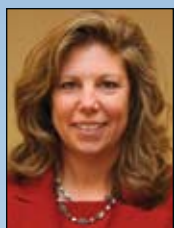




HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



Lauren Panarella

As we move into the new year, it is with great pride that I review our accomplishments over 2008. Our commitment to The Arc of Somerset County's vision and mission is stronger than ever. Our last issue of the *Herald* featured the programs and accomplishments of the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. This issue features Camp Jotoni and outlines programs and accomplishments agency-wide. For 36 years, we have continuously expanded our programs and services to meet the growing needs of the disability community.

We look to the members of our community for feedback on the programs and services we develop. Based on this feedback, we are now providing children ages 30- to 42-months old with Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapy in small group settings that encourage peer interaction and the development of social skills. In addition to our Developmental Daycare Program, we now offer Before and After Care to children of all abilities, ages 18 months to 3 years. And our Private Preschool Program offers an educational setting for all 3- to 5-year-old children in preparation for elementary school.

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Camp Jotoni Delights Campers

Action and Adventure Week, one of two new programs at Camp Jotoni, drew rave reviews from campers and families alike in 2008. "We

were thrilled that participants reported 100-percent satisfaction on our surveys," said Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director. In fact, those surveyed noted nearly 100-percent satisfaction with all Camp Jotoni programs and services. This includes day, residential, and extended programs encompassing travel and adventure, arts and crafts, music, swimming, physical education, and nature walks.

This past summer, Action and Adventure Week took campers on day trips to the indoor Water Park at the Great Wolf Lodge in the

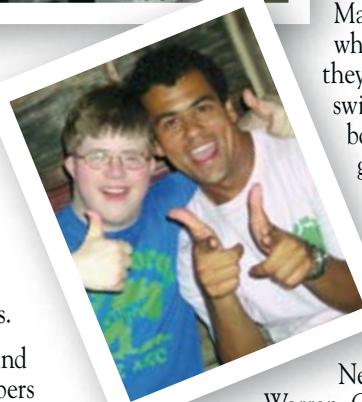
Pocono Mountains, Yankee Stadium in New York City, cruises around the tip of Manhattan, and horseback riding along

trails in Monmouth County. Campers preferring trips that last week-long, enjoyed Travel Camp Week, offered for the first time last year. Participants stayed in Ocean City, Maryland, where they went swimming, boating, played miniature golf, and dined out daily.

"In late spring, weather permitting, we plan to offer overnight week-ends for those in need of a brief respite," said Chris Reagan, Director of Camp Jotoni.

Nestled into 17 acres of woodlands in Warren, Camp Jotoni provides recreational

See Camp Jotoni on page 6



A Message from Edmond A. Brown, President

Dear Friends,

With the economy in turmoil, many in the public and private sectors from Wall Street to Main Street are grappling with the question: What do we do?

Our response to today's unprecedented economic crisis is to build an even stronger organization through: 1) donor support and service; and 2) board development. This will ensure The Arc of Somerset County's consumers and families—those often disproportionately impacted by an economic downturn—receive the vital services and programs that will help them get through these tough times.



Edmond A. Brown

Now more than ever, we need donors, prospects, members, families, and friends to consider planned giving opportunities as a way of providing The Arc with sustainable support. Please visit our website at www.thearcofsomerset.org to see examples of planned gifts. Also, for those who are required to take a distribution from their Individual Retirement

Account (IRA), there is good news. Congress recently reinstated the Pension Protection Act of 2006 through the Emergency Economic Stabilization

See President on page 2

The Arc of Somerset County MISSION

The Arc of Somerset County supports persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in realizing their dreams by providing lifelong advocacy and quality services.* We further support efforts towards the prevention of developmental disabilities.

*The word *families* includes all family members, as well as friends, caregivers, guardians, and advocates.

THE ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Development Alfie DeMoss
Employment Services Jim O'Rourke
Finance James Richart
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Parents and Children
Together (PACT) Jeanne Guarnieri
Quality Management Lisa Intili
Residential Services Chris Gunning
Safety & Maintenance Gabe Trepiccone
Support Services Sharon McClellan

The Arc of Somerset County
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Aggie Perilli Communications International,
www.aggieperilli.com

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Act of 2008, which permits taxpayers age 70 years or older to make distributions from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA without incurring capital gains tax on a withdrawal through December 31, 2009.

