



Family Support News

The Arc
Bristol County

proAbility

08-28-2026



The Arc
Bristol County

proAbility

End-of-Summer CELEBRATION

Join us for food and fun with friends!
Enjoy basketball, pickleball, Drums
Alive®, a splash pad, and more!
One guest per person.

**September 10
11 AM – 2 PM
Camp Riverside
Taunton, MA**

**RSVP
by 9/3**



**Register
Here**



LAST CHANCE!

**THERE ARE LIMITED NUMBER OF
BACKPACKS AVAILABLE, PLEASE
REACH OUT TO YOUR
COORDINATOR TODAY**

The Arc
Bristol County



Follow The Arc of Bristol County on Facebook for daily
information updates and further resource sharing!





The Arc
Bristol County

The arc of Bristol County Rec Connect Group

GROUP NAME

June 14 vs. Rangers

GAME DATE

NON TRANSFERABLE | NO AUTOGRAPHS



**Fun at Fenway
Park With
Rec. Connect!**

HOSTED BY:



SUNDAY, OCT 11, 2026

AT 9:30AM

Join us for a fun and inclusive run, walk, or roll at

The Temple to Music at
Roger Williams Park

REGISTER NOW!

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Interested in
learning American
Sign Language?

Let us know here!

YES!



Details coming soon!


The Arc
Bristol County



MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY LEADERSHIP

Empowering Families Through TJC

EMPOWERING PARENTS

For over 30 years, the Family Leadership Program has been the catalyst for parents of children and adults with disabilities to become powerful advocates. Our graduates are more than just participants; they are changemakers who have expanded opportunities, forged partnerships, and driven real systems change. They've even run for public office. Now is your chance to turn your passion into a purpose. Don't just hope for a better future; lead the way.

Apply today and become the powerful voice you are meant to be.



Family Leadership Series

Are **YOU** Ready to Lead?

This FREE hybrid series has been empowering parents and caregivers with the essential tools to advocate for their loved ones with disabilities at both local and state levels for more than 30 years.



Submit your application by:

- 9/28 for Southeast, & Central Series
- 11/1 for Northeast Series



Open Statewide by Region: Stay Tuned for Metro, West, & Spanish Statewide Virtual Applications. Facilitated by: Your Regional Family Leadership Program



The application is live:

APPLY NOW

Southeast Deadline 9/28/26
for the In-Person
FAMILY LEADERSHIP SERIES!

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Family Leadership Series!



Parents & Caregivers Support Group



Come as you are! Our Family & Caregiver Support Group is a relaxed, welcoming space to connect with other parents and caregivers who understand the journey. There's no formal agenda and no pressure to share. Want to talk? Great! Prefer to listen and just be around people who "get it"? That's perfectly okay, too. Share your experiences, ask questions, exchange resources, celebrate the wins, or talk through the challenges. This is your group, and you help make it what you need it to be.

We hope you'll join us, grab a cup of coffee, and connect with others who understand.

VIRTUAL

Tuesday
9/22/26
7-8pm

Registration is
Required.

Family Support Center
140 Park Street
3rd Floor
Attleboro, MA

IN-PERSON

Thursday
9/24/26
10am-11am

REGISTER NOW



Questions? Contact: Ida Lindquist, Family Support Coordinator
llindquist@arcnbc.org

Join us in September!

**43rd Annual
STATE
REPRESENTATIVES
CUP**



**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**



to benefit Educational Advocacy

The Arc.
Greater New Bedford
a division of The Arc of Bristol County

Monday, September 28, 2026



**Country Club of New Bedford
North Dartmouth, MA**

Please call Janice at 1-888-343-3301 x3108 for more information.
Sponsorship opportunities available.



Refresh

New Beginnings. Brighter Futures.

Refresh is a free clothing program that provides new and gently used clothing to local children, teens, and high school students in need.

Everything is **FREE**. Dignity is our priority.



