



HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



Lauren Panarella

This is the time of year when people's thoughts turn to giving, and to ways we can help those who rely on others for economic, social, and physical support.

You may think that there are just too many people to help and that you are powerless to make an impact on another person's life. The Arc of Somerset County believes that we can all make a difference and enhance the life of someone who has a disability. Here are just a few of the ways you can help.

- **Volunteer:** Volunteers have always been the foundation of support for The Arc of Somerset County. In fact, 60 years ago, it was a small group of dedicated and energetic parents who launched The Arc as an organization in New Jersey. Whether it involves spending time in a group home, supporting fund-raising efforts, or serving on the Board of Directors, volunteers play a pivotal role in serving individuals who have developmental disabilities.
- **Advocate:** The world has come a long way in appreciating the contributions of individuals of all abilities. Yet we have much more ground to cover. You can assist in our advocacy initiatives by spreading the word about the need to integrate

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Paul Bisson and Adam Walck Enjoy a Fishing Adventure

On September 3, Paul Bisson of the Franklin Group Home caught the first flounder of the day on a fishing trip in Point Pleasant. Adam Walck of the Branchburg Occupational Training Center wasn't far behind, thanks to the fishing instructions provided by Frank Resta and his friends. Neither Paul nor Adam had ever been fishing before. Frank, who owns/runs the Shell Gas and Service Station on the corner of Amwell and Cedar Grove Lane in Franklin Township, treated Paul, Adam, and others from the Matheny Medical and Educational Center in Peapack to a day of fishing, followed by a seafood

dinner at Spike Restaurant, and cappuccino at Rocking Joe's.



"From the moment we arrived, Frank and his friends were gracious and kind," said Alison Malnak, Arc Job Coach. "Frank introduced Paul and Adam to his friends and they took over the role of assistant, showing everyone how to handle fishing rods and acting as if they've known each other for years. Developing a friendship, the son of one friend offered to take Adam boogie boarding next year. He also invited Paul and Adam to come to school and watch him play ice hockey."

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A Message from Eric Mandelbaum, President

Dear Friends,

As the recently elected President of the Board of Directors for The Arc of Somerset County, allow me to introduce myself. Since I joined the Board in 2005, I have served as Second Vice President, First Vice President, and Secretary. I am a corporate attorney at a financial services company in Northern New Jersey. I live in Warren with my wife Jacqui and two sons, Craig, 10, and Matthew, 8. I first became familiar with individuals who have developmental disabilities through one brother-in-law who resides in the Commons Apartments, and another brother-in-law who receives services from a different agency.

Before describing my goals for the upcoming year, I need to thank a number of people, in-

cluding my predecessor, Eddie Brown. Eddie led a transformation of the Board and Agency for more than two years. His dedication and work ethic are unmatched. Fortunately, Eddie will be here for us to kick around a while longer as he continues to serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Unfortunately, five of our Board's longest tenured members retired last year: Tom Brooks, Carol Fanning, Fran Maher, Fred Patterson (Member-at-Large), and Scott Ritter. Tom Brooks served on the Board for many years and has been one of our strongest and most active fundraisers. Carol Fanning is also a tireless fundraiser with a wealth of ideas on ways to improve the agency. Past President Fran Maher's passion for The Arc and its members, as well as

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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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her dedication to building a strong organization, is renowned. Fred Patterson, another Past President of both The Arc of Somerset County and The Arc of New Jersey, has always served as the conscience of the rest of us, always reminding us that everything we do is for individuals with disabilities and their families. And Scott Ritter has brought a unique ability to make sure that we continuously improve the agency in a manner that best meets the needs of the people we serve. Thankfully, all of our former Board members continue to be active in The Arc community.

Please join me in welcoming our five new Board members: Norma Dunne, Charles Huck, Marion Sommer, Allen Sondej, and Connie Walters. We are fortunate to be able to recruit such a

qualified and diverse group of directors, and I look forward to working with them this year.

Regarding the Board's goals for this year, we continue to live in economically challenging times. In the face of state and federal budget constraints, we need to develop a plan that ensures the continuation of our many essential programs. Together with Lauren and her team, we will remain focused on developing alternative sources of funding while, most importantly, caring for those who count on The Arc. I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Best regards,