We also need your time, energy and talent to support a myriad of ongoing projects and activities. That may include helping to maintain our residential or camp facilities. Your time is a valued resource.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we are vigorously pursuing the goals in our

Strategic Plan—one of which is to develop our Board of Directors. We continue to look for dedicated professionals with skills and expertise in Social Services, Human Resources, Governance, and Marketing and Development to join our team. Together, we can effectively navigate the uncharted economic terrain that lies ahead, and roll out both a short- and long-term plan to secure a bright future for those we serve.

Warmest regards,

Edmond A. Brown

President

Staff Applauded at Holiday Party

The individual and group accomplishments of all 355 staff members of The Arc of Somerset County were celebrated on December 4 at the Holiday Inn in Somerset. Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, and Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director, highlighted the major accomplishments of each department and program.



To the whoops and cheers of colleagues, employees who have been with The Arc of Somerset County for more than five years, received special recognition. With The Arc of Somerset County the longest are: Jeanne Guarnieri and Margaret Kukla (25 years) and Kerriann Frost, Lisa Intili, Barbara Lutsky, and Nancy Tarazona (20 years).

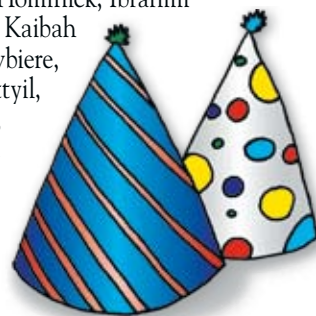
All of the employees nominated for this year's Outstanding Employee Award received a warm round of applause. Congratulations to the following nominees, listed in alphabetical order. In Employment Services: Amy Burns, Anatoliy Murallo, and Sakree Tillman.



In Residential Services: Doretha Casey, Beverly Eschbach, Cynthia Hominick, Ibrahim Kallon, Faith Kuria, Kaibah Mavolo, Friday Oravbiere, Thomas Piravmthottiyil, Candi Scarborough, and Melanie Shane.

The winner of this year's Outstanding Employee Award was Cynthia Homnick of Residential Services. An employee of The Arc of Somerset County for more than 14 years, Cynthia is a role model for patience, honesty, kindness, high productivity, and team spirit. Commented Lauren, "What makes Cynthia truly stand out, however, is her commitment and dedication to consumers at the Franklin Group Home. Cynthia is known for her compassion, positive attitude, and innate ability to build the self-esteem and independence of the individuals she cares so deeply about," Lauren added.

Thanks to all employees for their heartfelt commitment and enthusiasm.



A Call to Young Professionals!

The Arc of Somerset County is forming a new advisory group of young professionals to help promote the agency's mission and programs. "We'd like to organize a dynamic group of students or young professionals, share our mission with them, and then seek their expertise in promoting and growing our programs," said Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development. "We need fresh, new ideas if we hope to succeed in today's very competitive environment." Young philanthropists and volunteers with an interest in community service are welcome to contact Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.

A PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE DREAMS:

Arc Angel Gala Earns Net Profit of Nearly \$70,000

On November 14 at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills, The Arc Angel Gala fundraiser grossed over \$112,000 while earning a net profit of over \$68,000.

A formal Citation delivered by Emcee and Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli recognized The Arc of Somerset County for helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families realize their dreams through lifelong advocacy and quality services.

Instrumental in making the Gala a success were the magnanimous **Co-chairs:** AT&T and B.W. Bosenberg & Company Inc.; **Benefactors:** CIT Group, Inc., Paterniti Family Foundation, Inc., and TRIMLINE Medical Products Corporation;

Sponsors: Fred and Roe Patterson; and a host of **Patrons** and **Friends**.

Following are Gala honorees.



Gala Co-chair Brian Bosenberg of B.W. Bosenberg & Company (third from right) and guests.



Guests sing along with pianist Brittany Maier.

TRIMLINE IS HONORED WITH ARC ANGEL AWARD

TRIMLINE Medical Products Corporation in Branchburg received the Arc Angel Award for its exemplary practices in improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities through gainful employment. Remarked President Richard F. Jacobson, "At the beginning of our contract, The Arc of Somerset County assembled 1,000, 2,000 and then 3,000 blood-pressure-cuff units in one day. Today, consumers assemble 10,000 a day. Working with The Arc is absolutely good business!"



Richard Jacobson, President of TRIMLINE Medical Products, with his Arc Angel Award, and Paul Huang of the Occupational Training Center in Branchburg with his Halo Award.

