



HERALD

Celebrating More Than 40 Years of Service

A message from the Executive Director



Last year, we celebrated 40 years of service to our communities and those who live with

intellectual and developmental disabilities. As we enter into a new decade of committed service, it is important to acknowledge all of the families and community partners who have been a part of our history, our development, and our success.

Our organization was started by and for families, and it is safe to say that our future rests in the hands of those families and future families to come. Looking toward the next chapter in our story, it will be important to engage the next generation of family members and welcome them into the folds of our agency. At this juncture, we celebrate our *proud past* and look forward to a *promising future* with this new generation of advocates to promote our efforts. Our progress will continue; our resolve stronger and our commitment secure.

Fiscal Year 2014 will bring many challenges to The Arc of Somerset

See Message on page 2

Jerry Davis Center Accepted into State Pilot Project

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families has been accepted into GrowNJ Kids, a New Jersey pilot project that will become a gateway for programs to easily access specialized and/or individualized training, technical assistance and support, and professional development for teachers and caregivers. The pilot includes 60 programs currently providing center-based early care and education programs in Essex, Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset Counties.

Nationally, there are over 26 states that either have a quality rating and improvement system or are in the development process. In keeping with national standards, GrowNJ Kids' core elements will include program and practitioner standards, health and safety standards, family engagement and consumer education, as well as provider support and accountability measures. GrowNJ Kids will provide staff with specialized training

See Pilot Project on page 2



Arc Honors Award Recipients at Annual Meeting

More than 170 staff, volunteers, community partners, and persons-served attended The Arc's Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 17. The Arc proudly presented the following awards:

Advocate of the Year

Trina Trent

Community Partner of the Year

Michael Ligorano, Esq.

Direct Support Professionals of the Year

Samuel Kamara Priscilla Stith

Distinguished Community Service

Janssen Therapeutics

Employer of the Year

Chartwells

Healthcare Professional of the Year

Dr. Lorraine Depass

Professional of the Year

Chris Reagan

Volunteer of the Year

Maria Goncalves

In this issue...

**Arc Family Members Launch
Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund**



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.

The Arc Board Of Directors

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Parents and Children Together
(PACT) Jeanne Guarnieri
Quality Lisa Intili
Director of Residential Services
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Message, continued from page 1

County as we seek to find a balance between our commitment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and our need to be a fiscally-sound and viable entity that will endure the test of time. Our programs have evolved to ensure that we are providing the necessary programs and supports to meet the ever-changing needs in our communities. To meet the ongoing fiscal challenges, The Arc of Somerset County has recently reactivated The Arc Foundation of Somerset County. This Foundation has the sole purpose of supporting the mission and programs of The Arc of Somerset County and will act as the fundraising arm of the agency. Our Foundation, led by a Board of Trustees, will take a more prominent role in our ability to grow our programs and create a stable financial base for The Arc of Somerset County. *Our past successes are our foundation, our future successes are our legacy.*

Arc Welcomes New and Returning Members of the Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Ron Slahetka, President
Tim McKeown, Vice President
Tarun Shah, Treasurer
Debra Albanese, Secretary

Board Members

Charles Huck Bill Mackay Jay Reyes
Stefanie Irwin Eric Mandelbaum

In addition, The Arc acknowledges three retiring members who gave generously of their time, talent, and service to the Board of Directors and The Arc of Somerset County.

Departing Board Members

Edmond Brown Allen Sondej
Belinda Malave

Pilot Project, continued from page 1

and demonstrate a center's quality to parents. The data from the project will help New Jersey determine "how the children are doing," and provide valuable information about high quality early experiences to parents, families, and the community.

In preparation for the project, JDCCF staff has already attended training on the nationally-recognized, evidence-based *Creative Curriculum*. "Many of our local school districts are already using the *Creative Curriculum*," remarked Jennifer Orlick, Director of Children & Family Services. "Therefore, we decided to also change to these learning strategies to better prepare our students for kindergarten." Additionally, Jennifer is currently attending the Child Care Center Directors Academy, a 60+ hour course that includes topics important to quality center management. Course objectives are geared to boost the innovation and success of New Jersey's daycare system leaders.

To learn more about the GrowNJ Kids project or the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, please contact Jennifer Orlick at 908.725.2266 or via email at jennifero@thearcofsomerset.org.



