

## ADEC clients deliver valentines to Indiana legislators

On Valentine's Day, a 10-member group from ADEC joined other chapters of The Arc of Indiana at the State House in Indianapolis to deliver Valentine's Day cards and chocolates to state senators and representatives and to meet with them to thank them for their service to the community. This annual event reminds legislators of The Arc's mission and helps people throughout the state connect with their legislators in a unique and positive way.

The ADEC delegation included Matt Troyer and Trevor Stickel from Middlebury Day Services, Che Hines from The Shoots in Goshen, and Ritchie Mann and Brandon Hartly from ADEC Industries. The five consumers were accompanied by five staff: Cheryl Hoffman and Tena Bowser, Middlebury Day Services; Anne Cripe, Family Services; Larry Bontrager, vice president development, and Nancy Bounds, community relations.

Representatives Wesley Culver and Tim Neese welcomed the ADEC delegation by inviting us to meet with them in their offices and giving us a tour of the House Chambers, which included a group photo at the podium. Other representatives who took time from their busy schedules to talk with us were William Friend and Timothy Wesco.

Representatives B. Patrick Bauer and Craig Fry were in meetings and could not see us, but their assistants extended a warm welcome and accepted the valentines for them.

On the Senate side of the House, the group met with senators Carlin Yoder and Joseph Zakas and got to stand inside the Senate Chambers.

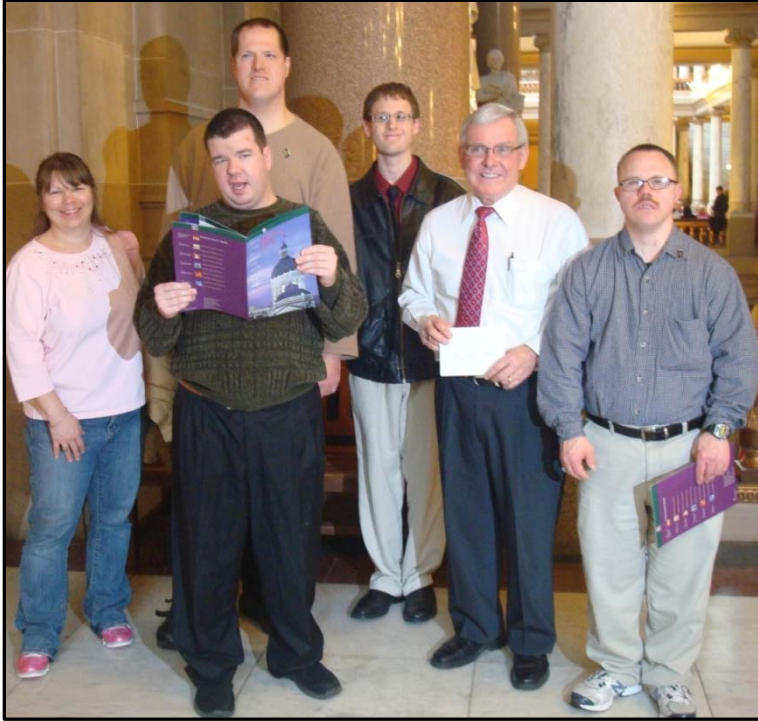
It was a good day. Those who participated got a glimpse of the busy workings of the Indiana Legislature and a new appreciation for those who represent the disability community in such an important way.



REP. TIM NEESE (left) AND REP. WESLEY CULVER (third from right) welcome an ADEC group to the State House Tuesday Feb. 14 as part of The Arc of Indiana's Valentine's Day event. Visiting from ADEC are (from left) Trevor Stickler, Brandon Harty, Matt Troyer, Ritchie Mann, Che Hines and Tena Bowser.



REP. WESLEY CULVER talks with the ADEC group in his office at the State House.



REP. WILLIAM FRIEND poses with the group after receiving his valentine.



SEN. CARLIN YODER visits with the ADEC group.



REP. TIMOTHY WESCO also meets with the ADEC delegation.



SEN. JOSEPH ZAKAS shows the group his seat in the Indiana Senate Chambers.



EXITING the State House at the end of a busy day.