



SPARC Fact Sheet **January 2012**

BACKGROUND

In 1999 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established a Long Term Care Task Force whose charter was to develop a Long Term Care Strategic Plan. The Task Force recommended a permanent board be established to provide oversight and leadership to public and private sectors, and coordinate the collaborative efforts needed to implement the County's Strategic Plan. The Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) is the body that makes recommendations to Board of Supervisors in all matters concerning long term care of our citizens; both seniors and individuals with disabilities.

"We know as a Council that individuals with severe disabilities are the citizens with the "longest of the long term care" needs."

The Council and subcommittees have done extensive research to identify not only the long term care needs of our citizens but, also to identify what resources exist in the community to support those needs. **"The findings were very clear that new, creative, solutions needed to be developed in the area of day programs for young adults with severe disabilities after high school graduation."**

SPARC was selected as that innovative and creative solution. ***SPARC is endorsed by the LTCCC as the solution for young adults with physical and/or developmental disabilities.*** Premium direct service to individuals with severe disabilities is SPARC's product.

PRESENT

SPARC is a 501(C)3 public charity supporting young adults since November 2006. SPARC is partnered with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) under the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Division. SPARC receives ancillary support from NCS. In-kind support from NCS includes: community center space, Fastran transportation, and a TR staff member as needed.

With the support of NCS, SPARC supports our young adults in a community-based setting; reconnecting these young adults to each other and the community. Our young adults are no longer sitting at home isolated, aging in place with aging parents!

As an alternative to traditional vocational day programs, SPARC creates opportunities for club members to participate in community activities, and club entrepreneurial projects. Participants learn to design and create a product, develop a business plan for production and sales, and working as a team in support of their club. This broad business scope allows a dynamic vocational opportunity for all club members.

SPARC participants also have the opportunity to perform leisure learning activities. We support our participant's individual goals of communication, literacy, sensory integration, vocational and life- skills development. Participants



self-direct their choices of activities in the club. Club members continue to develop their different abilities, and remain stimulated in this active learning environment!!

SPARC's current fiscal year projected budget is \$203,000 for two clubhouses (Reston and McLean)

SPARC funding sources:

- FFX Co. Consolidated Community Funding Pool – multi year award
- Private foundation grant
- Special Events – Benefit Concert and Golf Tournament
- Private Donors

FUTURE

SPARC is currently fundraising for the \$50,000 to fulfill current budget requirements to open a 3rd location.

In addition to current club members (23), there is a waiting list of people needing SPARC's services. Demand for services will continue to grow as future club members graduate from the public school system to few opportunities in the community.

SPARC board of directors is developing the strategic plan for the next five years. Other efforts in progress include (1) SPARC services economic impact study and (2) discussion of establishing a legacy giving program and an endowment.

The Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) and SPARC have identified the need to support individuals with autism. This is a significant and looming challenge facing Northern Virginia. SPARC is providing our community-based clubhouse model for individuals with autism by partnering under a Memorandum of Agreement with Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) and have absorbed 3 identified clients with autism from JSSA into the McLean clubhouse. With the proper supports all individuals with diverse needs can be successful in their community.

CLOSING

SPARC's business plan defines potential funding in the three areas of: grants, contracts, and donations/special events. Through direct coordinated efforts in these three areas, SPARC will define and pursue funding opportunities. Funding of \$50,000 will meet 2012 budget requirements and will enable SPARC to remain operational this fiscal year and bridge operations into the future as we realize the benefits of funding efforts currently underway as part of the overall business plan.