



HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO and Executive Director



Judy C. Miao

My position as CEO of The Arc of Somerset County is a dream job because it allows me to share my experience in non-profit healthcare, to give back to the community, and

to help make a difference. Daily I am energized by the dedication of staff, particularly that of our direct caregivers, who serve consumers with special needs including Mental Retardation, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Down Syndrome, and Fragile X. This devotion is unmatched by any in previous organizations I've served.

Numerous areas of The Arc have impressed me...from the delivery of

- **A continuum of personalized services** to more than 1,000 consumers: from pediatric to geriatric care (birth to retirement); assessment to education; job transition services to adult employment; and supported work and living arrangements to training and work centers.
- **24/7/365 care** to more than 100 consumers who live in our group homes, apartments and respite care

See Executive Director on page 8.

2005 Annual Expo, Election, and Awards Honoring New and Retiring Board Members

The Arc of Somerset County had a full house at its annual Expo, Election and Awards celebration on June 27 at the Somerset Hills Hotel. Judy Miao, the new Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, welcomed nearly 125 consumers, volunteers, families, board members, staff, and guests.

She thanked those whose tireless advocacy led to this year's modest increase in state funding.

Featured speaker Dr. Christopher DeVinck, author of *The Power of the Powerless*, is an international lecturer and award-winning author. Attributing his success to a brother with developmental disabilities, Dr. DeVinck encouraged parents and consumers to appreciate life as it is. His remarks drew a warm applause.

Before electing board members, Chair Fran Maher honored those who are retiring after years of dedicated service: Susan Colodney, Jim Freeman, Carol Geary, Paul Howells, and Tom Mistele. Their invaluable contributions have made a difference in the lives of many consumers and their families.



Rocky Hill Group Home Manager Ayorinde Miller-Aganyemi, Councilwoman Connie Hallman, Councilman George Morren, Jr., resident Jay Grabowski, Mayor Brian Nolan and Associate Executive Director Mary Burke.

Elected unanimously are board members and officers: Julie Bliss, Ed.D., R.N., Brian Bosenberg (2nd Vice President), Tom Brooks, Ed Brown (Treasurer), Edana Desatnick (Member-at-Large), Denis J. Dooley II, Lisa Dudzik, Bill Mackay (1st Vice President), Fran Maher (President), Belinda Malave, Evelyn Morris (Secretary), Brian O'Malley, Fred Patterson, Scott Ritter, and Kapila Seshadri, M.D.

2004 AND 2005 HONOREES ACCEPT AWARDS

Associate Executive Director Mary Burke presented the Somerset Arc's 2004 and 2005 Awards. From 2004, Arc Angel honorees Kim Artis and Tom Brooks received a special legislative recognition from the NJ Senate and Assembly for their work as Arc Angel Volunteers. Union Avenue Pharmacy owner Jay Patel received the Outstanding Community Service Award for help in preparing and administering consumer medications, and Lisa Ruchlin Halperin, a Speech Language Pathologist, received the Professional of the Year Award for her work with the Early Intervention Program.

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A Message from Fran Maher, Chair of the Board

NEW PEOPLE BRING CHANGE AND EXPERTISE



Fran Maher

Dear Friends,

Since June 8, Judy C. Miao, our new CEO and Executive Director, has been getting to know The Arc of Somerset, and we are rapidly getting to know her. This dynamic central New Jersey neighbor brings

her extensive business training and experience,

fundraising background, commitment – and most of all, energy and enthusiasm for achieving our mission.

I am grateful to fellow members of the Executive Search Committee: Coordinator Edana Desatnick, Evelyn Morris, Brian Bosenberg, and Carol Geary. I also thank our staff, board members, and search firm (NESC). Their collective wisdom and high standards have brought The Arc to a new stage of development.

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The Arc of Somerset Mission

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

*Families includes family members, as well as friends, caregivers, guardians, advocates, etc.

ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Fran Maher
1st VP.....William Mackay
2st VP.....Brian Bosenberg
Treasurer.....Eddie Brown
Secretary.....Evelyn Morris
Member at Large.....Edana Desatnick

ARC BOARD MEMBERS

CEO &
Executive Director.....Judy Miao
Assoc. Exec. Director.....Mary Burke
Julie Bliss, Eileen L. Gallagher
Ed.D., R.N. Belinda Malave
Tom Brooks Majella Matyas
Joseph V. DiRago Brian O'Malley
Susan Donovan Fred Patterson
Denis J. Dooley II Scott Ritter
Lisa Dudzik Kapila Seshadri,
Carol Fanning M.D
Ron Fulop

STAFF DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Childhood Services.....Amy Perrine
Development
and Marketing.....Bonnie Sovinee
Employment
Services.....Dawn Malavenda
Finance.....John Everhart
Human Resources.....Jeanne Radich
Information
Technology.....William Scheib
PACT.....Jeanne Guarnieri
Quality Assurance.....Sandy Berkowitz
Residential Services.....Nance Bowers
Acting Residential
Services.....Chris Gunning
Safety & Maintenance
.....Gabe Trepiccione, CFM
Support Services.....Susan Brady

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www.thearcofsomerset.org

The Arc of Somerset County's annual Walkathon on May 14 drew 120 volunteers who raised more than \$16,500, up from \$12,000 last year! Dendrite International, the Somerset Arc's top corporate sponsor, raised \$4,000 alone. Other key sponsors included District 12 of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey's Free and Accepted Masons, and the Somerset Arc's Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. At an awards celebration on August 10, the Somerset Arc honored Dendrite's Marcia Jobson, community resident Carol Fanning, and Jerry Davis's Amy Perrine.

Bonnie Sovinee, Walkathon Chair, is grateful to all sponsors, donors, and volunteers who

Walkathon Raises \$16,500, Up From \$12,000 Last Year!



Attending an awards ceremony for this year's Step Up for The Arc Walkathon were, in front from left to right, Steve Wadlow (Dendrite), Elba Hinestroza (NJ Arc), Gail Willis (Dendrite), Rosemary Connell (Dendrite), Rex Anderson (Dendrite) and Judy Miao (Somerset Arc). In the back are Jack Ford (District 12 of NJ's Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons), Celine Fortin (NJ Arc), Amy Perrine (Somerset Arc), Joan Krause (Dendrite), Cathy Pullen (Wegman's), Sparkee (Somerset Patriots), Bonnie Sovinee (Somerset Arc), Kip Bateman (Assemblyman), and Carol Fanning (Somerset Arc).

Drilling, Attorneys at Law Phillip and Nancy Barrood, Bridgewater Limousine, Assemblyman Kip Bateman, Fullerton Ford, Somerset Hills Hotel, Budget Print of Bedminster, Friends of The Meadows Foundation, and the Episcopal Churches of Somerset County.



District 12 of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey's Free and Accepted Masons

assisted with Step Up For The Arc. Statewide sponsors included District 12 of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey's Free and Accepted Masons, and Masterfoods USA, makers of M&M's Chocolate Candies. Local sponsors included WalMart Store #2651 of Manville, Commerce Bank, Volvo of Bridgewater, VFW Post 2290 of Manville, Applebee's of Bridgewater, Somerset Nissan, the 17th legislative district (Senator Smith, Assemblyman Egan and Assemblyman Chivukula), Hillsborough Township, Volunteer Fire Company #1, Somerville Well

Volunteers included District 12 of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey's Free and Accepted Masons, DJ Ben Auletta, the Somerset Patriot's mascot Sparkee, the 4-H clowns led by Betty Sommerville, Moogie the Clown, Girl Scout troops 257 and 938, friends and families of The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, the Somerset Valley Day School, and Dendrite employees who formed their own team and rallied walkers to participate.

Says Bonnie, "Such dedicated volunteers and sponsors demonstrate a genuine commitment to ensuring that all people with disabilities realize their dreams. Step Up for The Arc would not have been possible without their generous support."



Some of The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center ArcWalk team

For 2005, Evelyn Morris, Board Secretary, won the Volunteer of the Year Award for outstanding advocacy and work on multiple committees. The Borough of Rocky Hill won the Community of the Year Award because they donated land for a group home; Amy Perrine won the Professional of the Year Award for positive leadership and developing a budgetary plan to save the Early Intervention Program; and Chris Gunning, Charlotte Hayden, Jim O'Rourke, and Bonnie Sovinee won the Communication Award for teaming up to develop the Somerset Arc's Employment Services Campaign.

WELCOMING THE NEW CEO AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



JUDY C. MIAO joined the Somerset Arc as CEO and Executive Director in June. An executive and entrepreneur, she has worked around the world in the corporate and nonprofit healthcare sectors. Her responsibilities have encompassed a broad range of product and service categories in domestic and international arenas.

JULIE BLISS, Ed.D., R.N., Chair of William Patterson University's Department of Nursing, is leading a revision of the baccalaureate nursing curriculum to include more community-based experiences. Julie is a teacher, published author, and keynote lecturer.