Over 200 Individuals "Stepped Up" for The Arc at Annual Walkathon

The Arc of Somerset County held its annual Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run on Saturday, May 4 at Duke Island Park. Over 200 walkers, runners, family members, persons-served, sponsors and volunteers enjoyed sunshine, a barbeque provided by District 12 of the Free & Accepted Masons, and music from New Jersey DJ Services! The event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors:

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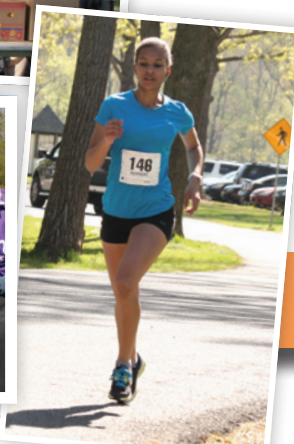
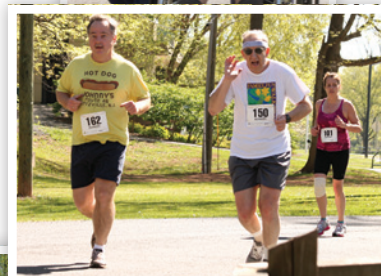
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP FUNDRAISERS!

Top Consumer Fundraisers: Lori Ellis & Barbara Cornelius
Top Family Team: The Mandelbaum Family
Top Community Team: Cerminara Architect

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP ARC TEAMS!

Ilene Court Craftsmen (Maintenance Department)
Ardsley Group Home
Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families
Unconditional Positive Regard (Clinical Services Department)



Thank you to everybody who made the 2013 Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run such a great success!

Arc Family Members Establish

The Arc of Somerset County is pleased to announce the establishment of the Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund!



Leo & Anne Zuckerman

The Fund was created through generous contributions from Dr. Diana Zuckerman, Dr. Barry Zuckerman, and Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Roe Patterson, and its purpose is to support healthy living and recreational opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Fund is named in honor of the late Leo and Anne Zuckerman, two of the first parents and founding trustees of The Arc of Somerset County. Leo, a longtime Johnson & Johnson employee, was responsible for the groundbreaking discovery of the Rh factor, which paved the way for the prevention of many disabilities. In addition to his career with Johnson & Johnson, he and his wife Anne were very active with The Arc of Somerset County. Leo and Anne had three children: Diana, the Executive Director of the National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families in Washington, DC; Barry, the Chair of Pediatrics and Professor of Public Health at the Boston University School of Medicine; and Elliot, who currently resides in one of The Arc's group homes in Hillsborough.

Through decades of involvement with The Arc and the disability community, the Zuckermans worked tirelessly to improve services and rights for individuals with disabilities; making an impact in the disability community that went far beyond their own son and his needs. In fact, the Zuckermans fought for more than just basic services, expanding their advocacy to include a focus on improving the overall quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Leo & Anne's legacy of compassion is now being carried on by their children through their establishment of the Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund.



Elliot Zuckerman



the Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund



"Everyone needs a vacation - the chance to go somewhere new and take a break from daily responsibilities," commented Diana Zuckerman. "Our parents understood that very well, and that's why we wanted to start the Fresh Air Fund in their memory. The goal of this Fund is to help make sure that all individuals can enjoy a change of pace and that all families can take a break from caregiving."

"Community-based recreation has many tangible benefits for individuals with disabilities," remarked Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "For example, individuals have the opportunity to make a new friend, promote personal fulfillment, and increase social experiences. Through the Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund, financial status will not serve as a barrier for an individual with disabilities to access a full range of recreational activities including vacations, camps, outdoor activities, day trips, and other recreational programs."

Fred and Roe Patterson, fellow founding parents and fund donors, also realize the benefit and importance of vacations and recreation. "A break from the normal routine and a chance to take a vacation is important to everyone, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities," remarked Fred Patterson. "Vacations further offer opportunities for community inclusion while enjoying a vast spectrum of recreational and social experiences."

If you would like to contribute to the Zuckerman Fresh Air Fund and make a difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, please contact us today.



Camp Jotoni “Goes Green” with Rain Barrel Project



On July 11th, campers and counselors at Camp Jotoni built rain barrels during a “Build A Rain Barrel” workshop sponsored by the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES). Pat Rector, the NJAES representative for Somerset and Morris Counties, held an interactive discussion with the group about the purpose of rain barrels and their impact on the environment. Afterwards, teams comprised of counselors and campers worked together on the complex tasks of installing the spout, overflow hose adapter, and mosquito screen in 15 rain barrels. Members of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties, who have sponsored a horticulture program at camp for the last 5 years, were there to lend a hand.



