

MEMPHIS STANDS BEHIND WHAT IT BUILDS

This City Stepped Up When the Country Stood Still. Don't Let It Stop With You.



75 YEARS
THEY SAID NO.
MEMPHIS BUILT YES!

75 years ago, the country had no plan for people with disabilities. Families were told their children didn't belong.

Memphis said, we can do better.

When schools denied our kids, **we built classrooms in church basements.** When the buses wouldn't stop, **we organized carpools.** When jobs weren't offered, **we trained people and walked them into interviews.** When parents burned out, **we sent staff into their homes.** When there was no access, no inclusion, **we didn't wait, we built it.**

Because that's who lives here: people who change the country by refusing to accept the status quo.

We made Memphis the center of a civil rights movement that reshaped national law. We stood with sanitation workers when the rest of the country turned its back. We've marched, resisted, testified, and rebuilt. We've created sounds that changed the world and services that never should've had to be created in the first place, but we created them anyway.

The Arc Mid-South was born from that same soil. It came from families who built the world their children needed, brick by brick, dollar by dollar, family by family.

We've spent 75 years doing what every public system should've done. **That legacy doesn't just belong to our founders—it belongs to anyone who claims Memphis.**

If you carry this city's name, you carry this history. Now it's in your hands.

THE PROOF IS IN WHAT WE BUILT.

The Arc Mid-South does the work people pretend already exists. We're the ones helping people with disabilities keep their homes, hold onto jobs, get through school meetings, manage care plans, and live on their own without being isolated or forgotten.

serving from 1950



WHAT WE DO

ADVOCACY: Pioneering policies and programs that integrate individuals with disabilities into all facets of society.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: Equipping adults with disabilities with the skills they need to get hired and succeed in real jobs, with ongoing support.

DIRECT SERVICES: Providing the in-home support, transportation, education, and daily assistance people with disabilities need to live in their communities, not institutions.



BE THE NEXT BUILDER

901.327.2473 | thearcmidsouth.org

Other places still treat disability like a loss. Memphis doesn't. We know better.

We've seen people with disabilities start businesses, mentor students, build communities, and show up every day ready to work. **We don't ask what they can't do. We ask what they need to do it. And then we show up with it. Because everyone deserves the chance to contribute.**

That's what we believe here. And that's why The Arc Mid-South has lasted 75 years.



to 2025 and beyond

WHAT WE MADE HAPPEN IN 2024

1,350+ PEOPLE SERVED
ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

500+ HOURS OF LIFE SKILLS
HANDS-ON TRAINING

213 ADULTS IN LITERACY
AND GED PREP

85+ SUPPORT STAFF ENABLING
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

30+ STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN L.E.T.S. CLASSROOM

50+ FAMILIES RECEIVING
RESPITE CARE

THE GAP WE'RE STILL FILLING.



No one else funds these services. But they're the ones people rely on most.

L.E.T.S. CLASSROOM EXPANSION

Our classroom for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities is at capacity, with over 30 on the waitlist. Expanding it means more students, more instructors, and more of the daily structure that no public system provides. There's nowhere else to go. We built this space from scratch, and we'll expand it the same way—with your help.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

We don't turn people away because of paperwork or paychecks. Scholarships make sure the right people are in the room. They don't need to prove they belong. We already know they do.



WEEKEND & SUMMER RESPITE

These are often the only chances our folks get to spend a weekend away from home, surrounded by people who understand them. They don't happen unless we fund transportation, staffing, meals, and lodging ourselves.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FUND

Costs for member outings, like tickets or activity fees, aren't covered, so our staff often pay out of pocket. When staff can't afford these expenses, our members miss valuable opportunities to explore, connect, and truly be part of the world around them.



FUND THE FUTURE MEMPHIS SET IN MOTION

STAND IN THE GAP – FUND THE FUTURE

Memphis built this by taking care of its own. That commitment fueled classrooms, family relief, and critical support for our neighbors with disabilities. It reached further than any other system ever did.

More Memphians than ever need these services. The waitlist is growing, and the cost of providing dedicated care is rising. We're deeply grateful for our foundational support, but the needs of our community are outpacing our current resources.

UNFUNDED REALITIES

Our LETS classroom is full. 30+ students on a waitlist that continues to grow.

Without scholarships, students lose access to the structure and education they need.

Retreats and community outings survive on patchwork funding, often with DSPs covering costs themselves.

Accessibility, materials, and expansion costs exceed \$65,000 annually, with no reliable funding source.



WHAT YOU CAN MAKE POSSIBLE

\$15,000 Summer camp for 20 people, with full support and care.

\$5,000 Paid internships for 2 young adults to gain real job experience.

\$3,000 General operating fund for staff, supplies, and support that keeps everything running.

\$1,500 Job training equipment and adaptive tools in the hands of people ready to work.

\$1,000 Full week of one-on-one job training, tailored to one person's needs.

\$500 Online skill-building classes for someone ready to grow.

**We build. We fight. We fund the future.
That's the Memphis way.**



**YOUR TURN.
BUILD WHAT'S NEEDED**

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