Eric Mandelbaum
President

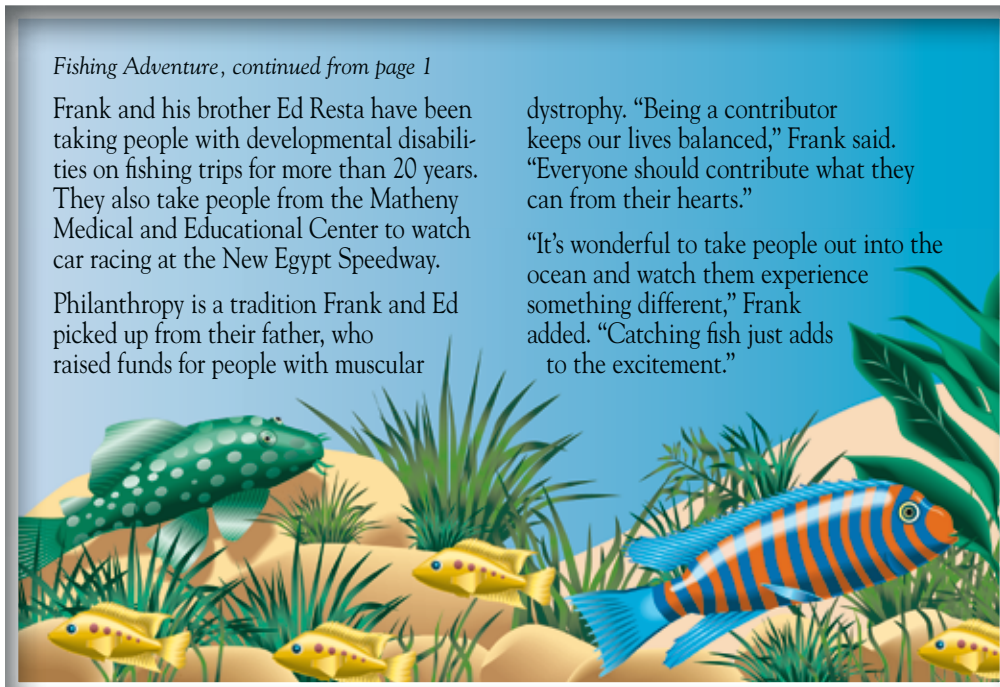
Fishing Adventure, continued from page 1

Frank and his brother Ed Resta have been taking people with developmental disabilities on fishing trips for more than 20 years. They also take people from the Matheny Medical and Educational Center to watch car racing at the New Egypt Speedway.

Philanthropy is a tradition Frank and Ed picked up from their father, who raised funds for people with muscular

dystrophy. "Being a contributor keeps our lives balanced," Frank said. "Everyone should contribute what they can from their hearts."

"It's wonderful to take people out into the ocean and watch them experience something different," Frank added. "Catching fish just adds to the excitement."



Artwork courtesy of Jeff Witchel. © 2009. All rights reserved.

Executive Director, continued from page 1

all individuals in our communities, schools, workplaces, and recreational activities.

- **Donate:** Your generous donations help fund programs that are essential to individuals with disabilities and their families. These programs provide vital services and meet development needs and lifelong objectives.

During this hectic time of the year, I hope you will consider how you can make a difference for someone who has an intellectual or developmental disability.

On behalf of The Arc of Somerset County, I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

This season of giving should also be a time to renew a sense of common purpose and shared citizenship. Now, more than ever, we must rededicate ourselves to the notion that we share a common destiny as Americans—that I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper. Now, we must all do our part to serve one another; to seek new ideas and new innovations; and to start a new chapter for our great country.

Barack Obama 12/24/08

Warmest regards,

Lauren Panarella

Executive Director

Volunteers Buddy Up with Residents

Since the Spring, a Buddy Program has been blooming at The Arc of Somerset County. Volunteers age 17 and older are being matched with residents by location, skills, and mutual interests. As a result, friendships are thriving. "Volunteers provide a wonderful extension to the services provided by staff members," explained Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development. "Volunteers offer residents companionship and the opportunity to hang out and have fun."

One volunteer from Hillsborough High School taught an Ardsley Group Home resident how to hook up her laptop and navigate the Internet. Another volunteer accompanied the Cambridge Group Home residents on a walk to the park. "The program is getting rave reviews," Tara said. "Volunteers are asking to spend more time with residents, and residents are enjoying the extra attention."

Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, described the variety of volunteer opportunities that are available:

- Corporations send volunteers to help maintain Arc facilities
- Raritan Valley Community College students participate in Service Learning

- Churches and schools adopt and help refurbish Arc residences
 - Pediatric residents from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School have completed internships at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families
 - Individuals are buddying up with residents in group homes
- "Some of the volunteers inquiring about the Buddy Program are students returning from the Service Learning Program," Chris noted. "These students are gaining hands-on experience in the field of social services." Other volunteers include retirees looking to give back to the community, newlyweds, caring individuals, and a mother-and-daughter team.

The Buddy Program is spreading enthusiasm throughout The Arc community. "Residents are finding out about the program and asking for volunteers," Chris said. "They are beginning to initiate these friendships."

Anyone interested in participating in the Buddy Program is welcome to contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.

Advocacy Conference Highlights Benefits of Social Media

On September 12, Advocates for Change attended the annual conference of the New Jersey Statewide Advocacy Project at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset. They joined more than 400 attendees including self-advocates, family members, and service providers from every county in the state. Among the accomplishments and issues discussed was the ongoing campaign to end the use of the "R" word. After the general meeting, participants attended two workshops of their choosing.

