



602-246-0889

ARCH

ching Lives



ARCH

Kids



ARCH REC





In dedication to the ARCH Founder, Mary P. Lees

Mary was born in PA in 1928, where she later became a wife and mother of five. In 1957, her fourth child Toby, was born with Down Syndrome. Due to health concerns, the family relocated to Phoenix, AZ in 1962.

At the time, few services existed for individuals with special needs. Rather than place her in an institution, Mary joined other parents to start a volunteer-led school, endorsed by the ARC.

Toby was the inspiration behind ARCH and the driving force behind Mary's lifelong dedication to advocating for individuals with special needs. Tragically, Toby passed away at age 7 in 1964 but, Mary continued her mission to improve the lives of others like her.

Mary believed in equality for those with special needs and worked tirelessly to ensure they had opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive. She passed away in 1990, leaving a lasting legacy.

Her accomplishments include:

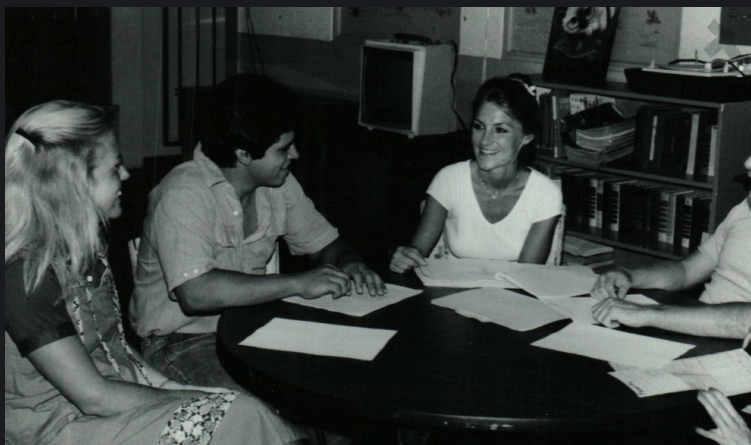
- Creating the first summer camps for children with special needs**
- Contributing to the launch of Special Olympics through working directly with Eunice K. Shriver**
- Becoming the first Director of Special Services for Phoenix Parks and Recreation**
- Founding Kid-I-mpics, Horse Show Gymkhana, and helping design the first fully accessible park in Phoenix (Telephone Pioneer Park)**



**We opened our doors on September 23, 1975,
to 25 teens and adults in an old cafetorium
at the abandoned Alhambra Elementary
School on Grand Avenue.**









In 1983, the ARCH building was tragically burned down by an arson fire.





This event spurred the ARCH organization to find home elsewhere. After negotiations with the City, ARCH rented a 5-acre lot on Colter Street & 15th Ave.

In 1986, we began to rebuild







and added a gym in 2001.

The ARCHKids Program needed a room of their own so we got to work constructing the Diamondbacks Den!



Our original playground was burned down in 2019 but we rebuilt it even better later that year.

**As our mission grew, so did our need for space-
expanding our land to serve more and dream bigger.**



In 2017, with generous support, we purchased the land that now serves as ARCH's foundation.





DTA & Drop-In Program for Adults





ARCHKids Program





Special Events & Community Outings





Major Adventure Trips





So much progress behind us,

and so much potential ahead.



HORIZON OF HOPE

**Let's Build
Wellness Together!**



Years of Serving the Community... Est. 1975



Health & Wellness Center coming soon!



Cheers to another 50 years!