PAUL HUANG WINS HALO AWARD

Paul Huang, who works at the Occupational Training Center in Branchburg, won the Halo Award for his superior quality work as one of the strongest members on the TRIMLINE Team.

Left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Simonse, Patricia Fox, and Robert Benjamin.



LEO AND ANNE ZUCKERMAN

ACCEPT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Leo and Anne Zuckerman of Somerset received a Lifetime Achievement Award for their extraordinary scientific contributions, humanitarian service, and devotion to championing the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

In accepting the award for her parents, daughter Diana said, "The Arc has made a world of difference for my brother, Elliott, our family, and families across the country.

Elliott has, for quite some time now, lived at the Ardsley Group Home in Hillsborough. He lives a very satisfied life. I often say he's the happiest person in our family, and probably the most loved. Elliott enjoys going to work, riding horses, and bowling, and has made many friends in the group home and at The Arc. The Arc of Somerset County has made all of this possible."



Leo and Anne Zuckerman, founding board members and recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

CHRISTA JOY CIOTTA

AND DONNA SCAROLA ACCEPT ANGELS AMONG US AWARD

Honored as Angels Among Us were seniors Christa Joy Ciotta of Bridgewater Raritan High School and Donna Scarola of Mount Saint Mary Academy.

Congratulations to all of The Arc's patrons, award winners, and friends. Even in today's challenging economic climate, you have made The Arc Angel Gala a fundraising success.



Left to right, Angels Among Us: Christa Joy Ciotta and Donna Scarola.



Board President Edmond A. Brown and Executive Director Lauren Panarella accept a citation from Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli.

Photos by Debbie Weissman

Dances, Parties, and Gifts Brighten the Holidays

Several area organizations and individuals took time out of their hectic schedules to bring joy to adults with developmental disabilities during this holiday season.

- On December 5, Residential Services held its annual winter dance at the VFW Post 2290 Hall in Manville. Nearly 295 people attended, included individuals with developmental disabilities from across the state. Janus Wocik and her band had revelers dancing to their lively music.
- On December 9, the Excursion Club had a bowling party at Tenpin Lanes bowling alley in Manville. Happy bowlers included residents from the South Street and Union Avenue Apartments, and the Ardsley, Cambridge, and Cedar Grove Group Homes.
- Holiday festivities resounded with joy throughout December. On December 10, the American Legion and residents of the Union Avenue apartments hosted a holiday party at Post 12



Evelyn Ramundo enjoys the Excursion Club Bowling Party on December 9.

in Bridgewater. On December 12, residents enjoyed holiday parties at the Ardsley Group and Franklin Group Homes, while a sing-along hosted by Chaplain Jamie Roos at the Valley Park Occupational Training Center had consumers from the Cedar Grove and Warren Group Homes singing and playing the piano, bongo, and drums with residents of the South Street and Union Avenue apartments. On December 14, residents of the Commons Apartments celebrated the holidays. On December 20, also at the Commons Apartments, Residential Services hosted its first Hanukkah party. On December 23, a holiday party at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center was catered by Just Subs in Greenbrook, a generous provider of food and services to The Arc of Somerset County for six years.

- On December 18, The Somerset County United Way in Bridgewater donated holiday gifts for residents living at The Arc of Somerset County's group homes and apartments. The gifts included clothing, DVDs, CDs, and gift cards.
- On December 19, Laura Maliani, Assistant Director of Residential Services, Pam Michael, and Karen Stanchak, Individual Habilitation Program Coordinator, hosted a Craft Fair at the Valley Park Occupational Training Center.
- On December 30 at the Jill Court Adult Training Center, consumers enjoyed a screening of their October 16th talent show, in which performances were ranked by judges and videotaped.

Said Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, "Thank you to all those who made this holiday season especially bright."

JDECC Students Enjoy Holiday Cheer

Many thoughtful individuals and area organizations spread holiday cheer to students at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center (JDECC).

- On December 9, preschoolers from JDECC joined children from other schools at the annual holiday lunch hosted by the Watchung-Warren Rotary Club at the Watchung Hills Country Club in Warren.
- On December 17, Ridge High School students donated teddy bears they dressed up for students at JDECC. Every year before the holidays, members of the National Honor Society at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge recruit fellow students to adopt and dress teddy bears for charities over the holidays. The bears—beautifully clothed in dresses, ties, soccer shorts, and other imaginative outfits—brought JDECC students great joy.
- On December 18, students at JDECC received gifts donated through the Somerset County United Way in Bridgewater.
- On December 23, Santa visited students at JDECC. The eyes twinkling beneath the red hat and white wig belonged to Tommy Donovan, husband of Susan Donovan, former teacher and Somerset Arc board member.

