

THE ARC OF ILLINOIS FAMILY TRANSITION PROJECT

The Arc of Illinois Family Transition Project supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) currently living in state operated developmental centers (SODCs) and their families to explore the possibilities of community life.

Family Transition Project Mentors are self-advocates who have lived in SODCs and can speak personally to the challenges and benefits of transitioning to the community. Mentors work together individually and as a team. The role of the mentors include:

- Sharing experiences of living in a state operated institution and their current lives in the community;
- Meeting with individuals living in SODCs and their families; and
- Speaking with elected officials about the importance of community living for people with IDD.

OUR AWESOME MENTORS



Susan O'Connor



Robert Peterson



John Porter



Robert Rowley



Hector Renta



James Elliott

QUOTES FROM SELF-ADVOCATES

"People with disabilities should get a chance to express themselves and to reach their goals."

"I want to be safe. All institutions need to be shut down."

"I would like to see funding shift from institutions to services in the community."

"I like living in the community and I like my job."

To learn more about The Arc of Illinois Family Transition Project, meet the mentors, and project staff, visit

<https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/family-transition-project/>

