



Achieve with us.

"For people with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities."

TESTIMONY OF THE Arc QUINEBAUG VALLEY

14 February 2013

The Arc Quinebaug Valley is a 60 year old grass roots organization founded by a group of parents to support their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to work toward their **full inclusion in their communities**. The Arc Quinebaug Valley is one of 18 statewide chapters of The Arc CT. The Arc's philosophy **helps to save millions of taxpayer dollars each year** as we work to support individuals' opportunities to live as independently as possible. The Arc has a rich history of success and accomplishment in providing supports that reflect dignity, respect and choice.

Traditionally, the statewide chapters of The Arc are considered **low rate providers**. This means that some agencies are paid below the Department of Developmental Services' established rates. The Governor's rescissions have taken more than \$22,000 from The Arc Quinebaug Valley's contracts and the costs of the Affordable Care Act will be unsustainable in 2014. A potential consequence of this could be layoffs in an already stressed economy. This agency provides employment to close to 200 individuals in the Northeast corner of the state. It is important that the legislature consider the impact on the economy of the nonprofit sector. We are a vital group helping to contribute to the success of our communities. We support local businesses by shopping, dining, working out and pursuing recreational activities in our area. Our employees help to sustain our local communities.

The Arc Quinebaug Valley has continued to provide quality services despite continual reductions to our contracts. The systemic inequity in rates that we were able to ignore previously can be ignored no longer. It is imperative that Connecticut implement a more equitable administration of rates and also allow agencies to retain dollars from efficient operation by eliminating cost settlement at the end of the fiscal year.

Please take a stand in support of Connecticut's grassroots, family founded human service agencies for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.