

Marc Center Acquires Advocates for the Disabled



Advocates for the Disabled, Inc. (AFD) believes that people with disabilities should have the resources necessary to promote their well-being and self-sufficiency. AFD has assisted our most vulnerable citizens - the indigent, homeless mentally ill and people with developmental disabilities - since the 1970s. These are people who frequently have no other advocates and few, if any, resources: individuals with all types of disabilities who cannot work and who need help accessing or managing the benefits to which they are entitled. Now, as a program of Marc Center, AFD intends to grow and expand its services on behalf of more people in more areas. This program focus lends itself to Marc Center's overall mission which is to provide opportunities for people to be actively involved in determining where and how they will live, learn, work and play.



Often, AFD's services provide the sole bridge between some of the neediest people in our community and the benefits, programs and other resources that can enable them to achieve long-term stability through access to housing, improved healthcare, and engagement in more positive ways within the community. By providing direct, vigorous, tireless and targeted advocacy, AFD helps individuals access and qualify for public benefits (SSI, SSDI, AHCCCS) that enable them to meet life's basic obligations.

Advocates accomplishes its mission through two programs:

- ✧ The Disability Claims Program secures AHCCCS eligibility, Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. This program helps people with disabilities in navigating the complex and daunting system of public benefits applications and appeals thus allowing them to pursue their rightful claims to the benefits that will give them the chance to live in dignity with a decent quality of life. Advocates has an astounding 98% success rate in its efforts.
- ✧ AFD also provides a fiduciary management program (Representative Payee Program) for individuals unable to manage their benefits. Often, AFD is the Last Link of Hope™ for people with disabilities in Arizona, providing resources for essential living requirements: life's basic needs such as finding a safe and secure place to live, food and clothing. Last year alone, AFD helped over 3,000 such individuals and we look forward to even greater success.

Now, with Marc Center's market strength and Advocates' skills, Arizona's most vulnerable citizens and their families will continue to benefit from the unique aptitudes and passion for service of Advocates for the Disabled.