



Adult Services presents... *The Buzz*

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2018



Important Dates:

Monster Mash Up
Monday October 22

**St. Joseph's
Halloween Dance**
Friday October 26

Arc Gala
Friday November 2

**Becca's Friends of
St. Joseph's Parish
present...
The Arc's Got Talent**
Friday November 9

Commissioner Johnson visits Branchburg in honor of DSP Recognition Week

In celebration of National Direct Support Professional Week, The Commissioner of The Department of Human Services, Carole Johnson, visited the Branchburg Adult training and Employment Center.

She congratulated the hard work of our DSP's and pledged to continue to work toward increased pay for the most vital of our employees.

DSP representative, Rashaad Watkins, spoke on behalf of our Direct

Support Professionals. Adam Walck spoke on behalf of the outstanding work that the DSPs do everyday.

Commissioner Johnson presented Rashaad with a Proclamation of National DSP week, signed by both Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor, Sheila Oliver.

Thank you for all that you do, DSPs and congratulations!



Residents Enjoy Summer at The Arc of Somerset County

At the beach, the mall, or watching a baseball game, Residents at The Arc of Somerset County enjoyed their summer! Some go to Camp Jotoni to cool off by the pool or do a



variety of activities there. Dedicated staff take them to the shore. Other residents go on vacation to see their families. They really enjoy having some time to relax because fall comes too soon!

Moving to our own beat at the Day Programs

The joy of music continues to spread throughout the day programs at The Arc of Somerset County.

Colleen Quinn from Jill Court has developed and implemented a well attended and enthusiastic weekly music class at Jill Court which provides active engagement through percussion instruments and sing-a-long selections to include current hits and nostalgic classics.

Camplain Road ATC were rocking and rolling twice during the summer courtesy of **The Coffeehouse Project**, a community music organization dedicated to providing arts education with a focus on music making in the community, through classes, workshops, presentation and performances.

In addition to this, Camplain Road ATC was provided with a contrast of music genre during a classical

performance by **The Bernards Ensemble**, a group of high school aged musicians who pair their music with visual imagery projected on an overhead screen in order to engage the audience through both auditory and visual senses.



At Branchburg, a small group of individuals were asked to do a repeat performance at **Eastern Star Nursing Home** during the summer wherein the group sang songs such as “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” and “I Want to Hold Your Hand”, piano performances by Cheryl Palko and Kevin Williams, boomwhacker engagement

activity with the nursing home residents as led by our individuals as well as a piano/voice duet with vocalist Nicole Nomorosa.



Additionally at Branchburg, a community band of volunteers, (Jeff Tobie, Regina Smoler, Kenny Smoler) in addition to Karen Kowalski, provided music to the songs that the group there has been working on learning the words for through two performances

which involved a great amount of singing and dancing. Looking forward to more opportunities such as these at all day programs to encourage the creative arts!



Scenes from the Summer of 2018



Dorothy wins big at Seaside!



Hot summer fun at Patriot's Stadium



Bountiful harvest at CGGH



Alex celebrates his new home at CGGH

Promoting Health and Wellness with Rutgers Students

A special thank you to Rajvi Shah and David Lee from the Rutgers “**Bridging the Gaps**” program for their time and dedication towards the further enhancement of the Branchburg wellness program with a specific focus on the exercise program. The individuals and staff at Branchburg were so kind to

provide Rajvi and David with a lovely cake and card for their last day to wish them the best of luck. Rajvi is pursuing a Medical Degree at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and David is pursuing a Doctorate in Pharmacy degree at Rutgers - Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.



Looking for a fun opportunity? Be a guest contributor for “The Buzz”



Do not miss out on ANY of this fun—rsvp today!

Creative Arts in the Community

Participation in activities within the community is a valuable component of day programs not only to explore recreational opportunities but also to increase circle of contacts beyond the scope of the agency. One such recent example is the involvement of four individuals from either Branchburg ATC or CRATC in the Matheny Arts Access Program. Meredith and Latrisher from Branchburg ATC and Frances and Marcia from CRATC received full scholarships to participate 1x/week for 60

minutes in the Art Access Program at the Peapack Gladstone location. Participants selected either dance, digital painting on the computer or traditional painting which included the very popular “splatter painting” where participants threw paint at a canvas or flicked paint with a tool either themselves or directed Matheny staff to complete this task.