Workshop topics included: understanding the role and services of the Division of Developmental Disabilities; tips on public speaking; and networking through social media. "One self-advocate diagnosed with cerebral palsy uses Twitter to blog about disability issues," said Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, who conducted the Social Media workshop. "He has attracted thousands of followers!" Staff as well as self-



Pictured in front, from left to right, are Self-Advocates Jay Grabowski, Brian O'Malley, Susan Huck, Phil Tellep, Barbara Blair, Scott Scalise, Rosemary Dailey, and Danny Blakely. In the back row are Arc staff members Ruth Branch and Harriet Nalunga, and Self-Advocates Elliot Zuckerman, Robert Burgess, Billy Coleman, Barbara Cornelius, and Barry Bohler.



advocates learned to use social media to spread awareness and network online.

A demonstration of YouTube was also discussed. A favorite quote of Brian O'Malley, Vice President of Advocates for Change, is posted on The Arc of Somerset County's website. "Through our meetings, we reach people in Somerset County," Brian noted. "Through our YouTube presentation, we share ideas with people from around the globe."

From left to right are Advisors Karen Stanchak of The Arc of Somerset County, Jerisa Chiumbu-Maseko of The Arc of New Jersey's Self-Advocacy Project, Suman Paul of The Arc of Somerset County, and Sam Jenkins of The Arc of New Jersey's Self-Advocacy Project.

Supported Living Group Launches Book Club

On November 20, the Supported Living Club (SLC) held its first bi-monthly meeting of the Book Club at the Valley Park Adult Training Center in Hillsborough. The group's first book and movie was *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyers. "Members of the group realized that many residents enjoy the same books and movies," explained Sharon McClellan, MSW, Director of Clinical Services. "We thought it would be fun to have a theme evening complete with popcorn, a film, and a half-hour discussion of what everyone liked and disliked about the story."

The SLC took a trip to the Manville Library and chose a large selection of books that have been made into movies. The library has agreed to set copies of the books aside. The books selected by group members Barbara Blair, Robert Burgess, Barbra Cornelius, and



Brian O'Malley, all of whom are living in apartments in Manville, will be posted on The Arc of Somerset County website.

Book and Movie Nights are open to individuals of all reading abilities, including members of the community. Participants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the books in the easiest way possible. Participants can read the books, ask family members or staff to read the books aloud, listen to Books on Tape or CD, or watch the movie.

Every Tuesday, members of the SLC meet to plan an event or discuss a topic of interest. In September, the group held its first monthly meeting of the Cooking Club at The Arc's main office in Manville—and, with the help of Suman Paul, Support Specialist of Clinical Services—learned to cook lasagna. "Group members are always coming up with fun and creative ways of building their skills," Sharon said.

Focus Group for Families, Friends, and Guardians

The Quality Management Committee will host two focus groups—each open to 5-15 family members, friend/advocates, and guardians of individuals with disabilities who receive services from The Arc of Somerset County. The focus groups will be held on December 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and, again, on December 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Both groups will meet at The Arc of Somerset County, 141 South Main Street, in Manville. The purpose of the focus groups is to gather information and discover themes related to needs and services within The Arc community. The focus group discussion will center around two topics: what's going well for those receiving services and what people might like to improve.

Lisa Intili, Director of Quality, and Parent Fran Maher will facilitate both groups and encourage a discussion that is open and confidential.

If you are a family member, friend/advocate, or guardian and wish to participate in either of these focus group sessions, please send your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and the date you would like to attend, to Lisa Intili at lisai@thearcofsomerset.org or at 161 Industrial Parkway, Branchburg, NJ, 08876. Anyone who would like more information about these or other focus groups are welcome to contact Lisa at 908-707-1112, ext. 28.

Michael Jackson Tribute Rocks Valley Park

The Michael Jackson Tribute on September 25 at the Valley Park Adult Training Center in Hillsborough was "Awesome," reported Sharon McClellan, MSW, Director of Clinical Services. Master of Ceremonies Brian O'Malley introduced 12 song and dance routines performed by individuals or groups backed by professional DJ Sedrick Casey. More than 100 attendees joined in the singing and dancing. "Everyone had a fabulous time," Sharon said.

Among the many creative acts was a group from Union Avenue 2 which performed *Thriller* in bold makeup and costumes. Added Sharon, "Performer Angela Louise from the Mobus Group Home captivated the audience with her rendition of 'I Want to Rock With You.'"

The Supported Living Club, with the assistance of the Excursion Club, staged the Michael Jackson Tribute as a way of honoring the beloved musician's passing. "The event was very joyful," Sharon reported. "Afterwards, people were saying that they hoped Michael Jackson was aware of how many lives he touched—and that he would think well of the tribute."

Assisting with the tribute were Suman Paul of Clinical Services, Doretha Casey, Manager of the Union Avenue Apartments, and Beverly Eschbach, Quality Management Coordinator.

"The Michael Jackson Tribute is the first of a long line of activities the Supported Living Club intends to present," Sharon said. "It's a fun group and they have really creative ideas."

Residents Stage Fashion Show at Jill Court

On June 26, nearly two dozen resident models and staff staged a fashion show at the Jill Court Adult Training Center in Hillsborough. As a tribute to Michael Jackson, residents closed the fashion show with his music. "Wear-



ing his top hat and sporting a cane, Clifford Pierre escorted some of the women on stage," said Doretha Casey, Manager of the Union Avenue Apartments. "Everyone wore their favorite clothing, including dresses, a tuxedo, and African attire. They all looked beautiful."

