



A message from the Executive Director



As we closed 2013, I was reminded of the individuals who helped shape The Arc of Somerset County. Our

founding families, Board members, and employees played a pivotal role in creating The Arc as we know it today...a leader in New Jersey providing compassionate and comprehensive services and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At the end of each year, I write a message that takes a look back at all of our accomplishments and success stories of the previous year, and this year they are numerous. Expanded services, new programs, and additional funding sources are just a few of the successes. For my message this year, I want to focus on looking forward toward the future of accomplishing our mission for those we serve, our programs, and our agency as a whole. Our past success are our foundation, our future successes are our legacy.

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HERALD

Celebrating More Than 40 Years of Service

Arc expands services for children with disabilities

In a time of shrinking budgets, when many nonprofits are faced with the difficult decision of closing programs, it is more important than ever to be flexible while also seeking new funding sources. While we are still navigating the fiscal challenges of continuing our vast and many services for individuals with disabilities, we are pleased to announce the expansion of our services for children with special needs.

The PACT (Parents and Children Together) program has been awarded a contract to begin providing intensive in-home individualized supports and services for children, adolescents, or young adults who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. The goal of this program is to link and transition the youth and their family to additional community-based services while also transferring vital skills to the family as well.

"Thanks to this recent partnership with the Department of Children and Families we will be able to meet the clinical and therapeutic needs of children with intellectual disabilities", states Jeanne Guarnieri, Director of P.A.C.T for the Arc of Somerset.

The weekend respite program at Camp Jotoni continues to expand both in terms of the number of respite weekends provided as well as the number of campers that participate in the program. "Respite opportunities continue to be the most common request from our families," remarks Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "By expanding the Camp Jotoni season beyond our traditional summer camp offering, we are able to utilize the space to provide an engaging experience for our campers and much-needed respite for our families."

To learn more about PACT, Camp Jotoni, or our other services for children with special needs, please visit our website at www.thearcofsomerset.org.



Arc Grant Achievements in Qtr 1&2 2014:

We are proud to recognize the following grant achievements this fall for The Arc of Somerset County:

- **E. J. Grassmann Trust** for \$5,000 was received to help The Arc with bathroom renovations at Old Stirling Group Home.
- **Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** for \$2,000 was received to support daycare and pre-school tuition for low income families with special needs children in Somerset County.
- **Magyar Bank Charitable Foundation** for \$1,000 was received for the 2013 Camp Jotoni Weekend Respite.

The Arc of Somerset County MISSION

The Arc of Somerset County provides quality services and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to support development and achievement at every stage of life.

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QualityLisa Intili
Director of Residential Services
..... Stella Ecep

The Arc of Somerset County
141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835
Ph. 908-725-8544 Fax 908-704-0850
www.thearcofsomerset.org

Arc Celebrates the Holidays with Friends and Family



Each year, The Arc of Somerset County is thrilled to work with various local organizations, groups, and individuals to ensure that the holidays are a truly special time for those we serve. We would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions toward a festive season at The Arc:

- **The Lion's Club of Warren** for coordinating the Thanksgiving basket drive for countless Arc families and group homes. We are truly thankful for this drive that the Lion's conduct annually.
- **The Arc's Maintenance & Clinical Services Departments** for sponsoring dinner and dancing for persons served. Attendees were able to capture the memories in the photo booth at the event. The Maintenance Department made this event possible by donating the money they won as the top fundraising team at the annual Arc Walk in May 2013. Additional thanks are owed to Dominos of Hillsborough, Herr's of Somerset, VFW Post 2290 of Manville, and Cyle Conners for their donations!
- **Jewish Family Services** of Somerset, Warren, and Hunterdon Counties for hosting a Hanukkah Celebration at The Arc Main Office. 2013 marked the third year for this partnership.
- **The United Way of Northern New Jersey** for including persons served by The Arc in their annual Gifts of the Season program. This gift drive ensures that all members of the community receive at least one special present for the holidays. Santa came on the morning of December 19th to surprise the children at The Jerry Davis Center and distributed these gifts to each child at the center. Smiles were miles wide!



- **The Courier News** for featuring several stories about Arc consumers and families in their 2013 WishBook. We have since found out that five persons served will have their wishes granted by the generosity of Courier News readers!

- **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** for hosting their annual holiday celebration for the Commons Apartments.

- **The Arc's many generous donors** that ensure that Arc consumers and families will continue to enjoy lives filled with growth, development, and achievement well beyond the holiday season.



