapp Home receive twenty-four hour supervision, assistance with personal care needs, meal preparation, medical management and independent living skills training. Funding for the Bill Trapp home is through the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation's Medicaid Waiver program and the United Way. The women pay room and board expenses. The home meets the standards of the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation and Medicaid.

## Contact Sheet

**Address** 100 Lamar Avenue  
PO Box 501  
Tuscumbia, AL 35674

**Telephone** 256.383.1472

**Fax** 256.383.1486

**Website** [thearcoftheshoals.org](http://thearcoftheshoals.org)

**Email** [info@thearcoftheshoals.org](mailto:info@thearcoftheshoals.org)

**Media Contacts** Ashley Winkle