EDMOND (EDDIE) A. BROWN, member the Somerset Arc's Finance Committee for two years and employee of American Standard's Bath & Kitchen, will serve as board Treasurer. His responsibilities include managing cash flow and financial reporting, budgeting, and forecasting.

JOSEPH V. DIRAGO is a Marketing Executive in Program Management for IBM. His experience ranges from marketing expense budget management to new product/service development, including segmentation, merchandising, promotions, channel and database marketing, CRM, and sales force automation.



SUSAN DONOVAN rejoined The Arc board on which she served from 1997 to 1999. To be eligible, she resigned from teaching at The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. Susan was inspired to complete courses in special education after therapists at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Development Center helped her daughter overcome a developmental delay.



DENIS J. DOOLEY, II, is a former Deputy Attorney General of New Jersey's Division of Gaming Enforcement charged with enforcing the Casino Control Act. He was also vice president, corporate secretary, and general counsel of a leading investment advisory and mutual fund organization.

LISA DUDZIK has been a member of The Arc Angels and Tea with Honey committees for four years and managed the advertising journal for three years. This year, she will chair The Arc's Silent Auction. Lisa has also volunteered at the Paige Whitney Babies Center and served on various committees with the Oak Street School PTO.



EILEEN L. GALLAGHER is Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Business Continuity, and Contracts at the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation. Her responsibilities include preparing and managing a \$9 million budget, and advising senior management.

BELINDA M. MALAVE, active in self-advocacy and advocacy for all people with developmental disabilities, received awards from The Boggs Center and Community Options. Born with cerebral palsy, she is a motivational speaker and an entrepreneur.



KAPILA SESHADRI, MD, is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's University of Medicine & Dentistry. As a divisional director in Child Neurology and Neuro-Developmental Disabilities, she is board certified in Pediatrics, NeuroDevelopmental Disabilities, and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 30: Deadline for high school seniors to submit an application for Angels Among Us consideration and awards.

Oct. 18: Lord & Taylor's Benefit Bash at Bridgewater Commons. Tickets are \$5.

Oct. 25: General Membership Meeting at Camp Jotoni.

Nov 4: NJ Arc Meeting on Dual Eligibility at the Somerset County Library.

Dec 16: Arc Angel Gala, and "Super Bowl for Four" Raffle Drawing.

New Education Advocacy Program Aids Families With Special Needs Children



The Arc of Somerset County launched a new program called Education Advocacy to help parents and guardians of children with special needs develop and maintain an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This fee-for-service program assists parents in developing both a strong working relationship with school officials and a mutually supportive learning environment.

Education Advocacy will help parents and guardians formulate a strategy for IEP participation and review, advocacy at mediation hearings, telephone consultations, and letter writing. The Somerset Arc's goal is to keep guardians informed so that they can seek the support that is appropriate and available by law.

For more information, e-mail edadvocacy@thearofsomerset.org or call 908-725-8544 x 626.



National Starch and Chemical Foundation Donates \$10,000 and Manpower

The National Starch and Chemical Foundation donated \$10,000, and sent ten employees to spruce up the Arc's Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. Says Bonnie Sovinee, Director

of the Somerset Arc's Development, "National Starch's financial assistance and employee muscle go a long way to help care for our consumers."



On Earth Day, sprucing up the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center was the mission of National Starch and Chemical employees. In front, from left to right, are Paul Peterson, Hari Ramsubramani, and Rush Dore. In back are Tom Defazio, Bob Wallach, Charone Williams, Salvador Alvado, Ken Forlenza, Mark Cole, and John Opilla.

"Thanks to their donation, and donations from other benefactors, we improved the quality of life for 38 children in our daycare programs and for 192 children in speech and physical therapy. We improved six cabins at Camp Jotoni for 170 children and young adults, and assisted 303 adults in Employment Services."

The number of people with special needs is growing. Currently, The Arc faces a major challenge transporting clients from home to worksites and medical facilities. Explains Bonnie, "Eighteen vehicles need replacement. A third of those require wheelchair lifts, which adds \$25,000 each to the replacement cost."

Send Donations To Aid Arc Residents Hit by Hurricane Katrina

The Arc of the United States is collecting donations for state and local chapters hit by Hurricane Katrina. Considerable property damage has left residents in urgent need of aid. Please send your donations to: The Arc of the United States, The Arc's Katrina Relief Fund, 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 650, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Or visit The Arc website at www.thearc.org and click the red Donate Now button, then check the box "in support of" and select the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.