"Thank you to all those who remembered the students at JDECC this year!" said Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "You have brought smiles to many young faces."



Ridge High School Senior Ryan Kitson (second from the left) presents toy bears to (left to right) Laura Maliani, Assistant Director of Residential Services, Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, and Laura Liebel, Director of Childhood Services.

Volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics and sanofi-aventis Model a Spirit of Giving

Volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics, a division of Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., and sanofi-aventis, both headquartered in Bridgewater, donated time and talent to refurbish facilities for The Arc of Somerset County.

TIBOTEC THERAPEUTICS PREPARES CAMP JOTONI FOR WINTER

Nearly 65 volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics, many of whom restored Camp Jotoni in 2007, returned on October 3 fully equipped with donated supplies. Led by Deb Chudy, the volunteers set out to clear brush, power wash the deck and pavilions, paint picnic tables, clean cabins, and cover windows with plastic. They also constructed a shade structure and lattice-work for the changing and pool areas, respectively. "Most of the Tibotec volunteers who came to Camp Jotoni had been here last year," observed Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development. "Normally we have to post requests for assistance with facilities



Dedicated volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics, a division of Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., in Bridgewater, refurbished Camp Jotoni.

maintenance. But these volunteers reached out to me and asked if they could return. I found that very touching."

SANOFI-AVENTIS DONATES \$11,500; BEFRIENDS CONSUMERS

During seven of the United Way's Days of Caring in September and October, volunteers from sanofi-aventis spruced up the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center (JDECC); Branchburg, Mobus, and Old Stirling Group Homes; Jill Court Adult Training Center; and Commons Apartments. The volunteers, led by Amy Dupuis, Manager of U.S. Philanthropy, cleaned toys and equipment, power



Volunteers from sanofi-aventis in Bridgewater made friends with consumers at the Jill Court Adult Training Center.

washed exteriors, repaired, stained, and painted facilities, and planted perennials. Moreover, sanofi-aventis donated \$11,500 to purchase supplies and fund future volunteer initiatives. On a personal note, volunteers at JDECC participated in Circle Time. And those working at Jill Court played Bingo with consumers. "Volunteers took it upon themselves to learn how to use the consumers' complex language board, and made friends with them," noted Tara. "Several volunteers even scheduled a return visit."

Mentors and Direct Support Providers Earn Accolades

Mentors and Direct Support Providers (DSPs) were honored by the New Jersey Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce Development Coalition at the annual DSP conference held at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset on September 25. Honorees included Mentors Alison Malnak and Cheryl Brantley, and DSPs George Joseph, Thomas Piravmthottiyil, Colleen Quinn, and Alexandria Simmons-Rhodes.

Job Coach Alison Malnak of Supported Employment received the first "Making a Difference Award" not only for completing her first level of Career Path-College of Direct Support Coursework, but for advancing advocacy initiatives and supporting individuals with disabilities even during off hours. Alison's advocacy initiatives ranged from participating in Advocates for Change at The Arc of Somerset County, to attending a Capitol Hill Congressional Breakfast hosted by the ANCOR Action Center in Wash-



Alison Malnak

ington, D.C. On her own time, Alison doesn't hesitate to help friends within the disability community, in part, by providing them with transportation to recreational and personal events. "I almost fell out of my chair, when I heard I received the award," remarked a clearly pleased Alison. "I was having a bad day and that brought perspective and balance."

Also honored for completing their first level of Career Path-College of Direct Support Coursework—including more than 40 lessons and tests—are Mentor Cheryl Brantley of Employment Services in Branchburg and DSPs George Joseph, Thomas Piravmthottiyil, Colleen Quinn, and Alexandria Simmons-Rhodes. Said Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director, "These are people who have longevity with our agency, and who are looking to improve the processes and professionalism of the work they and their colleagues perform."

Camp Jotoni, continued from page 1

and therapeutic programs to children and adults with developmental disabilities, ages 5 through adult, from June 25 through August 31. Day Camp and Extended Care are offered from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., while Residential Care is offered 24-hours a day for one- and two-week sessions.

"The Residential Care Program helps ease the stress of those providing care 24/7," remarked Chris.

"For some families, summer camp is the only respite they get all year."

