

Duane DiPonio Family Resource Center

Dedicated October 13, 2026



Frances and Dominic DiPonio



Dennis, Dan, Dominic, Dave,
Marlene, Marianne, and
Duane



Gail and Dan DiPonio
with Duane

The DiPonio Family and The Arc NW

For nearly as long as The Arc NW has existed, the DiPonio family has been a driving force in raising funds and awareness to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Their commitment began with Frances and Dominic DiPonio who began volunteering to support individuals with disabilities in the 1960s and 70s after the birth of their son, Duane, the youngest of their seven children. Frances was especially involved with advocating for children with Downs Syndrome and fundraising for the Archdiocese of Detroit where Duane was involved. Frances and Dominic taught their children that caring for Duane was a family privilege and responsibility, and his brothers and sisters have always cared for and included him in their lives.

The family moved from Detroit to Livonia in June of 1974 as Duane was starting school. The family was devastated by the loss of Frances in a car accident in 1974 followed by Dominic's passing in 1978.

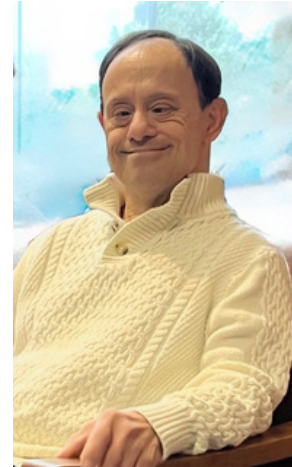
The DiPonio children – Dave, Dan, Marianne, Dennis, Dominic, Marlene and Duane – pulled together to continue their parents' legacy of supporting individuals with disabilities which now included supporting The Arc NW. Duane's care was lovingly taken over by his brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Gail, with assistance from the rest of the siblings. Their goal was to ensure that Duane received all the support he needed to live a full, self-determined life.

Duane DiPonio

As a young adult, Duane was an active member of The Arc NW's Just Fun Club and the Athletics/Special Olympics program. In the early 1990's the DiPonio siblings expanded and took charge of The Arc NW's annual golf outing (now the Duane DiPonio Charity Tee Off). In 2001 the family chaired The Arc NW's first annual dinner dance, now known as the Ball for All.

Both events continue to be major fundraisers for The Arc NW thanks to the DiPonio siblings and many other family members, including children, in-laws, cousins, grandchildren, and close friends who have joined as donors and volunteers. Members of the DiPonio family have always served on both event planning committees, often in leadership roles. One member also served on The Arc NW Board of Directors.

The DiPonio Family's love and unconditional support for Duane is a testament to the lesson taught by Frances and Dominic: All of us, no matter our abilities, are entitled to live a full life as members of our community.



In recognition of the DiPonio Family's extraordinary support for the mission of The Arc NW spanning more than 50 years and across multiple generations, we dedicate the Duane DiPonio Family Resource Center at The Arc NW in their honor. This center will serve as a source of free information for those supporting individuals with disabilities.