



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD  
OF DALLAS

## What is a Microboard?

A microboard is formed when a small group of committed family and friends joins together with a person with a disability to create a nonprofit organization. The microboard can then plan the support services required by one individual person with disabilities. The biggest benefit of a microboard is that the individual with a disability has control over his or her own life with supports from a nonprofit organization run by those who know and care about him/her most.

### **The elements of a microboard are:**

- Membership of 5-7 family members, friends, and acquaintances who are committed to knowing the person and having a reciprocal relationship with him/her
- Builds bridges between the person with disabilities and his/her community
- Affords the person with disabilities flexibility and more control to achieve his/her goals and dreams
- Manages the support services, such as transportation, medical care, job search, supervising a care-provider in the home, etc. – creating a “circle of support”
- May become an HCS provider for the person with disabilities
- May become the successor guardian or trustee of a special needs trust

The Arc of Texas has introduced the *Microboard Collaboration* to Texas, in conjunction with its *Real Life* program. The collaboration provides board training, a Texas Microboard Starter Kit, and step by step guidance. For more information see [www.TheArcOfTexas.org/programs/reallife.asp](http://www.TheArcOfTexas.org/programs/reallife.asp) .

If you would like to discuss establishing a microboard, contact Lisa Rivers at the Arc of Texas at [lrivers@TheArcOfTexas.org](mailto:lrivers@TheArcOfTexas.org) or 1-800-252-9729.

