

Remembering Susy Woods

The world lost a wonderful woman in the disability world. Dr. Susy Woods was an educational advocate for 42 years. She also worked for Early Intervention, as disability coordinator at University of Illinois Springfield for 8 years, and for IATP doing policy and education for 18 years. Her son was born with lung and heart problems and an intellectual disability so because of him she became involved in educational advocacy and in supporting families.

Susy served on The Arc of Illinois Board and also on ISAC, the EEOC council both of which are governor appointed. She also served on the board of Impact CIL and Springfield Disability Commission. Public Policy and Education Liaison, Illinois Assistive Technology Program, Springfield, IL.



Dr. Susy Woods, Ed.D.

In 2006, Susy Woods was nominated for **The Arc of Illinois' "Mabley Volunteer of the Year Award."** This award honors an exceptional individual who actively devotes time and energy to enhance life experiences for people with developmental disabilities.

The following is from her nomination.

"One of the gifts of working in the disability world is the absolutely wonderful people you have the opportunity to work with and when you are really lucky call your friend. Susy Woods is one of those people."

"Susy has been a tremendous inspiration both personally and professionally to so many people with disabilities. Susy has an enormous amount of knowledge but more importantly she has an equal amount of empathy and caring for those who she advocates."

"Susy has tirelessly served on the board of the Family Support Network. She has chaired committees. She has organized materials. She has found conference sites. She has talked to legislators. She is ALWAYS at the Capitol. No job is too small. She has stepped in at the last minute to be a speaker. She is the consummate cheerleader and advocate. She leads by example. She gives from her heart."

"Susy volunteered her time to participate in the Freedom Ride which was a 700-mile ride across Illinois to bring attention to the need for more community supports for people with disabilities. During the ride, she was always there to offer a helping hand to anyone who might need it. In fact, one of our rides became quite ill on the last leg of the ride and Susy spent a lot of time providing personal assistance. She helped her get a hotel room and went to the store and got her some crackers and 7-up to help settle her stomach."

Please view her obituary [here](#).