

2009 Annual Fund Appeal



Lauren Panarella

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our business partners, donors and volunteers, Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) represents a banner year for The Arc of Somerset County, despite the unprecedented economic recession. During Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010), we need your continued support to ensure that individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, and indeed all of Somerset County, benefit from our vital services.

You helped us provide excellent advocacy and services to improve the quality of life for 1,000 families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our advocacy successes this past year have included:

- Support for The Arc of New Jersey's "10 Percent Solution" to ultimately end the waiting list for residential services for people with developmental disabilities. More than 8,000 of these individuals have been on the waiting list for residential services for years. Timing is critical given that parents and caregivers are facing significant challenges of their own regarding health and aging.
- The continuation of the Early Intervention Program (therapeutic services for children ages birth to three years) without interruption or significant increases in cost to families whose financial and personal resources are already limited. A child's success in the future often rests upon early intervention.
- Support of Self-Advocates in their statewide campaign to "shred the R word." This campaign galvanized advocates and educated the public about the need to remove outdated and offensive words from everyday language.
- Assisting 2009 graduates who have disabilities with a functional placement to advance their education and learning. This placement ensures that young adults continue to learn and develop the skills necessary for future employment.

Your support enhanced the quality of life for residents of The Arc of Somerset County. For example, your donations covered the cost of renovations and of the installation of ramps at several group homes. These ramps provide residents with accessibility and safety.

Your donations also provided the funds for purchasing Hoyer Lifts, which ensure the safety of individuals moving from their wheelchairs to their beds.

Donors made it possible for children and adults to attend Camp Jotoni through our scholarship program. Thanks to your generosity, many campers experienced their first and only vacation getaway, while their parents received a much-needed respite from caregiving responsibilities. You literally helped support entire families!

We have accomplished all this and more with diminishing resources and funding from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabili-

ties, a trend that is expected to continue. Because fundraising represents only 1 percent of our budget, now, more than ever, we need your help to mitigate the financial shortfall. This fiscal year, join us in our commitment to maintain the highest levels of programs and services for the children and adults who rely on them. Your contributions will fund the following priorities:

- Upgrade program facilities to meet the needs of our aging population. These improvements will ensure that residents can "age in place" (in their homes) with adequate accessibility, safety, and dignity.
- Establish our new "Family Resource Center" to provide parents and guardians with the information and referrals they need to be the best advocate for their child.
- Begin the process of creating an accessible, year-round "camp program." By transforming Camp Jotoni into a year-round facility, Somerset County families will have access to a broader menu of support services.

Here's how you can help:

- Make a cash donation by direct mail or make a credit card donation online. Our secure Web server ensures that online credit card transactions are safe, easy, and fast. All donations are tax-deductible.
- Participate in monthly giving. Automatic and convenient for donors, monthly giving provides The Arc of Somerset County with a steady, cost-effective means of supporting vital programs.
- Besides donating gifts of cash or securities, you can achieve your philanthropic goals for supporting The Arc of Somerset County through planned giving. With proper planning, charitable giving benefits donors as well as recipients. Examples of planned giving include: bequests, life income plans, charitable trusts, life estate gifts, annuities and insurance, and corporate matching gifts. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.thearcofsomerset.org.
- We invite you to participate in our special events: "Tea With Honey" in February, "Step Up for The Arc" Walkathon in May, The Barclays TICKETS Fore CHARITY "Golf Tournament" in August, and "The Arc Angel Gala" in November. Our special events offer something special for everyone!

**We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.**

Winston Churchill

On behalf of the entire Arc of Somerset County Family, thank you for giving this year and for making life better for so many individuals with developmental disabilities and their families!

Warmest regards,

Lauren Panarella

Executive Director

2009 Arc of Somerset County Annual Fund Campaign

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to The Arc of Somerset County for:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other

(Option) I would like to support the following programs:

- Camp Jotoni Campership Fund (Scholarships for campers.)
 The Lou Baldino Legacy Recreation Fund (Recreational activities for residents.)
 Scholarship Fund (Scholarships for Jerry Davis Daycare)
 General Support (General Operating Fund)
 I would consider including The Arc of Somerset County in my will.
 I wish to learn about your Planned Giving Program and about making a legacy gift to The Arc of Somerset County.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail*: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to receive communications by e-mail, when possible.

Payment by Cash Check / Money Order Visa/MC AmEx

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____