

## The Arc of Cumberland & Perry Counties (CPARC)

When Daniel was born in 1994, he was immediately whisked away to the intensive care unit because he was having trouble breathing. Several months later, he was diagnosed with CHARGE syndrome, which causes a variety of birth defects including a narrow airway. Daniel is deaf and legally blind. Daniel's parents struggled to maintain their jobs and get him to his medical appointments. When the time came for Daniel to start school, his parents now had a new "system" to navigate. Daniel's educational plan was over 25 pages long, and his mother, Sue, admits she would nod her head in agreement without truly understanding what she was agreeing to. This is when Sue found the CPARC Special Education Advocate who began attending school meetings with her, explaining terminology, informing Sue of what Daniel's rights were under educational law. The CPARC Special Education Advocate worked with Daniel's entire education team to provide amicable solutions at times when Daniel's parents and the school district had different points of view on how to best meet Daniel's needs in the school setting.

As Daniel approached adulthood, life after high school started becoming a concern for his family. CPARC was then able to provide an Adult Services Advocate to help Daniel's family learn and understand a new system of services. Both of the CPARC advocates worked together to develop a plan for Daniel's future prior to him leaving the school system. This fostered a smooth transition from school to adult services for Daniel and his family. Daniel is now living in a community home where he enjoys a well-rounded life, including traveling and going to parties. Daniel's story is just one of many examples of CPARC's dedication to its mission of providing support, training and opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Your gift today ensures Daniel's tomorrow.