Governor Reappoints Fred Patterson as Chair of Prevention Council

Governor Richard J. Codey has reappointed Fred Patterson as Chair of the Governor's Council on the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. The Governor's Council serves as the advisory body

to the Office for Prevention, located in the Department of Human Services. The Office aims to reduce the frequency of preventable occurrences of severe chronic mental or physical disabilities. Congratulations Fred!

Raising Awareness of Mental Retardation Suggested Reading

Helping Adults With Mental Retardation Grieve A Death Loss by Charlene Luchterhand and Nancy E. Murphy in paperback.

Opportunity House: Ethnographic Stories of Mental Retardation (Ethnographic Alternatives Book Series, Vol. 2) by Michael V. Angrosino in hardcover.

We Laugh, We Love, We Cry: Children Living With Mental Retardation (Dont Turn Away) by Thomas Bergman.

Leslie's Story: A Book About a Girl With Mental Retardation by Martha McNey (Photographer) and Leslie Fish (Library Binding), June 1996.

List compiled by C. Fortin, The Arc of New Jersey, 2004, (732) 246-2525.

Former Jerry Davis Student Excels in College!

Thanks to determination and hard work, not to mention early intervention, a former Arc consumer is now earning a 3.4 grade point average at Kutztown University!

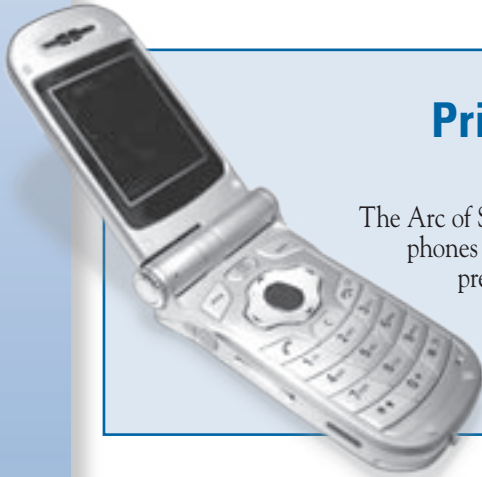
At age 2, Jimmy still wasn't speaking. He would stomp away from his parents, unable to communicate his needs. A professional diagnosis identified the cause as delayed speech and possibly attention deficit disorder (ADD). Jimmy's parents turned to The Somerset Arc's Early Intervention Program (EIP) for help.

An EIP team consisting of a Speech Language Pathologist, Special Education Teacher, and Physical and Occupational therapists taught Jimmy coping and communication skills.

Their mutual success prepared Jimmy for the Somerset Arc's Preschool Disabled Program.

"Jimmy had a hard time concentrating," his father says. "School gave him ways to organize, which was his biggest challenge." Much to his parents' relief, at age five, Jimmy qualified for a pre-kindergarten class. And by age 14, he no longer qualified as disabled.

Jimmy has since graduated from Somerville High School, attended Kutztown University, and is transferring to Rutgers University. Last semester, he earned a 3.4 Grade Point Average (GPA)! Congratulations to Jimmy and his parents!



Printer Cartridge and Cell Phone Recycling Program Raises Revenues

The Arc of Somerset County's new recycling program for discarded printer cartridges and cell phones has generated more than \$150 to date. Arc supporters are encouraged to pick up free, prepaid recycle mailing pouches at the Manville office and the Branchburg Occupational Training Center, and to share them with families and friends. Says Bill Scheib, IT Systems Manager, "You can help raise Somerset Arc's revenues and keep the environment clean."

Production Centers Achieve Record Revenues

DID YOU KNOW...that The Arc of Somerset has more than 200 adults available for work each day at four production centers?

DID YOU KNOW...through June, our production centers have achieved a new record for twelve-month rolling revenue generated by Contract Services? Kudos to Branchburg, Valley Park and Gannett!

DID YOU KNOW...that, in addition to their regular workload, consumers at the Valley Park production center have consistently maintained high productivity on a hanger project; sorting and recycling?

DID YOU KNOW...that we are always looking for additional projects for consumers who work at our production centers? Anyone who needs help is welcome to contact Jim O'Rourke at 908-707-0920 or jimo@thearcofsomerset.org.