In addition to Clifford, models included Isaiah "Pooh" Casey, John Ciok, Barbara Cornelius, Tracey

Crockett, Mary Fatukasi, Debbie Godshall, Elvina Grimes, Kenny Ibironke, Taiwo Ibironke, Rhona Levine, Christine Luszc, Donna McHugh, Pam Michael, Curtis Miller, Latricher

Morant, Thelma Odoi, Shola Oyefesobi, Evelyn Ramundo, Shirley Meister with granddaughters Kaitlin and Tara, Sheree Stackhouse, and Ledora Stribling (who designed the CD covers and programs).

Nearly 100 people attended, including Arc residents, staff, and community members. Assisting with the fashion show were Pam Michael, Recreation Coordinator, and Beverly Eschbach, Quality Management Coordinator.

"The audience loved it," Doretha said. True to the theme song, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" by the R&B duo McFadden & Whitehead, residents are planning another production in a few months. Stay tuned!

Cliff Pierre escorts Rhona Levine.



Celebrating the Life of Loved Ones

REMEMBERING EDDIE NIETZOLD

Eddie Nietzhold, a former resident of The Arc of Somerset County, passed away on September 23 at the Willow Creek Nursing Home on Easton Avenue. Born in Somerville in 1948, Eddie grew up in Neshanic and joined The Arc of Somerset County in 1988, when he entered the Respite Group Home in Hillsborough. In 1990, Eddie moved to the Ardsley Group Home, also in Hillsborough and, afterwards, to the Union Avenue Supervised Apartments in Bridgewater. After he learned new skills, Eddie lived independently in two different apartments through the Supported Living Program. When he needed additional support in 2000, Eddie moved to the Franklin Group Home, where he stayed until 2008, when he moved into the Willow Creek Nursing Home. Over the years, Eddie held several jobs. He was an avid Mets fan and a devoted member of the Reformed Church in Franklin Township.



JOAN SAPIENZA IMPROVES COUNTLESS LIVES

"Having a summer camp was Joan Sapienza's dream, and now it is her legacy," said Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, at a Celebration of Life and Memorial Service at Camp Jotoni on September 20. "Joan promoted both the purchase of this land and the development of a camp program. And it was her wish to have a service here."

Joan Sapienza, the first Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County in 1974, passed away on April 6. Nearly 100 people attended her service, including former and current board members, staff members, Arc clients, and family and friends, many of whom traveled to Camp

Jotoni from Vermont. In her opening comments, Lauren quoted a poem, author unknown:

*You can shed tears that I have gone,
Or you can smile because I have lived*

*You can close your eyes
And pray that I'll come back,
Or you can open your eyes,
And see all that I have left.*

Other speakers included John Ridley, former board member; Chris Reagan, Director of Camp Jotoni; Fred Patterson, founding parent of the camp; and Lou Baldino and John Horan, former Arc Executive Directors. The speakers described Joan's fierce dedication and commitment to individuals who have developmental disabilities, her ability to inspire people, and her understanding of a family's need for alternatives to institutional care for loved ones.

Joan has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals and their families. Said Chris Reagan, "Every summer, nearly 200 visitors participate in our summer programs at Camp Jotoni. We have campers who have been coming here for 23 years. Some of them come from other counties and states. Joan's dream has been realized."

Joan's husband, Vito Sapienza, dedicated a beautiful print that had been given to Joan on her retirement to The Arc of Somerset County. The print, created by disability artist Martha Perske, will hang in the reception area at the headquarters in Manville. In addition to her husband, Joan is survived by sons Lewis, Andrew, Peter, and Mark.

As a tribute to Joan's strength, determination, and vision, a red oak tree was planted at Camp Jotoni and dedicated to her memory.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that Eddie and Joan will be remembered and loved.

South Brunswick High School Students Paint Rocky Hill Group Home

The Habitat for Humanity Club at South Brunswick High School has adopted The Arc of Somerset County and is donating one Saturday a month to paint one or more residences, beginning with the Rocky Hill Group Home. "Rocky Hill is a little out of our area, so it's sometimes tough to get volunteers there," reported Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development.

Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, is thrilled. "The Club will donate as many Saturdays as it takes to complete the painting," he said. "This is so exciting. A fresh coat of paint will really brighten the Rocky Hill Group Home."

Thank you South Brunswick students and Advisors Steven Schiff and Larry Witlen.

Tibotec Volunteers Winterize Camp Jotoni

On September 23, nearly 60 volunteers from Tibotec visited Warren to prepare Camp Jotoni for winter. Volunteers—led by Deb Chudy, Board Administrative Associate to President Glenn Mattes, Ron Martin, Senior Training Manager of the Virology Marketing Department, and Ron Falcon, MD, Vice President of Clinical Affairs—cleaned cabins, painted outdoor furniture, and installed a new floor in the dining hall. "Our dining room received a beautiful facelift," said a grateful Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development.

This is the third consecutive year Tibotec helped The Arc of Somerset County close down Camp Jotoni after the summer season. "Tibotec donated supplies as well," exclaimed Tara. "And they are already committed to come back next year! We definitely have a great friend in Tibotec."