We proudly serve families in the Greater Attleboro Area. If you live in one of the towns listed to the right, you may qualify!

Serving the towns of:
Attleboro • Dighton • Mansfield • North Attleboro
Norton • Plainville • Rehoboth • Seekonk

WHO CAN APPLY?

- ✓ Parents can apply directly
- ✓ Live in one of the towns we serve (see list above)
- ✓ Are experiencing financial hardship
- ✓ Have a child, teen, or high school student in need of clothing
- ✓ Students 16 and older

Priority is given to:

Families with school-age children and high school students.



HOW TO APPLY—IT'S EASY!

1



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Go to
councilforchildren.org/refresh

2



COMPLETE THE FORM

Fill out our Refresh Application Form online. It takes about **5 minutes** to complete.

3



SUBMIT & WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION

Our team will review your information and contact you with next steps.



FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATORS:

You can submit applications on behalf of families you support. We're here to partner with you! For questions or support, contact us.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- ✓ New clothing for children, teens, and high school students
- ✓ Gently used clothing (like new + prewashed)
- ✓ Shoes, socks, and seasonal items
- ✓ Business attire for high school students seeking employment

READY TO APPLY?

Visit our website to learn more about the Refresh program and fill out the online application.

councilforchildren.org/refresh

Scan the QR code to apply or learn more!



The Arc
Bristol County



QUESTIONS?
EMAIL US AT
refresh@councilforchildren.org



OR CALL US AT
508-226-2336

We are committed to promoting the well-being of children and families in need in the Greater Attleboro Area by providing access to essential resources, responsive support services, and programs that brighten lives and build hope.



Transition Journeys 2026: Tools for Today, Hope for Tomorrow



Saturday, October 24
Framingham Renaissance
Hotel and Conference Center

- Join **The Arc of Massachusetts** for a full day of connection and resources for **families of children with IDD and autism that are preparing to transition to adult services.**
- **Transition Journeys 2026** brings together families, self-advocates, professionals, and parents with lived experience to share **knowledge, insights, and resources.**
- Learn **how to best prepare your child for life after high school**, get firsthand information on the variety of adult services, and gain practical tools and resources to advocate for the future you envision for your loved one.
- **More than 20 workshops** will cover critical areas in preparing for transition, including: making the most of the school years, adult decision making, moving from pediatrics to adult healthcare, resources to support mental health, behavior and complex needs, transportation and vocational training, housing tips, getting college ready, strategies for successful advocacy, **and more!**
- Panel discussions throughout the day will highlight **real world experiences** and **lessons learned** from those who recently navigated the journey.
- Early bird pricing through August 15. CEUs available for the first time ever (no early bird rate for CEUs).
- Wordly translation services will be available.

REGISTER HERE



Caregiver Support Group

**For: Caregivers of Individuals
with Vision Loss**

Presenter: Ann Phelan, MA, CAGS
Manager of Resources and Engagement
Perkins Transition Center

Dates: Sept. 15, 2026, 10:00am - 11:00am OR
Sept. 16, 2026, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

“Mindfulness and Self-Regulation”

Incorporating Sensory Considerations and
Dysregulation Related to Sensory Challenges

This friendly virtual
monthly meeting is
a place where
caregivers, staff
and team members
can learn, ask
questions and
share ideas.

Together we will
support each
other!!

“Focus”

Host: Lisa DiBonaventura, MA, COMS

New Members Welcome!

To Join - Please:

- Complete the **Caregiver Support Group**

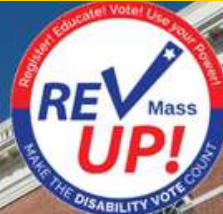
Registration Form & Send to:

Lisa.DiBonaventura@mass.gov

Link and Phone information for the virtual
meetings will then be sent to you each
month!!

A resource of the MCB/DDS Partnership Project
focusonvisionandvisionloss.org
508.384.5539

REV UP!
Register Educate Vote
Massachusetts



REV UP – Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!

