



For Immediate Release:

Local organization slated to launch book club for adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities – seeks volunteer facilitators.

The Arc, Upper Valley recently joined the Next Chapter Book Club Affiliate Network and will soon be launching a local club. Founded by Dr. Thomas Fish, a professor at The Ohio State University in 2002, Next Chapter Book Club is a community-based book club program for individuals intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The objective is to provide meaningful opportunities for life-long learning, social connections and community inclusion, which is also part of the Grand Forks Public Library’s mission, which makes it an ideal location for the weekly book club meetings.

The club will be comprised of four to eight members and two volunteer facilitators who are trained to engage readers of all levels – including those who cannot read or are “emerging readers.”

Although reading skills of Next Chapter Book Club members often improve as a result of reading more often, the program is more about “reading to learn,” rather than “learning to read.” The primary focus is on having fun with friends in a public place on a regular basis.

The Arc, Upper Valley is currently seeking volunteers to facilitate the club for one hour per week from September to May. Training is provided. For more information, visit www.thearcuppervalley.org or contact Rachel Hafner at 772.6191.

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The Arc, Upper Valley promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. Our service area includes Grand Forks, ND; East Grand Forks, MN; and the surrounding area.

For more information on this press release, please contact Rachel Hafner at 701.772.6191 or email rhafner@arcuv.com.
