



## *Advocacy, Education & Outreach*

*50 years of service to individuals with disabilities and their families*

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### **Disability advocates celebrate ADA & pay tribute to lawmakers**

**Boston, March 16, 2005** -- More than 350 people from around the state traveled to the State House for the 27th annual legislative reception hosted by The Arc of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

The reception was both a celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and an opportunity for attendees to honor three state legislators for their work on behalf of the disability community. People with a diverse array of disabilities attended the event, including individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities, people with sight and hearing impairments along with family members and caregivers.

State Senator Jarrett Barrios (D-Cambridge) was recognized for his efforts to heighten awareness as to the need for adequate wages for human service workers. As a State Rep., Barrios authored "The Living Wage Act" which helped shine the spotlight on the plight of people who work with people with disabilities, seniors and other Massachusetts residents reliant upon caregivers for their health and safety.

According to Terri Angelone, Executive Director of Greater Boston Arc: "Since his election to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1998, Jarrett has been a friend and champion for the disability community. In particular, during last year's budget debate, Jarrett worked tirelessly to build support to restore severe cuts to DMR Residential and Day services that would have resulted in the loss of services for hundreds of individuals."

Greater Boston Arc, an affiliate of the state and national Arc, is a non-profit human service agency that provides services to hundreds of people with developmental disabilities and their families who live in the Greater Boston area.

**Local Arc Affiliates:** Berkshire • Brockton Area • Cape Cod • Central Middlesex • Charles River • East Middlesex • Franklin & Hampshire  
Greater Boston • Greater Fall River • Greater New Bedford • Greater Lawrence • Greater Plymouth • Greater Waltham • Minute Man AHS • Northern Bristol  
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