All Camp Jotoni programs enhance the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of campers. Unique leisure and social activities—many of them outdoors—provide campers with healthy lifestyles and independent living skills. Camp Jotoni provides a continuation of the structure campers enjoy during the school year, and professionally guides those who are staying away from home for the first time.

"Between members of the administration and nursing staff, we offer more than 50 years of experience working with people who have special needs," said Chris. "Over the decades, we've earned the trust of families and campers alike. Many families plan their entire summer schedules around Camp Jotoni," he continued. "When camp is in session, parents and guardians can rest assured their loved ones are being well cared for."

During the 2008 camp season, Camp Jotoni served more than 200 consumers from Somerset and surrounding counties in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Camp Jotoni's online advertisements have attracted counselors from around the world. "Camp counselors from countries like Russia have demonstrated their country's traditional dance and native cuisine," Chris commented. "This adds an international flavor for consumers who may never travel overseas."

Operating on an annual budget of \$400,000, Camp Jotoni's major funding partners include the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, Somerset County United Way, United Way of Greater Union County, Department of Human Services in Somerset County, and donors to The Arc of Somerset County.

Maintenance of the camp is provided largely by the kindness and support of volunteers. Corporations such as Tibotec Therapeutics, a division of Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., and sanofi-aventis, both headquartered in Bridgewater, rake leaves, trim bushes, clear pathways, and prep facilities. "Their generosity saves us thousands of dollars in maintenance every year, enabling us to channel limited funds into camp services," said a grateful Chris. (See "Volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics and sanofi-aventis Model a Spirit of Giving" on page 5.)

While applications for Camp Jotoni aren't due until May 15, parents and guardians are encouraged to sign up early. "Attendance is limited," said Chris. "And the sooner we know the needs of each camper, the more effectively we can plan to meet those needs." Depending on the availability of funds, scholarships—called camperships—will be offered on a limited basis to those who are unable to afford summer camp. For information and applications, please contact Karina Alvarado at 908-725-2266.





Celebrating the Life of Loved Ones

On January 6, a Celebration of Life Ceremony was held for Robert Giannotta (1946 to 2008) at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center. Robert, who lived at the Rocky Hill Group Home, passed away on December 22 at the Princeton Medical Center after a sudden illness. Robert lived at Rocky Hill since 2004. Previously, he lived at the Old Stirling Group Home in Warren, where he moved in 1993, when he began working at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center.



Robert Giannotta

An avid sports fan, Robert favored the Mets, Yankees, Jets, and Lakers. He enjoyed participating in community activities as much as staying home to watch his favorite television programs. Robert is survived by his twin brother, Joseph, and brother Patrick.

On October 28, a Celebration of Life Ceremony was held for Thomas Cicalese (1936 to 2008) at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center. Tom, a native of Newark, joined The Arc of Somerset County in 1984 and served on the Board of Directors from 1984 to 1992 and again, from 1995 to 2003.

Well known in the community, Tom was often referred to as The Mayor. Tom worked as Custodian at Raritan Valley Col-

lege for many years until his retirement in 1999. Since 2002, Tom lived in his own apartment in Bound Brook, where he attended Our Lady of Mercy Church. Tom moved to Bound Brook in 2002 from an apartment in Somerville, where he attended the Immaculate Conception Church. Previously Tom lived with his sister, Josephine.

An active member of both the Holy Name Society and Advocates for Change, Tom enjoyed swimming, fishing, dancing, and playing Bingo and baseball. He also took adult classes at East Brunswick High School. Tom is survived by his twin sister Frances Oehme, niece Maria Yurow, eight other nieces and nephews, and six great nieces and nephews.



Thomas Cicalese

Donations to the Lou Baldino/Tom Cicalese Fund for Recreation and Vacations (formerly known as the Lou Baldino Legacy Recreation Fund) will be gratefully accepted by The Arc of Somerset County in Manville. The fund provides those on limited incomes within the disability community with the means for enjoying recreational activities and vacations.

Robert and Tom were cherished by many and will be dearly missed.



Bill Gaventa

Supporting Arc Members Coping with Grief and Loss

On the evening of December 11 at the Valley Park Adult Training Center in Hillsborough, staff and family members learned how best to support adults with developmental disabilities coping with grief and loss. The training was provided at no charge by Bill Gaventa, Director of Community and Congregational Support at The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Jamie Roos, Chaplain of The Arc of Somerset County.

Attendees learned about the stages of grief and end-of-life care. They also received practical tips and important resources for those facing death, loss, and grief. "This training—designed for caregivers and consumers alike—is useful for all of us, both in our personal and professional lives," noted Sharon McClellan, Director of Support Services. "We want to thank Bill Gaventa for providing us with the assistance we need to support consumers and their families."

