
GROW's PURPOSE

To advocate for a full spectrum of opportunities to enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their greatest potential.

**PERSON CENTERED PLANNING
PERSONAL CHOICE
LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY
WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY
ADULT DAY SERVICES
RECREATION
MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE AND INPUT
WITH AGENCIES, LEGISLATORS, AND
GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

GROW, Inc.

P.O. Box 1692

White Plains, NY 10602

(914) 493-1318

Web site: www.grow-ny.org

E-mail: info@grow-ny.org

GROW is a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization.

ADVOCACY WORKS!

The many notable improvements in services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities took over 40 years to accomplish. These improvements were the results of strong, determined efforts by voluntary provider agencies, dedicated government officials and, especially, parents and other family members, many of whom were members of GROW

GROW keeps aware of any conditions that affect services and makes others aware of the situations. The annual trips to Albany, for example, communicate to political officials what issues are important in the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

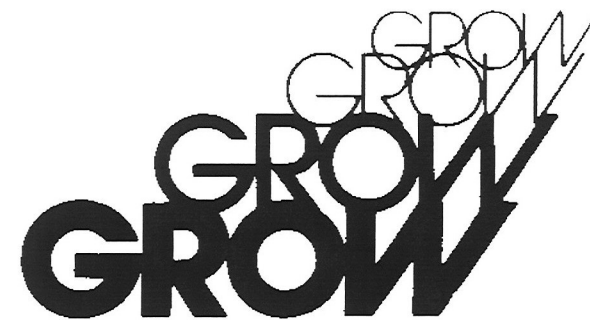
The GROW Newsletter, the Helpline and Membership Meetings give voice to concerns of families as well as help families learn how to deal with conditions that need improvement.

Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on funding sources as well as state laws and regulations that can change according to economic, political, and social conditions. Changes in any of these areas can affect services and therefore the lives of these individuals.

It is essential that new members continue to join GROW so that gains of past years are not lost.

GROW has played a key role in many successes including the NYS CARES program through which many persons with developmental disabilities obtain appropriate residential settings.

Advocacy does work, but it must be an ongoing endeavor!



**An Advocacy Organization
Dedicated to:**

Gaining access to services in the community for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Representing those people with Intellectual developmental disabilities who need residential services.

Offering information and support to families of persons with developmental disabilities.

Working with government and voluntary agencies to ensure the availability of a full spectrum of services.

GROW, Inc.

PO Box 1692 White Plains NY

WHY JOIN GROW?

GROW is a family volunteer- run tax exempt INDEPENDENT organization advocating on behalf of persons with all types of intellectual and developmental disabilities, (IDD), in NYS.

Throughout **GROW**'s 40 year history, **GROW** has proven to be an important and effective advocacy organization.

Throughout its history, **GROW** has maintained a close relationship with agencies and legislators. We make yearly trips to Albany to meet with OPWDD and our legislators as well as meeting locally with them.

We also hold monthly meetings on topics of concern.

These activities have enabled to achieve so many services and rights for your child/family member.

Strength in numbers will help retain the gains of the past and promote a high level of achievement in the future.

Your support will make **GROW** an even stronger organization working for the quality services your child requires.

HIGHLIGHTS OF GROW'S HISTORY

Founded in 1981 by parents of individuals already in group homes, GROW members decided to advocate for all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Notable accomplishments of **GROW** are the following:

GROW originated the Registry of Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Westchester County, the first registry in the entire state. It was many years later that OPWDD created a registry.

GROW instrumental in production of many useful pamphlets including:

- Directory of Physicians and Dentists who treat individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Information packet for parents for Committees on Special Education
- Difference between certified and uncertified residential opportunities
- Transition Planning Guide
- Rights of Guardians (OPWDD)

In 1998: **GROW** spearheaded a class action suit against NYS to address long waiting lists for residential services. This resulted in the creation of NYS CARES which resulted in thousands of persons receiving appropriate residential services

GROW advocacy for health and safety:

- provided key support in preserving The Westchester Institute for Human Development.
- helped ensure passage of legislation for criminal background checks with fingerprinting of new direct care employees.
- spearheaded laws ensuring fire safety
- developed the first Ombudsman program for people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- advocated and continues to advocate for COLA and increased pay for all direct care workers.
- advocated and continues to advocate for INCREASES not DECREASES in funding for programs
 - respite
 - recreation
 - early intervention
 - job coaching and job training
 - State education programs

GROW has worked and continues to work s for meaningful dialogue and input with caregiver and governmental agencies through;

- Establishment of working relationships with advocacy groups throughout the State.
- Creation of the Guardian Rights pamphlet (OPWDD)
- Participation on the panel for Managed Care.
- Ongoing meetings with legislators, and governmental agencies
- Actions towards preserving rights on The Committee of Special Education
- Participation on Westchester County Community Services Board
- Participation on Westchester County Dept of Community Mental Health Committee

GROW, Inc. Membership Registration

P.O. Box 1692 White Plains, NY 10602

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please join.

The annual dues of **GROW** are:

Single parent or guardian:	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family:	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate:	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Contribution:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>