YOU have the right to take part in civic life.

We are actively fighting for the fair and civic inclusion of people with disabilities in every political, social, and economic front. REV Up aims to increase the number of people with disabilities who vote. We have what you need to Register to Vote, to get Educated on the issues, and to Vote.

We are non-partisan and invite voters of any party to join our efforts. Disability issues need your support. Who you vote for impacts your access to healthcare, education, transportation and the list goes on.

We need your vote!



REV UP the Disability Vote: Your Vote, Your Voice in the 2026 Election

Thursday, September 17 | 12:00PM

Join The Arc of Massachusetts Government Affairs Team and Brianna Zimmerman, Voting Rights Advocate at the Disability Law Center (DLC) and REV UP MA, for this informative webinar to help prepare you for the 2026 Statewide Election happening this November.

Topics we will cover include:

The rights of Massachusetts voters with disabilities and who can vote;

How to register to vote;

How to vote and accommodations available to voters with disabilities; and

What we are voting for in November's General Election, including an explanation of the ballot questions

We will also allow time to answer your questions. This will be a practical, informative opportunity to know your voting rights and some of the issues that will be covered in the November state election!

[Register for This Webinar Here](#)



FREE
admission
with registration



Register

Calmer Con Boston
September 6, 2025
10am-4pm



SENSORY FRIENDLY
Comics & Pop Culture Convention



Calmer Con is a sensory-friendly comics and pop culture convention designed to accommodate the needs of autistic attendees and those with sensory processing and anxiety concerns. Like a traditional "comic con" there are artists, vendors, and cosplayers, as well as activities like Jedi training, superhero academy, block building, and an art area. We also offer access to professional service organizations to provide information and help special needs families.

Our mission is to create a calm and accommodating environment where everyone can fully enjoy the festival. Many of our activities repeat in the morning and afternoon so attendees can take in the whole show in just a few hours.



One Up Games
on the Go



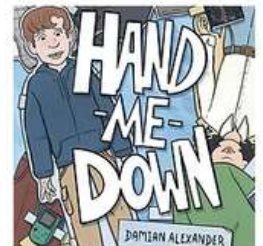
Knights of Roleplay



Prettiest Princess Parties



Omar's World of Comics



Damian Alexander



Ani Creations



Ellen T. Crenshaw



Judd Winick

Professional Resource Fair





**Ally
Behavioral Health**

Attleboro, MA • North Andover, MA

*Support When You
Need It Most* ♥



NO WAITLIST for Outpatient Services

Virtual and In-Person options available.



*Start now.
Get support today.*



IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY for IHBS

In-Home Behavioral Services
when your family needs support.



*Support today.
Stronger tomorrow.*



WE'RE ACCEPTING REFERRALS for In-Home ABA Services

Personalized ABA support in the
comfort of your home.



*New referrals
welcome!*



*Compassionate care.
Real support.
Right when you need it.*



508-226-1140



allybehavioralhealth.com



Proudly serving Attleboro,
North Andover, and
surrounding communities.



Chris Wiklund

Financial Advisor
774-343-5449
225 Water St
Suite A205
Plymouth, MA
02360

Edward Jones

Personal: Financial Planning for Parents

Tuesday September 15, 2026, 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Wednesday September 16, 2026, 10:30am-
12:00pm**



"Simply put, a financial advisor is a professional who helps individuals, families and businesses accomplish their financial goals. Whether that goal is to get out of debt, save for retirement, fund education, build wealth, provide for loved ones or something else entirely, a financial advisor should be a trusted partner in developing a long-term strategy to accomplish these goals. For families who have a loved one with a disability, accomplishing these goals be complicated process involving lots of different considerations and a financial advisor would be an invaluable resource for ensuring long term security and success" -Chris Wiklund , Financial Advisor

**REGISTER
NOW**

