

The Arc of Washington State

75th Anniversary



Pictorial Supplement to
Doing Disability Justice
75 Years of Family Advocacy
by Larry A. Jones



ADVOCATING AND SERVING INDIVIDUALS
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

“Yes, our ambitions are mighty, but our program is not for today, nor tomorrow, but for years to come.”

—Alan Sampson, May 1947



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Cover image of children by Martha Perske.

Seventy-five years ago, on October 21st, a small

group of parents gathered together in Seattle and Tacoma for the purpose of improving the lives of their sons and daughters who had intellectual disabilities. Within just a few months, they joined forces with parents in eastern and central Washington, and the birth of our country's first grassroots parent organization dedicated to children and adults with developmental disabilities was formed.

The following pages highlight the extraordinary journey of an organization that has withstood tremendous turmoil and challenges within itself and within the world of prejudice, war, and economic crises. Through it all, one common thread unites the generations: the pull to bring family members with developmental disabilities back to their home communities; first, with the creation of state schools, then with the push to establish facilities within urban communities and finally...back home to a full life of inclusion.

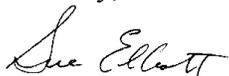
Although the objectives are diverse and, on the face, contradictory, this underlying value has remained constant and true.

This 75th anniversary collection of images and highlights depicts each decade through three lenses: organizational growth, philosophical evolution and legislative milestones. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Larry Jones for his remarkable work to compile and preserve The Arc of Washington State's history in *Doing Disability Justice* (2010)

A word about words: Many of the terms that were once commonly used are no longer acceptable. It's not our intention to sanction the use of these words, but to simply reflect the history. No doubt, the words we use today will themselves be replaced as language and attitudes evolve.

It's my hope that the following pages not only remind us where we've been, but remind us who we are and what drives us to continue this critically important work that is, as Alan Sampson (former Washington State Arc and first national Arc president) said, "not for today, nor tomorrow, but for years to come."

Sincerely,



Sue Elliott, Executive Director