



Paxton Campus

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## **The Arc of Loudoun on Paxton Campus turns 50 with Big Changes in Store**

**Leesburg, Virginia, January 9, 2017** – The Arc of Loudoun is excited to announce that 2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year we have been in Loudoun, serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 1967, parents of children with disabilities founded The Arc of Loudoun because they had a vision to help their family members live 'A Life Like Yours'. In 1922, Rachel Paxton also had a vision--she wanted her historic Leesburg property to be used to help the 'needy children' of Loudoun County. In December 2009, those two visions united and The Arc of Loudoun moved to the Paxton Campus. Since then we have become a full-service non-profit organization with multiple programs and services that together provide an integrated and innovative environment for people with disabilities throughout their lives.

Today, The Arc of Loudoun on Paxton Campus announces the resignation of Jennifer Lassiter, Executive Director, effective January 27. She has very kindly offered to assist with transitioning her responsibilities to our interim Executive Director, Melissa Heifetz, who is currently the Administrative Director of ALLY Advocacy Center. Melissa has been with The Arc of Loudoun since 2014 and has been an integral part of our team, growing our advocacy and supported employment programs, we look forward to having her continue to grow our programs in this 50th year. Melissa says, "I am honored and humbled to be given this responsibility. I fell in love with this campus from the moment I arrived as a volunteer several years ago and have continued to be impressed with the commitment and hard work of the staff and all the good that we accomplish together. I look forward to a bright future for all of our programs."

Since 2000, Jennifer has been devoted to growing The Arc of Loudoun into the successful organization that it is today, moving the nonprofit's major program, The Aurora School, from Purcellville to the Paxton Campus in Leesburg, and establishing three new programs since 2009: Open Door Learning Center, ALLY Advocacy Center and the STEP Up Program. She is a true visionary and her team recognizes her for her leadership, great work ethic, and commitment to meeting the needs of children with disabilities in Loudoun. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff on Paxton Campus, we would like to wish Jennifer the best of success and we are looking forward to continuing to work with her as she transitions into her next role in our community, as the Executive Director of the Paxton Memorial Trust. Jennifer says, "Working with the team at Paxton has been one of the greatest joys of my professional life. We have created something special here, and I'm proud of the impact we have had in helping the disability community in Loudoun County. I know I am leaving it in good hands, and I look forward to expanding our relationship in my new role."

Lisa Herndon Broyhill, President of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Loudoun says, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer for her longtime leadership and vision, growing The Arc of Loudoun into the flourishing organization it is today. We would also like to inform our community that we will continue to move forward with our programs in 2017, celebrating The Arc of Loudoun's 50th Anniversary." She continues, "Our future is certain and our mission is clear: Paxton Campus maximizes the potential of children while supporting families and individuals with disabilities so that they may thrive in the community."

Fiftieth celebration festivities will continue throughout 2017, kicking off with The Arc of Loudoun's Annual Meeting on Monday, February 27th from 6pm to 7:30pm. The Annual Meeting will take



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place in the ALLY Advocacy Center building on Paxton Campus, 601 Catoctin Circle, NE, Leesburg. Contact Rachel Roseberry to RSVP or for more information, [rroseberry@paxtoncampus.org](mailto:rroseberry@paxtoncampus.org)

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The Arc of Loudoun on Paxton Campus is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that advocates for and provides direct service to adults and children with disabilities, as well as their families and caretakers, through its many programs: The Aurora School, Open Door Learning Center, ALLY Advocacy Center, STEP Up and Maggie's Closet. Paxton's very low 5% overhead costs mean that almost 95 cents of every donated dollar goes back to our programs.

For more information, visit [www.paxtoncampus.org](http://www.paxtoncampus.org) or contact Rachel Roseberry, Communications Coordinator of Paxton Campus, at [rroseberry@paxtoncampus.org](mailto:rroseberry@paxtoncampus.org) or by phone at 703.431.4279.