For those who were unable to attend the December Grief and Loss training, a second session will be offered in the spring. Refer to upcoming issues of the *Herald* for more information.

Supporting Siblings of Individuals with Disabilities

On January 25, The Arc of Somerset County presented a program to support the siblings of people who have developmental disabilities at the YMCA in Hillsborough. The program (the first in a series) was tailored to the needs of children ages 8 to 12.

Amy Burns, Assistant Manager of Employment Services, presented SEEDS—a Student Education and Experience for Disability Sensitivity Program. Her purpose was to plant seeds of understanding and cultivate sensitivity toward people who have disabilities that are developmental, physical, cognitive, and/or learning-related. (See "Sensitizing Students and Teachers to People with Disabilities" on page 11.)

In addition to the presentations, attendees enjoyed swimming, arts and crafts, games, and pizza. "We're reaching out to the community to find innovative ways to support the siblings of people with disabilities," said Sharon McClellan, Director of Support Services. The public is welcome to provide input by contacting Sharon or Mary Atchey, Assistant Director of Family Support Services, at 908-725-8544.

The second program in the series will address the needs of adult siblings. Stay tuned to upcoming issues of the *Herald* for more information.

Employment Services Welcomes New Client, Morton Salt®

DID YOU KNOW... that our employees are about to begin labeling more than 150,000 bags for our new customer, Morton Salt?

DID YOU KNOW... that the Jill Court and Valley Park Adult Training Centers are now listed on the Hillsborough Township Economic and Business Development Commission Website designed to promote regional businesses?

DID YOU KNOW... that at the recent Arc Angel Gala honoring the TRIMLINE Medical Products Corporation, company President Richard Jacobson emphasized the exceptional quality of the millions of tube-and-connector-set units assembled by The Arc over the years? Congratulations to the TRIMLINE team, consumers, and staff!

Kevin Krug, an employee in the Production Department at Bridgewater Wholesalers in Branchburg since 1993, staples a stop to a door jam.

DID YOU KNOW... that we are always looking for work for employees at our production centers? For help with



Denise Petrone, with the aid of a therapeutic standing table at the Gannett Adult Training Center in Bridgewater, works on a hearing aid project for Oticon.

projects, please contact Britt Blomgren, Contract Sales Manager at 908-707-0920 or brittb@thearcofsomerset.org.

LEARN MORE...The Arc of Somerset County employs more than 200 adults with developmental disabilities at four local production and training centers. Our diverse workforce provides services to an equally diverse customer base ranging from pharmaceutical, marketing and medical de-

vice companies to food service, pet products, financial services, hardware and sub-assembly, energy conservation, cosmetics, and direct mailing businesses.

Employment Services is committed to providing customers with a reliable and cost-effective alternative to in-house assembly, packaging, mail handling, cleaning, and light office tasks. As an added benefit, companies that employ consumers increase the visibility of people with developmental disabilities within their community.

Ethicon Provides Grant for Consumer-Run Shredding Business

Charlotte Hayden, Assistant Director of Employment Services, and Bob Hult, Manager of Supported Employment, received a \$20,000 grant from Ethicon, a Johnson & Johnson company, to purchase an industrial-sized 16-series Allegheny shredder. It is a substantial piece of equipment for the new shredding business, which will be managed and operated solely by consumers at the Branchburg Adult Training Center. Prospective clients include real estate agents, accountants, lawyers, car dealers, and small business owners who have confidential materials to discard, such as obsolete bank statements, credit cards, and computer disks or CDs.



Amy Niedzinski

"Bob and I really wanted to launch an enterprise that consumers could make their own," Charlotte said. "We identified consumers who could serve as sales representatives and began training. Over the summer, we saved paper so that we could practice running the shredder and make sure safety measures were in place. Now we're ready for our first paying customers!"

Setting their sights on becoming the "go-to" shredding business in the area, Supported Employment is applying with New Jersey Access Network for government contracts set aside for disadvantaged companies. "We've been talking about launching this business for a year-and-a-half," Charlotte said. "Consumers were beginning to think I was pulling their leg. Now that we have the machine and well-trained staff, consumers are looking forward to getting started."

Individuals and organizations that have unwanted records to discard are encouraged to contact Charlotte Hayden at 908-707-1112, ext. 39. Enthused Charlotte, "Thanks to the generosity of Ethicon, our dream of launching a shredding business has become a reality!"

