



The Arc of Jackson County is dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families by promoting community awareness, advocating needed services, and fostering self-sufficiency.

Not too many years ago, people with mental retardation and other related developmental disabilities would have most likely lived in a state institution with little hope and no options.

Thankfully, these days it is possible for people with developmental disabilities to have more opportunities than in the past. Living semi-independently in a community, just like anyone else, is just one way life has changed for the better for many people who experience developmental disabilities.

Looking for a new way to provide much needed services to people with developmental disabilities, in 1998 The Arc of Jackson County opened Transition House. Transition House is a program that is teaching young men and women with developmental disabilities like mental retardation, autism, and cerebral palsy how to live independently. This exciting program involves four individuals with developmental disabilities living in the five bedroom house with a paid live-in assistant. The purpose of Transition House is to give



individuals with a developmental disability an opportunity to live semi-independently while learning the life skills needed to transition into independent living. Individuals are taught how to cook, clean, shop, manage medications, budget money, and to care for themselves. Transitioning can take as little as six months to as long as four years depending on the abilities of the young man or woman.

The Arc of Jackson County believes and recognizes that family ties are often the primary source of social support and that transitioning to a safe and healthy independence can and should incorporate those natural ties. Unlike traditional residential service, where typically they supplement the family's roll in care, Transition House demonstrates that families can retain an active role in the support of adults with developmental disabilities as they transition out of the family home. It is also important to note, Transition House is independent from State services. There is only one other similar program in the State of Oregon.

We would like to thank the **Gordon Elwood Foundation** for their grant award to help us help people with developmental disabilities obtain their dreams of living in their own home a reality. Their grant has allowed The Arc of Jackson County keep the cost of living at Transition House reasonable as the costs of living has soared.

For more information about The Arc of Jackson County and other services they provide, please visit them on the Web at www.thearcjackson.org.