



FISCAL YEAR 2025

Annual Report

Fearless Compassion Builds Fearless Futures

Serving adults with severe and multiple disabilities across
Northern Virginia since 2006

sparcsolutions.org



Debi Alexander

Executive Director

Dear SPARC Friends,

This past year marked a turning point for SPARC—not only in what we delivered in our centers, but in how we engaged with the Commonwealth on behalf of the adults and families we serve.

Throughout much of the year, SPARC undertook an intensive legal review of Virginia's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the long-running case *United States v. Virginia*. That research was led by our Board Vice Chair, Hannah Irsfeld, whose work helped us fully understand the scope, rarity, and consequences of the Permanent Injunction now governing Virginia's disability service system.

What we learned was sobering and clarifying: Virginia remains under permanent federal court supervision because it has failed, for decades, to provide adults with disabilities access to services in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. Permanent injunctions are extraordinarily rare.

For SPARC, this legal reality confirmed what families have been telling us for years. Adults with severe and multiple disabilities—especially those who cannot work and require continuous one-to-one support—have been effectively left out of Virginia's service system.

This is why SPARC's legislative work matters so deeply. Our advocacy is not about expanding one organization for its own sake. It is about helping Virginia meet its civil-rights obligations and ensure that adults with the most significant disabilities are no longer invisible in public policy.

With gratitude and resolve,

Debi Alexander



Ellen Dyke

Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2025, SPARC began shaping a national summit, *A Call to Conscience: Advancing Dignity for Adults with Severe and Multiple Disabilities*. It marked a significant step beyond our long-familiar Northern Virginia roots and into the national arena.

At the summit, leaders, innovators, adults with complex needs and their families will: imagine systems that honor interdependence as a source of strength; center the voices of families whose lives are shaped by love, advocacy, and the daily realities of supporting adults with complex needs; challenge narratives that diminish potential, like ableism and implicit bias; illuminate systemic barriers that isolate; and design a future where purpose, dignity, and joy are not luxuries, but rights.

Together, we hope to move our country closer to the promise made thirty years ago by the Americans with Disabilities Act—a reminder that civil rights are not self-executing. They require vigilance, courage, and our collective effort.

We hope to see you at the summit on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Jack Morton Auditorium on George Washington University's Foggy Bottom campus, when SPARC, in partnership with GW, calls the nation to reckon with its unfinished promises and to build systems worthy of every person's inherent dignity.

With hope and determination,

Ellen Dyke

SPARC by the Numbers

Our impact in Fiscal Year 2025

65+

Adults Served Daily

20

Years of Service

\$15.9K

Annual Cost Per Participant

73%

Savings vs. Medicaid

40%

Participants on Scholarship

100%

Commitment to Every Family

Our Programs

SPARC provides meaningful learning experiences, social connection, and a rightful place in the community for adults with severe and multiple disabilities



Art Therapy

Creative expression through adapted art activities designed to support social, emotional, and cognitive development in an inclusive environment.



Music Therapy

Evidence-based musical interventions that promote communication, motor skills, and emotional well-being for participants of all ability levels.



Community Integration

Meaningful participation in everyday community life through outings, events, and local partnerships that foster belonging.

NOVEMBER 2025

An Evening to SPARCLE

Our 3rd Annual Gala brought together over 300 community members, sponsors, and advocates to celebrate the power of inclusion and raise critical funds for adults with severe and multiple disabilities.

300+

\$250K+

50+

GUESTS ATTENDED

RAISED FOR SPARC

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

With Fearless Gratitude

Thank you to our 2025 Gala Sponsors and Partners

Special Thanks to Our Presenting Sponsor

Marriott Washington Dulles Airport



EVENT SPONSOR

Burmester Family Endowment

for People with Developmental Disabilities

Anonymous

CHAMPION



HERO



LEADER



THE SHRIVASTAVA FAMILY

PARTNER



Virginia Geoffrey &
John Andelin

ADVOCATE



Carol & Glenn
Davidson

Law Offices of
Michael Toobin
LLC



FRIEND

THE HONORABLE
JOHN FOUST, ESQ.