“New experiences such as this can have a positive impact on the individuals we serve,” remarked Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, “including providing the opportunity to work as a team, to learn something new, to possibly discover a hidden talent, to feel a sense of accomplishment, and to enhance self-esteem.”

Camp will keep one rain barrel to water the herb, vegetable, and flower gardens planted by the Master Gardeners. The remaining barrels will be auctioned off at a Community Day Event at Camp Jotoni on Saturday, September 28th (rain date: Sunday, September 29th). Members of the community will have the opportunity to visit camp and learn about all the services provided by The Arc of Somerset County. Please check our website at the end of summer for additional information.



Grants and Donations Provide Program Support

The Bishop Janes United Methodist Church of Basking Ridge donated \$1,000 to The Arc of Somerset County. This is The Arc’s first contribution from the church.

The Franklin Township Community Development Block Grant Program has awarded The Arc with a grant of \$21,150 to fund accessibility renovations to a bathroom in the Griggstown Group Home.

The Green Knoll Ladies Golf League donated \$775 to Camp Jotoni. The funds were raised through the club’s spring luncheon.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals awarded The Arc with a \$2,500 grant to support Camp Jotoni.

The Knights of Columbus Councils #6573 (St. Jude), #11409 (Warren), and #13264 (Raritan) raised \$871, \$2,000, and \$2,610 respectively for The Arc through their annual fund drives.

The Kreitchman Family Foundation donated \$1,500 to support programming at Camp Jotoni. This is The Arc’s first grant from the Foundation.

The Temple Har Shalom Teen Philanthropy Board chose the JDCCF Developmental Daycare as the recipient of their annual grant of \$2,200.

The Union Foundation awarded The Arc with a \$5,000 grant to support accessibility projects at Camp Jotoni.

Volunteers Brighten The Arc

Companies from the local community and a family that receives services from The Arc generously shared their time, talent, and supplies this spring and summer to spruce up Camp Jotoni and the Branchburg Adult Training Center. Over 65 volunteers participated in the following projects:

April 26 – Nearly 15 volunteers from the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage group spent the day at Camp Jotoni building a fence, waterproofing ramps, and completing yard cleanup.

June 14 – As part of their annual worldwide volunteer day, almost 30 volunteers from L'Oreal's Somerset location gathered together to clean camp buildings, assemble and stain picnic tables, sweep pavilions, and power wash and weed around the pool to help prepare for the upcoming camp season.



June 26 – 7 volunteers from Henkel painted outside railings and retouched the cafeteria walls at the Branchburg Adult Training Center.

June 27 – Dennis and Mary Downs, parents of a camper, along with 10 friends cleaned and painted cabin floors and installed a fence at Camp Jotoni.

Thank you volunteers of Coldwell Banker, L'Oreal, Henkel, and Downs family and friends!

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.



Remembering Those Who Have Passed

The Arc of Somerset County has been fortunate to serve so many individuals who have touched our hearts and brought joy to our agency. We will miss each of those who have passed and will always remember the individual qualities that made each person unique.

Mary Barnickle
Richard Cox
Marianne D'Altrui

David Donahue
Toni Gambino
Christine Luszc

Glenn Mueller
Sonal Patel
Ray Shearer



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

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Save the Date

Open House at Camp Jotoni

The Arc will hold an open house at our summer camp in Warren on Saturday, September 28th (rain date: Sunday, September 29th). All are invited to tour the property and learn about the services provided at camp. Attendees will also have the opportunity to bid on the rain barrels assembled by Camp Jotoni campers and counselors. For additional information, please contact Laura Ziegler at 908.725.8544 x608 or via email at lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

During the month of October, The Arc will honor our many community business partners that provide employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. Please check our website for future updates about NDEAM events.

Arc Angel Gala

The 2013 Arc Angel Gala: "Proud Past, Promising Future" will be held on Friday, November 15th at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. Join us as we honor the Fanning & Lees Families for their longtime advocacy and support of The Arc Mission by presenting the signature Arc Angel Award to Carol Fanning and Kristin Fanning Lees. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For additional information, please contact Laura Ziegler at 908.725.8544 x608 or via email at lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org.

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