Oticon Is Named Employer of Year; Warren-Watchung Connection Wins Communicator's Award

At the Annual Awards Dinner of The Arc of New Jersey on November 5 at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, Oticon was given the Employer of the Year Award, and the Warren-Watchung Connection received the Communicator's Award.

Congratulations! The entire Arc community extends its heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing support!



Lauren Panarella, Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County, (left to right) Tom Falvey of Oticon, and Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services.



Robin Fand of the Warren-Watchung Connection and Lauren Panarella.

Scott Scalise Meets Some of His Favorite Celebrities

Scott Scalise of the Franklin Group Home met Mickey Dolenz (Monkees), Adam West, Billy Dee Williams, and other stars at celebrity autograph/comic book conventions held at the Parsippany Hilton last December, at the Secaucus Holiday Inn in August, and at the Manhattan Pier 94 Convention Center in October.

"Scott had a great time," said Alison Malnak, Arc Job Coach. "He loves watching DVDs of old television shows and movies. He was such a fan of certain shows that his mother and sister decorated his bedroom with autographed pictures of some of his favorite celebrities. The conventions gave Scott an opportunity to speak with celebrities and receive autographed photos in person."

Among the stars Scott met were Dawn Wells who played Mary Ann in Gilligan's Island, Joyce DeWitt who played Janet in Three's Company, and William Katt who was Ralph in Greatest American Hero.



"At first, it was hard for Scott to understand that the characters on television were not real," Alison remarked. "When he reached the convention and saw William Katt wearing street clothes, Scott just looked at him and said, 'Oh!'"

Scott with television star Lee Merriwether, who played Catwoman in Batman.

Sign Up for Online Issues of Bi-Annual *Herald*

The Herald Newsletter will now be printed twice a year, instead of quarterly. In an effort to protect the environment and save on production and postage costs, we would like to distribute future issues of the *Herald* through e-mail. Those who would like to receive our newsletters, as well as other communications, are asked to complete the form to the right, and mail it to The Arc of Somerset County at 141 S. Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835. You can also contact Camille Singleton by e-mail at camilles@thearcofsomerset.org or by phone at 908-725-8544, ext. 608.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

At Employment Services, September Revenues Soar to Record Highs



Bill Noll

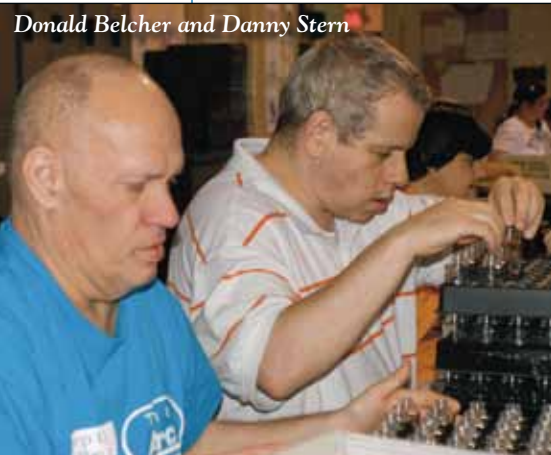
DID YOU KNOW...that, in September, revenues at Employment Services reached record highs? "We've been running at peak production levels at all four of our training centers," said an elated Britt Blomgren, Contract Sales Manager. "Consumers and staff at all our centers, including the warehouse team led by Tolik Murallo, have stepped up to the challenge and met every deliverable. It's a great group of people, and they're performing very well."

DID YOU KNOW...that, every day, the TRIMLINE team is assembling more than 20,000 tube-and-connector sets used to produce blood pressure cuffs? In response to an

increased demand from TRIMLINE Medical Products, we have expanded our TRIMLINE team to include additional consumers at our Branchburg, Valley Park, and Gannett centers.

DID YOU KNOW...that Oticon, one of the world's largest manufacturers of hearing aids and a customer of Employment Services for 15 years, received Employer of the Year Award from The Arc of Somerset County in June? In November,

Oticon received Employer of the Year Award from The Arc of New Jersey. Tom Falvey, Vice President of Operations at Oticon, has compared his company's mission with that of The Arc. "We have a similar mission," he said. "At Oticon, we believe in helping people live the life they want with the hearing they have. Similarly, The Arc assists individuals in achieving their highest potential."



Donald Belcher and Danny Stern

DID YOU KNOW...that, recently, we assembled 125,000 Schering-Plough folders for Synergy Direct Marketing, Inc., a faithful customer for many years?



Mary Lou Servidio

DID YOU KNOW...that we are supporting a new product launch for L'Oreal? Over a three-month period, we will position 1.9 million bottles of L'Oreal products for Stoezel-Oberglas—and an additional 300,000 bottles a month through 2010.

DID YOU KNOW...that we are expanding our shred-

ding business and offering new services to the community?

DID YOU KNOW...that we are always looking for work for employees at our production centers? If you need help with 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 device 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 Arc members increase the visibility of people with developmental disabilities within their community.

