Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the Arc of Dallas for its efforts in improving the quality of life of persons with mental retardation and related developmental conditions. The Arc of Dallas will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year and deserves to be recognized for its accomplishments in my district.

The Arc of Dallas formed when a small group of concerned parents met in 1951 to discuss their children's educational needs. This small group was the beginning of an organization that grew into the largest mentally handicapped advocacy group in the Dallas area. Today, there are chapters of the Arc across the United States. While the Arc of Dallas remains connected to the national office, it also works independently to reach the goals of the Dallas community.

The Arc of Dallas works diligently to accomplish its goals and has produced impressive results. Presently, one person in every 10 families in the Dallas area, about 60,000 individuals, has some form of mental retardation and related conditions. It is no surprise that in 2000, the Arc of Dallas was directly helped nearly 26,000 people. This organization truly makes a difference to the lives of many constituents in my district.

An example of the great success of this advocacy group is its day-camp program. Last year was the first year to offer a spring and summer day-camp program for children ages 5 to 21. It made a difference in the lives of 140 children last year. This year, the day-camp program will run for 11 weeks and will offer fun summer activities for nearly 220 children such as field trips, crafts, computer centers, and outdoor activities. Programs like these truly demonstrate the success of the Arc of Dallas.

Once again, I am very proud to see the honorable work being accomplished in my district. The Arc of Dallas has made a difference in so many lives in the last 50 years, and I look forward to their existence. The difference they are making is immeasurable. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the Arc of Dallas and chapters across the Nation.