Message, continued from page 1

I look forward to the continued expansion of our program offerings that will continually transform to meet the current and future needs of the children and adults we serve. We will keep our promise to allow individuals to “age in place” by developing new and enhanced adult programs that will meet the needs of our aging population. We will also commit to serving our most vulnerable citizens by addressing the needs of those who live with autism, particularly children.

I look forward to broadening our outreach efforts to include more volunteers and community partners. Our mission is to support the community and we must continue to engage the larger community in our efforts to build awareness and support for our citizens who live with disabilities. 2014 will bring opportunities to cultivate new relationships with our community while strengthening those relationships that we currently enjoy.

Finally, I look forward to revitalization of The Arc Foundation of Somerset County. Our Foundation, which was established in 1997, will begin to emerge as the fundraising arm of The Arc of Somerset County. Our board of trustees is committed to creating the opportunities and structure to allow donors to give to The Arc to create a lasting legacy for themselves while securing the financial future of our agency.

Looking forward also means that we will need to engage the next generation of Arc supporters. They are the future leaders, philanthropists, and spokespersons that will continue to work tirelessly for the good of all citizens regardless of ability. Their future accomplishments will be made possible by the work of our founding families whose tireless pursuit of equality, dignity, achievement, and opportunity for individuals with disability laid the ground work for the next generations' achievements for years to come.

I look forward to your continued support as we celebrate our proud past and promising future.

Sincerely,

Lauren Panarella

Arc honored Fanning and Lees Fam

On Friday, November 15, The Arc of Somerset County held its annual Arc Angel Gala, "Proud Past, Promising Future." The event, held at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills, NJ, was sponsored by B.W. Bosenberg Corporation, chairman Circle Sponsor and AT&T, Vice Chairman Circle Sponsor. For the sixth consecutive year, NJ Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli served as the event emcee.

Other event sponsors include:

Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLC, Mr. & Mrs. Andy & Ann Silwanowicz, Ms. Carol Fanning, Mr. & Mrs. David & Kristen Lees, Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Roe Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Debra Albanese, Meeker Sharkey Associates, LLC, The Ritter Family, Viking Terminal & Pest Control, Wellcraft Construction Company, and Willis HRH.

The Arc was honored to present awards to a group of individuals that have each worked to support and grow the mission of the agency.



The Fanning and Lees Families were the 2013 Arc Angel Award recipients. For over 30 years the Fanning family has embodied the mission and vision of The Arc. Their partnership with The Arc began when Carol and her late husband John moved to Somerset County in 1981 with their two children, Kristin and John Jr. Responding to a television advertisement for Arc services for John Jr., The Fannings began their journey with The Arc. Carol and John Sr. quickly became involved with the agency; volunteering for the Board of Directors, participating on many special event committees, and serving as an advocate. But perhaps the most amazing contribution Carol made was that she never missed an opportunity to raise awareness about the agency. She was passionate about connecting people for the good of The Arc Mission.



Kristin Lees became involved with the cause at a very young age, working alongside her parents to promote The Arc and to continue her parents' legacy. Now representing the next generation of volunteerism and involvement, Kristin and her husband David Lees have become top supporters of the of the yearly Arc Angel Gala through their own philanthropy and the generosity of their expansive professional and social networks.



ilies, and others, at Arc Angel Gala

Jamie Wilson was presented with the Halo Award, an honor reserved for an individual who receives services from The Arc while also making a significant contribution to the larger community. Jamie was honored for her ability to overcome the obstacles in her life to make a better future for herself and those whose lives she will touch in her future career as a social worker.



The Angel Among Us Award was presented to Kayla Frauenheim of Immaculata High School, Gabriella LaManna of Hillsborough High School, and Rebecca Simon of Bridgewater-Raritan High School. The high school seniors were honored for their outstanding commitment to bettering the lives of individuals with disabilities through volunteerism.



The Bright Futures Award was presented to Dylan and Austin Ritter. The brothers connected students from their high school to children with special needs through Tend to a Friend; an organization that hosts "Kids' Night Out" events at Rutgers Preparatory School for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The event would not have been possible without the efforts of the Arc Angel Gala Committee. Thank you, Eileen Bradbury, Barbara del Grosso, Carol Fanning, GailMaureen Ferraro, Pat Fox, Diane Galfy, Kristin Fanning Lees, Lisa Pancoast, Carol Penn, Ann Silwanowicz, Carole Simonse, Barbara Vanderberg, and Susan Vanderoef!



Volunteers Brighten The Arc

Companies from local community shared their time, talent, and supplies during the fall of 2013 to spruce up an Arc group home and Camp Jotoni, as well as spread holiday cheer to Arc residents.