Governor Corzine Declares DSP Recognition Week

Governor Jon S. Corzine issued a Proclamation designating September 14 to 19 as National Direct Support Professional's (DSP) Recognition Week. The Proclamation demonstrated the Governor's commitment to offer DSPs the education and compensation essential to ensure the success, independence, and quality of care for many of the state's most vulnerable citizens.

"It takes a lot of commitment to complete what is essentially a three-year college program," explained Lisa Intili, Director of Quality, referring to the Career Path Program. "There is a lot of studying involved, as well as practicing and applying new techniques. "DSPs who complete the

program will receive a title upgrade and an increase in compensation."

DSP Recognition Week was sponsored by the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Disabilities in collaboration with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Direct Support Workforce in New Jersey.

Said Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, "A DSP's work is challenging, noble, and life-changing for those in their care. We attribute the success of The Arc of Somerset County largely to the dedicated and talented group of DSPs who provide a broad range of supports to the individuals served."

Eight DSPs Awarded Certificates of Achievement

On September 18 at the Woodbridge Hilton in Edison, the NJ Direct Support Professional Workforce Development Coalition awarded DSPs who have completed Levels I and/or II of a special DSP training program in the College of Direct Support Pilot program with Certificates of Achievement. Among those who received certificates were the following eight employees of The Arc of Somerset County:

- Cheryl Brantley of the Branchburg Adult Training Center
- Abdul Gabisi of the Claremont Group Home in Franklin Park
- George Joseph of the Cedar Grove Group Home in Branchburg
- Elizabeth Kinyanjui of the Ardsley Group Home in Hillsborough
- Alison Malnak of Employment Services in Branchburg

- Nelly Otieno of Nursing Services in Branchburg
- Colleen Quinn of the Jill Court Adult Training Center in Hillsborough
- Mary Tilson of the Gannett Adult Training Center in Bridgewater

In addition, Colleen Quinn was awarded the NJ Direct Support Professional of the Year Award for her outstanding dedication and support of individuals served by The Arc (see *Colleen Quinn Wins DSP Award* below).

“Congratulations to all of you!” exclaimed Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. “We applaud you for exemplary and critical work that serves and empowers individuals with disabilities, enabling them to live meaningful, productive lives within our community.”



In the front row, from left to right, are Elizabeth Kinyanjui, Ardsley Group Home; George Joseph, Cedar Grove Group Home; Cheryl Brantley, Branchburg Adult Training Center; Alison Malnak, Employment Services; and Dee Quinn, Jill Court Adult Training Center. In the back row are Abdul Gabisi, Claremont Group Home; Lauren Panarella, Executive Director; Nelly Otieno, Nursing Services in Branchburg; Colleen Quinn, Jill Court Adult Training Center; Mary Tilson, Gannett Adult Training Center; Karen Stanchak, Assistant Director of Residential Services.

Colleen Quinn Wins Making a Difference—DSP of the Year Award

Winning the Direct Support Professional Award feels wonderful to Colleen Quinn of the Jill Court Adult Training Center in Hillsborough. Colleen also received a Proclamation Letter from US Senator Robert Menendez. While she is genuinely grateful for the recognition, Colleen notes that her greatest reward comes from working directly with the clients who require her services. “Feeling their heartfelt thanks makes this very gratifying work,” said the 45-year veteran. “This has to be a vocation, not a job. It’s physically demanding work and has to come from the heart.”

Colleen’s passion for DSP work began when her daughter, now 49, was born with developmental disabilities. “There was not a whole lot happening in terms of programs and services,” she said. “We have come a long, long way.”

Remarked Alison Malnak of Employment Services, “Colleen helped our first Executive Director raise the funds to open our agency’s first group homes and work centers.” First hired in 1974, Colleen helped create and manage the first medical model: a work center capable of accommodating people who use wheelchairs and walkers.

Colleen is hopeful the Career Path funded by a grant from the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities will attract and retain many DSPs who are qualified and dedicated to their profession. Said Alison, “Colleen is a role model for fellow DSPs who are completing the Career Path coursework. Her leadership has inspired many staff members to remain in this field, and to become managers themselves.”

Colleen is happy that DSPs who complete the Career Path Program will receive a title upgrade and increase in compensation. “You shouldn’t have to move into management to get increased compensation,” Colleen remarked. “The hands-on work is where things really happen. Yet those who provide those services earn the least amount of money. And they have to earn a living too!”

“Providing DSPs with incentives for staying in direct care is the key to providing individuals who have developmental disabilities and their families with consistency of care and

pendable caregiving relationships,” she added.



Alison Malnak (left to right), Colleen Quinn, and Lauren Panarella.

“Go For It!” Says Fred Patterson, Lifetime Achievement Award Nominee

Fred Patterson and his wife, Roe, cared for their daughter, Kathy, diagnosed with profound mental retardation, at



Roe and Fred Patterson with Governor Jon Corzine

home for more than 30 years. “We were at the end of our ropes,” said the Board Member-at-Large. “Caring for Kathy can be so difficult.”

