EMPOWERING family leaders with HIGH QUALITY training & advocacy for 25+ years

OUR CORE VALUES

- The possibilities for individuals with disabilities are infinite when we “imagine better.”
- Individuals with disabilities and families are the ultimate decision makers in all areas of supports and services that are appropriate for all members of their family.
- Individuals with disabilities and families benefit from advocacy and leadership training to access and procure supports and services responsive to their ever-changing, life-long needs.
- The uniqueness of every family is honored and respected.
- Individuals with disabilities and families living in our communities have access to the wide array of opportunities and resources available to all community members.

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MASSACHUSETTS FAMILIES ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

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OUR ADVOCACY

Chapter 171
AN ACT PROVIDING SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES
Signed into law in 2002 after 11 years of hard work by MFOFC and our allies, this legislation expanded the array of supports available to keep families intact and increased access to life in the community.

MA21
MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE FOR A 21ST CENTURY DISABILITY POLICY
A collaborative effort of the state’s leading disability advocacy organizations whose mission is to advance full community participation for individuals with disabilities. Members of the MA21 Alliance produced a comprehensive, essential guide for the implementation of policies and practices to support this mission.

Chapter 255
AN ACT RELATIVE TO REAL LIVES
A signature accomplishment of MA21, this bill’s passage in August of 2014 empowered individuals and families with the option to direct their own public funds. It also requires the Massachusetts administration to implement new policies and procedures to increase the flexibility with which these funds are used.

Our Trainings

Family Leadership Series

Since 1990, MFOFC has provided this training to empower families and individuals to live and engage in their communities.

This training has a two-fold purpose: to offer information about “best practices” for people with disabilities; to assist families in creating a vision for their family member and a process to achieve this vision.

Leadership is the activity of mobilizing people to work toward a desired future that not only meets people’s needs but elevates them. – Deborah Reidy

The Family Leadership Series focuses on:

INITIATIVE & LEADERSHIP
Background of the Family Support Movement; leadership, advocacy, and the significance of self-advocacy; how to effectively advocate for change, ways to influence funding and delivery systems

CREATING A VISION
Families are supported to “imagine better” and create a vision with a for their family members that will guide their leadership and advocacy

POLICY-MAKING
How to develop networks with professionals and families, and how to use legislative change to procure resources and enact system-wide change.

A Full Life Ahead

Series of monthly workshops for parents and guardians of transition-age youth and adults with disabilities. Topics include employment, housing, friendships, and more that will lead to independent and interdependent lives in the community.

Advocacy Bootcamp

For primary caregivers of young children (birth to 10) with developmental disabilities, chronic illnesses, and/or complex medical needs. Content focuses on building foundational advocacy skills so that participants can empower their children to lead rich and meaningful lives.