ON THE MOVE

The Arc Promotes Employees

Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, is proud to announce the following promotions.

LISA INTILI IS DIRECTOR OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT



Lisa Intili

On November 15, Lisa Intili was promoted from Assistant Director of Financial Services to Director of Quality Management. With The Arc of Somerset County since 1988, Lisa previously served as Assistant Director of both Residential Services and Operations. "Quality ties all of our departments together," Lisa said. "It's everyone's job to ensure the services

we provide are of the highest quality—and that the lives of our members are enriched." Accustomed to working behind the scenes, Lisa looks forward to the challenge of running her own department.

CHERYL BRANTLEY IS FACILITY MANAGER

Effective November 17, Cheryl Brantley was promoted to Facility Manager at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center. Cheryl has completed a wide range of professional development programs at The Arc of Somerset County over the past six years and is certified through a Federal grant by the Regional 2 Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program of the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has successfully served as a Support Counselor, Employment Specialist, Senior Employment Spe-



Cheryl Brantley

cialist and, most recently, Acting Facility Manager. Said Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services, "For more than 30 years, Cheryl has been a strong advocate and volunteer for individuals with developmental disabilities."

SAKREE TILLMAN IS SENIOR EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST



Sakree Tillman

Effective November 9, Sakree Tillman was promoted from Support Counselor to Senior Employment Specialist. Said Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services, "Sakree's hard work and dedication as a Support Counselor provides an excellent foundation for her new responsibilities at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center."

JONEDAL PANGAN IS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



Jonedal Pangan

On December 8, Jonedal Pangan became the new Assistant Director of Finance, responsible for all Payroll and Payeeship Services. An employee of The Arc of Somerset County since September 2007, Jonedal was promoted to Assistant Accountant earlier this year. Said Jim Richart, Director of Finance, "As a member of our Financial Services team, she has made many important contributions that have enhanced our financial reporting and control capabilities."

Said Lauren, "Congratulations to all those who received a promotion. I am confident your experience and enthusiasm will be a great asset to all of us at The Arc."

The Arc of Somerset County Receives Communicator's Award

Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, accepted the Communicator's Award on behalf of The Arc of Somerset County at the 2008 Awards Celebration of The Arc of New Jersey held at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset on October 30. The Arc of Somerset County was recognized for generating enthusiasm and a sense of achievement through innovative outreach efforts and expertly styled communications that set a standard of quality for the entire Arc community.

Among The Arc of Somerset County's accomplishments were updating the website; airing five Cablevision public service announcements promoting The Arc's pivotal programs and events; instituting two annual Business Partnership Awards Ceremonies for individuals and organizations providing employment; drawing support and donations from numerous networking events; and repositioning the *Herald* newsletter as an educational and marketing tool.

"The success of our communications comes from the intelligence and inspiration of our consumers," Alfie said.



Sensitizing Students and Teachers to People with Disabilities

On October 24, Amy Burns, Assistant Manager of Employment Services, and Jen Forsythe, Employment Consultant, provided students in North Plainfield High School with sensitivity training regarding people with disabilities. To drive home her message, Amy presented the bios of eight public figures who the students were invited to identify. One of the public figures had symptoms related to Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, high functioning Autism, language delays, and Dyslexia. Even as an adult, this figure had difficulty tying his shoes and remembering simple information, yet he went on to marry, have three children, earn three doctoral degrees, publish more than 300 works on theory, and win the Nobel Prize in Physics. The figure, relatively easy to identify, was Albert Einstein.

Other notable figures included Bill Gates, who has a mild form of Asperger's Syndrome, and actress Cameron Diaz who has compulsions related to cleanliness and germs. The eighth figure Amy described was a 28-year-old female who, despite losing her right foot and vision in one eye, enjoys painting, photography, jogging, kayaking, and soccer. When the students failed to identify the figure, she said simply, "It's me." "The students

were shocked," Amy said, adding that her disabilities often go unnoticed by the general public.

"The kids were intrigued by how a disability could hinder a person in one area, yet allow them to excel in another," she added.

Amy also delivered sensitivity training to students and teachers at the Warren Middle School on October 7 and November 13, respectively. For the latter group, Amy presented SEEDS—a Student Education and Experience for Disability Sensitivity Program that she developed to plant seeds of understanding and cultivate sensitivity toward people who have disabilities that are developmental, physical, cognitive, and/or learning-related.