Fred urged state legislators to provide funding for residential services for at least some of the 8,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who are on a waiting list in New Jersey. Unable to convince the group, the retired Marketing and Public Relations

executive from Johnson & Johnson took matters into his own hands. “People warned me that going over the heads of legislators would be suicidal,” Fred said. “But I went ahead anyway, and came up with ‘A Key of Our Own’ campaign.”

As the former President of The Arc of New Jersey, Fred went straight to the voters with a multi-media campaign spotlighting his daughter. When highlighting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities failed to persuade voters—because

the public had no personal connection to the disability community—he refocused the campaign to the plight of parents.

Fred’s flexibility and perseverance paid off, when—with the support of former Governor Christine Todd Whitman—voters passed a \$160 million bond issue to provide residential services and staff to care for people with developmental disabilities. Subsequently, Fred was recruited to help other states achieve similar success.

This is only one of a long list of accomplishments that distinguish Fred’s symbiotic career as executive, volunteer, and parent. And it is one of the reasons Fred has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award of the National Conference of Executives (NCE) of The Arc. Other key initiatives of his include Safe Kids USA, which Fred co-founded, and the New Jersey Governor’s Council on the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, which he chaired for many years.

“After Kathy moved into a group home, many people thought Fred would slow down,” said Maureen Babula, President of the NCE of The Arc. “But his mission will never be ‘accomplished.’ Fred sees advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families as lifelong—and life giving.”

Fred credits his daughter for making him the “man he was meant to be.” His advice to others who feel passionate about issues they think may be beyond any one person’s ability to improve: “Go for it!”

Master Gardener Program Is Growing on Campers



The first Master Gardener Program at Camp Jotoni left a delicious impression on campers of all ages, interests, and abilities. From daily nature sessions to “make your own pizza” with herbs and tomatoes planted in their first vegetable garden, “campers seemed to really enjoy it,” said Christopher Corvino, Associate Executive Director.

The garden was planted by Jody Friedman and fellow Rutgers Master Gardeners including Jane Bernabe, Kathy Chapin (parent of Counselor-in-Training Kyle Osterloh), Ivanka Gukunski, Sherry Howe, and Cathy Vassello—just before campers arrived. The Master Gardeners used plants and supplies generously donated by Walter’s Garden Center in Bernardsville. Included were sage, thyme, oregano, tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash and a watermelon.

Campers learned the joys of a summer harvest when the vegetables

were ripe for picking in August. By then, campers had already developed greater sensitivity to their lush surroundings in Warren. “Thanks to the Master Gardeners, we were able to expand the nature aspect of Camp Jotoni,” Chris said. “In addition to planting the garden, the group developed a curriculum of learning tailored to individuals at all levels of abilities.” The curriculum included plant identification and safety, such as the detection of poison ivy, and sensory gardening.

“The most beneficial aspect of the Master Gardeners Program is that campers were involved from beginning to end, and could feel that they had really accomplished something,” Chris Reagan enthused. Added Chris Corvino, “Campers were able to contribute to something that was uniquely theirs while, at the same time, expanding their knowledge and developing new skills. Campers could say, ‘I helped grow this plant.’ Or ‘I helped prepare this dinner.’ Or ‘I know what poison ivy looks like.’”

Both Chris Corvino and Chris Reagan look forward to continuing and expanding the Master Gardeners Program next year. For information and applications for Camp Jotoni, please contact Karina Alvarado at 908-725-2266.



FAIR SHOWCASES STAFF BENEFITS:

Free Counseling, Retirement Savings, and More!

About 75 employees attended the first annual Benefits Fair sponsored by the Human Resources Department at The Arc of Somerset County in Manville on July 29. The fair was designed to apprise staff members of agency benefits that are sometimes underutilized. "We want employees to know that we offer more than a salary," said Toni Gamble, Director of Human Resources. "We have a benefits package that is very competitive."

Among the benefits offered by The Arc of Somerset County is the Employee Assistance Program, a one-on-one counseling service through Princeton Healthcare Systems. "Counseling is available for personal or professional reasons," Toni said. "Staff members are free to discuss anything from depression to legal or business issues. The counseling is confidential and provided at no charge."

Another attractive benefit is the 403B (Tax Deferred Annuity) retirement savings program presently administered by Principal Financial. "Many employees don't realize that, in addition to their pension plan, there is an employee option to defer salary dollars to retirement."

Attendees appreciated the Benefits Fair and asked if it could be held again next year. "We want our department to be as transparent as possible," Toni explained. Anyone who would like more information about employee benefits is welcome to contact Sandra Savage at 908-725-8544, ext. 621.



Leah Seavey of Verizon Wireless and Mary Atchey, Assistant Director of Family Support, and Jeanne Guarnieri, Director of Parents and Children Together (PACT).

2009 Arc Angel Gala Celebrates Growth You Can Believe In



On November 6, nearly 200 guests gathered at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills to celebrate The Arc of Somerset County's annual fundraising Arc Angel Gala: Growth You Can Believe In. Honorees included Arc Angel Award recipient Brian Bosenberg, Halo Award winner Kyle Osterloh, and three

outstanding high school seniors who each received the Angels Among Us award. Helping to raise more than \$114,000, with net earnings of more than \$73,000, were Co-chairs AT&T and B.W. Bosenberg & Co., and a host of generous sponsors and supporters.* For the second consecutive year, Somerset County Freeholder Deputy Director Jack Ciattarelli served as Emcee and presented The Arc of Somerset County with a Citation honoring its pivotal work in the community.