October 15 – More than 15 volunteers from Johnson & Johnson's IT Group painted several rooms at the Claremont Group Home.

October 22- Volunteers from Janssen Pharmaceuticals went to Camp Jotoni to winterize the camp until next season.

December 12 - Volunteers from Henkel's B-NOW (Bridgewater-Networking Organization for Women) celebrated the holiday season for the second year in a row with the residents of the Commons Apartments. The volunteers brought decorations, dinner, and desserts for all to enjoy! After playing bingo, singing holiday songs, and decorating cookies, Santa arrived bringing gifts for the residents.



Thank you volunteers of Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and Henkel!

For additional information about scheduling a volunteer project for your organization, team or group, contact Laura Ziegler at 908-725-8544 x 608 or via email at lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org.



Planned Giving and Foundation Information

Did you know....

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County will work with you on planned giving deferred gifts for our agency? Planned Giving is a gift a person decides to give at some future date or at the time of their death. Donors make planned gifts to charities to help ensure that the programs and services of a favorite charity continue to benefit others. Consult your attorney or tax advisor if you wish to explore your options on planned giving with The Arc Foundation of Somerset County or call Lisa Marie Arieno for any questions at 908-725-8544 x 610.

"Achieve With Us" Annual Appeal



In 1991 we welcomed our daughter Becky into the world. Hearing that your child faces a life with severe disabilities is overwhelming and devastating. Fortunately for us, The Arc was there for us literally from the beginning.

We enrolled Becky into The Arc's early intervention program within her first year which turned out to be the best decision we have ever made for Becky and our family. The Arc's program not only provided Becky with comprehensive therapeutic services, The Arc also gave our entire family the support and encouragement we needed to continue to function on a day-to-day basis.

After completing early intervention, The Arc continued to provide a wide range of comprehensive services to address her social, developmental, and educational needs. Becky attended The Arc's daycare and then the full day preschool – both programs developed for the unique needs of children with disabilities. After Becky started attending a public school, The Arc offered an after school program where Becky was able to spend time with her peers in a recreational setting.

Becky graduated from high school last year and fortunately The Arc continues to be a part of our lives. Becky is currently participating in a work program at The Arc and we are thrilled that she is happy and thriving in her new setting. Looking towards the future, we hope that Becky will be given the opportunity to live in her own home in the community with support from The Arc. As we begin to navigate the system of services for our adult child with disabilities, we are comforted to know that The Arc will be there with us on this journey.

Living with a daughter with severe disabilities is not always easy, and we have faced many challenges and barriers to a "normal" family life. The Arc has been with us for over 20 years and we want, and need, to continue our journey with The Arc by our side. Please consider contributing to the 2014 Annual Appeal so that The Arc can continue to positively impact families like ours.

Sincerely,
Bob & Eileen Kennedy



*The Arc has been there for Becky and her family
Will **YOU** be there for The Arc?*

Special offer — Supporters of the Annual Appeal will become members of The Arc for 2014!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to make my contribution by:

☐ Enclosed check made payable to *The Arc of Somerset County*

☐ Credit card (circle one) Visa, MC, Amex Card # _____ Expiration date _____

☐ I work for a company that will match this gift. _____

☐ Please contact me about Planned Giving opportunities at The Arc of Somerset County.

Would you like to pledge your support for the future of The Arc Mission? Join the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society!

☐ Option A: I have included The Arc of Somerset County in my estate plan.

☐ Option B: I pledge to make a contribution of at least \$500 per year for the next 5 years.



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



**Somerset County
United Way**
Affiliated Agency

The Arc of Somerset County is a
501(c)(3) organization.

Achieve with us.

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Save the Date

Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run

This year's event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 7th at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater. This date will be confirmed in mid January. Visit our website for more information or to sign up as a runner or walker. T-shirt sponsorship opportunities are currently available.

Questions? Contact Lisa Marie Arieno at
908-725-8544 x610 or via email at
lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org

Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Ceremony

The Arc will honor its volunteers, staff, consumers, supporters, and community partners in June. Our official date and location is to be announced at the end of January. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-725-8544 X 610 for additional information.

Are you a member of The Arc of Somerset County?

There is still time to join The Arc in membership for 2014!

By becoming a member of The Arc, you lend your voice to a network of advocates dedicated to ensuring quality services are available for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Simply send your dues payment of \$25 to:
The Arc of Somerset County
141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835

All membership dues are tax deductible.

Questions? Contact Laura Ziegler at 908-725-8544 x608 or via email at lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org.

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www.thearcofsomerset.org
to sign up today!**