

# Movement to Self-Direction in Georgia

People with disabilities and their families are THE driving force for self-direction in Georgia. Their significant work invested in this movement includes the following:

- People First of Georgia has been actively involved in conducting self-determination training across the state. The Declaration of Self-Determination was completed at the Annual People First Conference in 2000 and this has become the cornerstone of their advocacy efforts.
- The Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD) Self-Determination Team has taken community education on the road - presenting to advocates on self-determination all across Georgia. In addition, the team presented a skit at the National Immersion Learning on Self-Determination in April 2004 on what it means to be involved in decision making, and playing an active role in determining policy.
- The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities brought together the key leadership from state agencies involved in funding services for people with disabilities (including the Department of Community Health (DCH)/Division of Medical Assistance, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget) with national experts in the movement to consult about establishing self-directed services.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members provided the input for the development of the successful Independence Plus Initiative grant. People with disabilities and families are members of the initiative's stakeholder groups designing key components of the self-directed service delivery system.
- The Arc of Georgia October 2004 Annual Conference included a self-determination workshop that included panels of self-advocates and family members.
- The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities partnered with the Office of Developmental Disabilities and the Center for Self-Determination to train on the implementation of self-direction through the Mental Retardation Waiver Program amendment. Self-advocates and family members were an integral part of this training.