The Arc wishes to publicly thank the following sponsors for helping to make the Gala a resounding success: The Chubb Corporation, Magyar Bank, Michael and Deborah Mandelbaum, Fred and Roe Patterson, The Provident Bank Foundation, TRIMLINE Medical Products Corporation; and a host of Patrons and Friends.

BRIAN W. BOSENBERG RECEIVES ARC ANGEL AWARD

In his acceptance speech, honoree Brian Bosenberg expressed his gratitude to the Arc for having found his sister, Donna, a home of her own. Brian underscored the importance of partnerships

between the corporate sector and community-based organizations. And he challenged guests to make a commitment to the growth and sustainability of The Arc's programs and services.

KYLE OSTERLOH WINS HALO AWARD

For his outstanding job performance and contributions to Camp Jotoni, Kyle was awarded the 2009 Halo Award. For the past 23 years, Kyle Osterloh has been both a camper and an employee at Camp Jotoni. Always reliable and enthusiastic, campers and staff have grown to depend on Kyle.

CHRISTOPHER GABBETT, LAURA MAGAW, VALERIE RAZIANO AWARDED ANGELS AMONG US

Honored as Angels Among Us were seniors Christopher Gabbett of Bridgewater Raritan Regional High School, Laura Magaw of Immaculata High School, and Valerie Raziano of Somerville High School. Their outstanding volunteerism ranged from mentoring peers who have developmental disabilities to fundraising and coaching children.

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.

* These results are preliminary as of November 12, 2009.





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learn to live their dreams.SM

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Save the Date!

PURCHASE HOLIDAY GIFTS AT WINTER CRAFT FAIR ON DECEMBER 4

A Winter Craft Fair featuring beautiful handcrafted jewelry made by those who work at the Valley Park Adult Training Center (ATC) will be featured at Valley Park ATC on December 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The fair is free and open to the public. Proceeds from the fair will help purchase supplies for the *Personal Interest Program* comprised of a Reading, Crafts and Music Group offering special activities for adults who are unable to receive employment services. For more information, please contact Nancy Tarazona or Edggar Cam at 908-904-1278.

FOCUS GROUPS TO EVALUATE SERVICES ON DECEMBER 9 AND 16

Two Focus Groups for family members, friends, and guardians of individuals with disabilities who receive services from The Arc of Somerset County are scheduled for December 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and December 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at The Arc of Somerset County, 141 South Main Street, in Manville. (See *Focus Group for Families, Friends, and Guardians* on page 4). Anyone who would like more information about these or other focus groups is welcome to contact Lisa at 908-707-1112, ext. 28.

HONORING BUSINESS PARTNERS ON FEBRUARY 19 AND 26

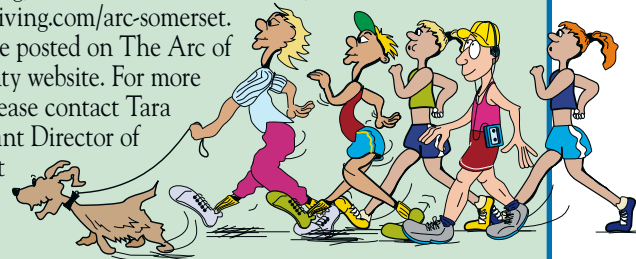
A Business Partnership Awards Ceremony for companies that employ members of The Arc of Somerset County to work on-site is scheduled for February 19 from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. at 3 Jill Court, Building 15, Hillsborough. A second Awards Ceremony for companies providing Employment Services with work contracts is set for February 26 from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. at the Branchburg Adult Training Center, 161 Industrial Parkway, Branchburg. Both ceremonies are open to the public. An RSVP

is required; please contact Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext. 613, or alfied@thearcofsomerset.org

STEP UP FOR THE ARC IN MAY

The 2010 Walkathon is scheduled for May at Duke Island Park on Old York Road in Bridgewater. Sponsors who would like to purchase space on The Arc of Somerset County T-shirt, organize teams for walking, or submit donations online, are invited to visit www.firstgiving.com/arc-somerset.

The date will be posted on The Arc of Somerset County website. For more information, please contact Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.



ATTEND ANNUAL EXPO, ELECTION, MEMBERSHIP, AND AWARDS CELEBRATION ON JUNE 21

This year's Annual Expo, Election, Membership, and Awards Celebration will be held at the Bridgewater Manor on Monday, June 21, 2010. For more information, please contact Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, 908-725-8544, ext. 613.



SUPPORT PGA GOLF TOURNEY ON AUGUST 24-29

The Arc of Somerset County will partner with The Barclays PGA Golf Tournament through TICKETS For Charity for the second consecutive year. Please join us on August 24-29, 2010, at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, NJ. To support the program, please visit www.thebarclaysgolf.com/tfc, or contact Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, 908-725-8544, ext. 613.