Employee Recognition—CONGRATULATIONS to...

Nancy Tarazona (BBATC) for her tireless dedication to ensure the staff at Branchburg ATC are supported throughout the day.



Vivian Ndirangu (BBATC) for her positive attitude and enthusiasm to learn.

Rashaad Watkins (BBATC) for his professional attitude and willingness to help everyone.



Mohamed Kamara for going above and beyond at Lindsley Group Home.



As quoted often by Trina Trent, “Team Work Makes the Dream Work”. Thanks for the team work everyone!

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” - Kudos from George Joseph, AD

This quote is true in the case of my program managers in licensing inspection this year. Hard work, dedication and team work resulted in a successful licensing inspection this year. Doretha Casey was able to well coordinate the licensing process. She made her program ready for inspection within a short time by team work and her hard work and it paid off with a successful licensing inspection. Nancy Delacruz, manager at Steinmetz, was only two months at her job

as manager and she had a very successful inspection in her program. She made it possible by getting help from other experienced managers such as Ademola Olodude and Thomas Pirvamthottiyil. Ademola, the manager at Rocky Hill and his program licensing inspection went very well. Thanks to Ademola for going above and beyond in his own program and helping Steinmetz. Rispah Kharem, manager at Mobus, did a great job in preparing her program and the licensing inspection went very well.

Acting manager Robin Hurdle at Cedar Grove says “ *it was a blessing for me that the retired manager Thomas Pirvamthottiyil came back to the program during the licensing inspection.*” Cedar Grove did very well in the inspection and the licensing inspector was so impressed by the vegetable garden in the program. Kudos to all my program managers and their team for the successful licensing inspection this year. Let us keep up the **team work** for our future success.

Victor Webb, AD congratulates his programs on licensing!

Cambridge kicked off licensing season as the first program to be inspected by an unannounced visit which was handled with professionalism and poise. The SLP program joined together to prepare for inspections. They received great feedback and made corrections to the

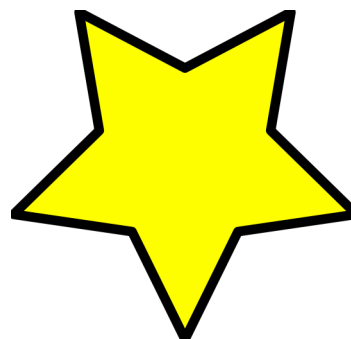
deficiencies right away. It was a true team effort. The Respite program made the greatest improvement. They were more organized and the residence received praise for being clean and organized. The Commons received positive feedback and deficiencies were minimal focusing on signatures for training.

Overall, Cluster C displayed fantastic teamwork and a unified approach to preparing for licensing. Managers visited each others programs weeks before licensing began. They maintained communication and shared staff ensuring the consumer needs were always met and activities went on according to schedule. Congratulations to all!

Thank you from Kamil Horton, AD!

To all my managers:

I would like to thank you for your hardwork and tireless effort for our successful licensing. You all took on the challenge of having a licensing ready home and you succeeded. I'm honored to be your AD and look forward to another successful licensing.



Success Story: Goodwill Store

The Goodwill Store in Bound Brook is where three of our hard working Arc of Somerset County consumers work. Tracey Crocket, Ben Holbert and Burton Felice each work two days per week inspecting and hanging clothes to be ready to be sold on the Goodwill sales floor. Daphne Marshall is the Job Coach and is in charge of supporting the individuals at The Goodwill store. Daphne is often given compliments by supervisors at Goodwill for her hard work and the manner in which she supports Burton, Tracy and Ben. All of them have worked hard to meet the increasing needs and new quotas for the store. Daphne rearranged schedules and helped come up with techniques to help maintain employment for Tracy, Burton and Ben. These individuals all increased their speed to make sure the Goodwill store met their goals and needs.



Congratulations to Daphne, Tracey, Burton and Ben for maintaining the Goodwill site and for all your excellent work!!!