GOLDBRANSON
FAMILY



Spotlight

Recognizing the dedicated individuals who make our mission possible



**Hannah
Irsfeld**
Board Vice Chair

LEGAL ANALYSIS

Reframing the Question — A Legal Analysis That Changed the Conversation

For nearly twenty years, families caring for adults with severe and multiple disabilities were given the same answer: "Medicaid doesn't cover it."

In late 2025, SPARC's Board Vice Chair, Hannah Irsfeld, was asked: **Is that actually true?**

"How a service is funded is not the same as whether the service must be provided."

Hannah's analysis uncovered a critical distinction: Virginia's obligation to provide community-integrated services arises independently under federal civil rights law—including Title II of the ADA and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

Her conclusion: the right to services in the most integrated setting appropriate does not depend on whether Medicaid happens to fund a particular service configuration.

The Year in Pictures

Moments of joy, growth, and connection from our centers and community



Connor's Story

Before finding SPARC, Connor spent years aging out of the school system and being turned away from program after program because his needs were deemed "too complex." Without access to a suitable day program, his world grew smaller and more isolated.

His family rearranged their lives to fill a gap that should never have existed. This is what happens in communities without SPARC: adults are excluded, families are stretched to the breaking point, and isolation replaces opportunity.

When Connor finally walked through SPARC's doors, the outcome was profoundly different. With skilled, patient, credentialed professionals and a model designed specifically for complex needs, Connor found belonging, learned boundaries, built friendships, and began to thrive.

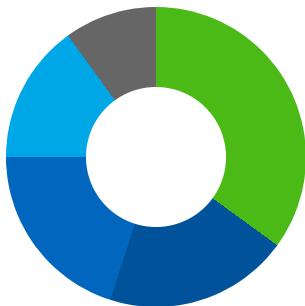
"His story is not exceptional—it is replicable. But only if systems choose to recognize and serve this population."



Financial Overview

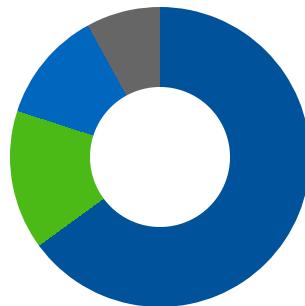
FY 2025 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue Sources



Individual Donations & Events	35%
Government Grants	20%
Foundation Grants	20%
Participant Fees	15%
Corporate Sponsorships	10%

Program Expenses



Program Services	65%
Scholarships & Financial Aid	15%
Administration	12%
Fundraising	8%

Cost-Effective Care

SPARC's innovative participant-directed model delivers exceptional outcomes at a fraction of traditional costs

\$15,896

SPARC Annual Cost Per Participant

\$58,264

Medicaid Waiver Alternative

Save the Dates

Join us for these upcoming events



July 27, 2026

A Call to Conscience

National Policy Summit at George Washington University.
Join leaders, innovators, and advocates to advance dignity
for adults with severe and multiple disabilities.



November 14, 2026

4th Annual Gala

An Evening to SPARCLE returns! Join us for an unforgettable
night of celebration, connection, and support for adults with
disabilities.

Thank You

Your support makes it possible for adults with severe and
multiple disabilities to find belonging, purpose, and joy. Together,
we are building fearless futures.





Specially Adapted Resource Centers provides community-integrated day programs for adults with severe and multiple disabilities in Northern Virginia. We believe every adult deserves a meaningful life filled with connection, purpose, and belonging.



Quick Links

About Us
Programs
Locations
Events
Stories

Resources

Annual Reports
Board of Directors
News & Press
Get Involved

Contact

Mailing Address:
1775 Tysons Blvd., Fifth Floor
Tysons, VA 22102
Phone: (571) 407-1807
debi@sparsolutions.org
sparsolutions.org

© 2025 SPARC - Specially Adapted Resource Centers. All rights reserved.
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization | EIN: 20-5513060