The SEEDS Program supports peace initiatives designed to prevent bullying and violence while promoting diversity, tolerance, and conflict resolution. Given the warm reception Amy received from students and faculty alike, she hopes word about sensitivity training will spread to counties outside of Somerset. "The students and faculty have been incredibly gracious and open," she said, adding that she enjoys providing training. "Hopefully we have succeeded in broadening the students' horizon."

The Lions Club Donates 33 Thanksgiving Baskets!

The Lions Club of Warren Township generously donated 33 Thanksgiving baskets to The Arc of Somerset County: 20 for Residential Services, four for participants in the PACT Program (Parents and Children Together), one for members of Family Support Services, and the rest for consumers working in Employment Services. Thank you, Ryan Woodring and other members of the Lions Club for providing a Thanksgiving feast for dozens of residents.

From left to right, Lauren Panarella, Executive Director; Ryan Woodring of the Lions Club; Christopher Corvino, Associate Executive Director; Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services; Trina Trent, Assistant Director of Employment Services; and Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services.



SJP Properties Donates \$17,000

Elaine and Steve Pozyski of SJP Properties in Parsippany donated \$17,000 to The Arc of Somerset County for their outstanding contributions to the community. Executive Director Lauren Panarella accepted the check at a reception on December 18 at The Midland School in North Branch. "The generosity of Steve and Elaine Pozyski is improving many lives," said Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "A heartfelt thank you from all of us in The Arc community."



Left to right, Phil Brown, Executive Director of the Somerset County United Way; Nichola Redmond, Executive Director of the Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center; Kevin Brothers, Executive Director of Somerset Hills Learning Institute; Elaine Pozyski of SJP Properties; Philip Gartlan, Executive Director of The Midland School; Lauren Panarella, Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County; and Steven M. Proctor, President of the Matheny Medical and Educational Center with a student from The Midland School.

Executive Director, continued from page 1

Our low teacher-to-student ratio and intimate class sizes ensure that students receive plenty of personal attention. In these trying economic times, The Arc of Somerset County remains committed to offering quality childcare and education at affordable prices. In special circumstances, scholarships are available. If you haven't already visited the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, "Where Children Are Challenged And Grow," we welcome you to arrange for a personal tour.

Thank you for your ongoing feedback and support, as we continuously grow to meet our community's expanding needs.


Best regards,

Lauren Panarella

Executive Director

Save the Date!

"TEA WITH HONEY" SET FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2009



The 10th annual "Tea With Honey" fundraiser is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on February 8, 2009, at the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge. For tickets and information, please contact Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.



BUSINESS PARTNERS TO BE HONORED FEBRUARY 13 AND 20

A Business Partnership Awards Ceremony for companies providing Employment Services with work contracts is set for February 13, from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. at the Branchburg Adult Training Center, 161 Industrial Parkway, Branchburg. Following on February 20 will be a second Awards Ceremony for Business Partners who employ consumers to work on-site. The latter ceremony, also set for 2:00 to 3:15 p.m., will be held at 3 Jill Court, Building 3 in Hillsborough. For more information, please contact Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.

"STEP UP FOR THE ARC" IN MAY

The 2009 Walkathon is scheduled for May at Duke Island Park on Old York Road in Bridgewater. Potential sponsors who would like to purchase space on The Arc of Somerset County T-shirt,

and walkers who wish to organize teams, are invited to contact Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development at 908-725-8544, ext. 610. To create your own fundraising page, please visit www.firstgiving.org/thearcofsomerset. Stay tuned to upcoming issues of the *Herald* for more information.

ATTEND ANNUAL EXPO, ELECTION, MEMBERSHIP, AND AWARDS CELEBRATION IN JUNE

This year's Annual Expo, Election, Membership, and Awards Celebration will be held at the Bridgewater Manor in June. More information will be provided in upcoming issues of the *Herald*.

SOMERSET COUNTY PATRIOTS GAME ON AUGUST 15

All proceeds from the Somerset Patriots baseball game on August 15 will be donated to The Arc of Somerset County. The game will be followed by an exciting fireworks display. Potential sponsors are invited to contact Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.

SCREENING OF BILL SACKTER STORY PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 2009

A fundraising reception and screening of the feature-length documentary about Bill Sackter, a man with disabilities who escaped lifelong institutional confinement and went on to lead a fulfilling life in Iowa City, is scheduled for October 2009, National Disability Employment Month. Stay tuned to upcoming issues of the *Herald* for more information.



Where people with developmental disabilities
learn to live their dreams.SM

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