Anthony Czuprewicz Delivers a Perfect Opening Pitch

After practicing daily, Anthony Czuprewicz, 19, delivered a perfect opening pitch for the Somerset Patriots game at the Commerce Bank ballpark on July 25. The announcer noted Anthony's huge fan base, including parents and grandparents, as well as 40 fellow Camp Jotoni consumers waving a hand-painted banner that read, "WE ♥ ANTHONY." Good job Anthony!



Anthony with Amy Perrine, Director of the Somerset Arc's Childhood Services Development, and Patriot's manager Sparky Lyle

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Among our many exciting and promising changes are:

- A new board-level Medical Advisory Committee to improve and expand services for individuals with medical needs.
- A new board-level Foundation Review Committee to update and utilize our Arc Foundation (an existing 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity) as a short- and long-term funding resource.
- A revised Strategic Plan spearheaded by our CEO and department directors.
- A growth in new grants, corporate sponsorships (thanks to long-term friends of The Arc), and donors adding to The Arc's excellence and sustainability.
- Approval of Judy's campaign to provide staff with ad-

ditional training and recognition, compensation, and one-on-one care.

- Increased opportunities for board members to observe Arc programs and meet with consumers and staff in order to assist decision-making.

These developments are attracting the attention of consumers and families, who have been heard saying: "I think these changes are wonderful," or "I went to dinner with the boss!" Another exclaimed, "I've never been happier to be part of The Arc."

We invite even more newcomers to think about joining The Arc of Somerset County, particularly during this exciting time of growth and development.

Warmest regards,

Fran Maher



KEEPING AN EYE ON PREVENTION

HALF OF THE 350 CAUSES OF MENTAL RETARDATION ARE PREVENTABLE!

During hot weather, the temperature inside a car can exceed 100 degrees in seconds! That's why The Arc of Somerset County adopted a consumer safety policy entitled, "Not Even For A Minute." Windows opened a crack does little to alleviate

a suffocating surge in temperature. Never leave anyone in a hot car, not even for a minute! If you see a child left alone in a car, look for the parents. If the parents cannot be found, call your local police or ambulance for help.

Nov. 4 Meeting To Explain Changes in Medicare and Medicaid

The 2006 budget passed by the NJ Senate and Assembly provides funds for The Arc's top three priorities: removing the Medicaid co-pay, funding a wrap-around for dual eligibles (Medicare and Medicaid), and addressing an increase in the cost of providing care. A meeting to explain the impact of these budgetary changes on Medicare and Medicaid recipients has been set for Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Somerset County Library. Call 908-725-8544 x 607 to pre-register.

Says Liz Shea, Director of The Arc of NJ's Governmental Affairs, "While we certainly would have liked to receive more than the 1.5 percent rise in the cost of providing care (1 percent

from the budget and .5 percent from the Department of Human Services), in today's fiscal and political environment, getting anything was a miracle."

Liz Shea credited Tom Baffuto, New Jersey Arc's Executive Director, for contributing an "astounding" amount of time and energy to this effort. "I feel fortunate to have his leadership," she said. Liz also thanks The Arc's staff, consumers, families, and supporters. "Our success comes entirely from our shared advocacy statewide," she said. "We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!"

Don't forget to send "thank you" letters to your legislators!

Cherishing the Memory of Robert (Rappy) Rappaport

ROBERT (RAPPY) RAPPAPORT, 65, died on June 15 at his home in Warren. Born in Trenton, he moved to Warren in 1994 and worked at The Arc of Somerset County's Hillsborough production center. An active participant in the Special Olympics, Rappy enjoyed the great outdoors. He will be sadly missed. It is with loving gratitude that we remember him here.

Executive Director, continued from page 1

facilities. Unlike hospitals, our consumers stay with us for the long-term. Unlike nursing homes, our consumers receive personalized job coaching and training, and community employment and recreational opportunities geared toward independent living.

- **A trusting relationship** comparable to that of an extended family for our consumers.

The Arc's programs and services are quite comprehensive. My priorities for this coming year include

- **Aligning public and private funding and resources** to meet needed expenses and position The Arc for growth.
- **Upgrading the training, performance review process, and compensation** of our dedicated staff, particularly direct caregivers.

- **Creating awareness** of The Arc's many programs, services, and care for people with special needs within Somerset County.

I welcome everyone to join me in taking The Arc of Somerset from Good to GREAT. This will be an exciting and rewarding journey.

Thank you, Fran, for the warm welcome. I feel blessed having you and the Board as my coach and partner.

My management team and I thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for your past generosity and continued support of The Arc of Somerset County.

Respectfully,

Judy C. Miao
Executive Director & CEO

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

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