In Memory
Margaret Brown

It has been one long, bittersweet year since the passing of Margaret Brown. Margaret was a 102 years young, petite, and tenacious mother of twin boys, both diagnosed with autism. She and two other mothers, Cathy Orosz and Kay Grounds, pioneered The Arc of Weld County. Although it was a small organization for parents who had children with developmental disabilities in the 1970s in Greeley, there was room to grow. Suggestions from The Arc Colorado led to monthly breakfast meetings and galvanized membership growth. Later, The Arc Thrift Store opened in Greeley, a vital financial resource for the The Arc of Weld County, as well as other chapters, as an incorporated nonprofit in 1992 (Armer, Greeley Tribune, 2017).

In the 1990s, The Arc of Weld County was declining. Margaret Brown lobbied on local and state levels while building membership after her husband passed away. Amelia Koehmstedt, executive director of The Arc of Weld County, stated “Margaret resuscitated us.” That is true! When Margaret set her heart and passion on fire for her sons, Scott and Mark, and others with disabilities great things happened. It was stated that she was always determined to learn be it to ski or advocate for her sons (Delaney, Greeley Tribune, 2021). Through the efforts she made by lobbying, The Arc of Weld County came back to life! Although this feisty and tenacious woman had a great fire for others, she did occasionally take a break. At her funeral a family member shared a story of when Margaret and her sons went to Paris. She paid for Scott and Mark to ride a cab all around Paris so she could take a nap back at their hotel room. You go Margaret!
Today, The Arc of Weld County is thriving and growing. Dues paying membership was eliminated in 2017 and membership has grown to more than 445 people. We continue to focus on awareness of our services and events. With increased membership comes a stronger voice to promote and protect the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through empowerment, advocacy, and community outreach. Without Margaret and her fearless allies, we would not be here to help those who need our collective community voice the most; as we seek inclusion, acceptance, and belonging for all! Dear Margaret, how deeply you are missed!

If you are interested in supporting Margaret’s beloved agency, The Arc of Weld County, and continuing her legacy of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, please click [here](#) or contact Lori Couch, Director of Development, at 970-353-5219 ext. 8 or lori@arcweldcounty.org.

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