



The Arc[™]
of Somerset County
Celebrating 40 Years of Service

"Achievement"

2011 - 2012 Annual Report

Celebrating a successful year of providing quality services and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

2012 marks the 40th Anniversary of The Arc of Somerset County and our service to the community. This anniversary is particularly poignant as 2012 also marks the 40th anniversary of Geraldo Rivera's historic news piece on the inhumane conditions at the Willowbrook State School—an institution for individuals with disabilities. The concurrent events of the exposure of conditions in our state institutions and the creation of community-based services for families who chose not to place their child in a segregated setting demonstrates the importance of an organization like The Arc.

In the past 40 years, The Arc has made so much progress toward ensuring the civil and human rights of our citizens with disabilities through our advocacy efforts. Most notably, the passage of the ADA, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the IDEA, or Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, has made historic advances in ensuring individuals with disabilities are equally represented in our legislative policies and laws.

For The Arc of Somerset County, our mission and vision for those we serve does not stop with ensuring equal treatment. We further strive to create an enhanced quality of life for individuals with disabilities that includes housing, gainful employment, recreation, spiritual enjoyment, relationship-building, and community integration and participation.

Forty years ago, The Arc of Somerset County began as a grassroots movement that was created by local parents looking for services for their special needs children. Our first program was a preschool that included 16 children and 3 staff members. Today we operate 45 separate program locations, serving more than 1,000 children and adults with disabilities with over 325 employees. Volunteers have always been a vital element of our programs, and we currently utilize more than 500 volunteers each year to supplement our services.

Although we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary of outstanding services in the community, we will not stop looking to meet the ever-changing challenges of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I look forward to the continued success and achievement of those we serve, and I hope you will join me in celebrating our past, our present, and our future.

With warm regards,

Lauren Panarella

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.

Vision:

We will provide the leadership to create an inclusive community of caring so outstanding its echo will reverberate throughout human services of all kinds for years to come.

Participants in our community include individuals with a disability, their families, staff, volunteers, and all of our friends and supporters in the larger community of Somerset County.

The guiding principles of our vision will be:

- Education** - lifelong learning for all participants
- Caring** - respect and compassion among all of us: always leading from the heart
- Hope** - advocacy and encouragement
- Opportunity** - transcending disability by recognizing and developing the capabilities of each and every participant

Value Statement:

The Arc of Somerset County believes that every individual should have the opportunity to live and participate in the community regardless of the level of their abilities. We further believe that:

- * Every individual is inherently valuable
- * Every individual can dream, grow, and learn
- * Every individual deserves the right to make meaningful choices about how and where they live, work, and play
- * A dedicated, highly qualified staff is essential to The Arc's ability to best support people with developmental disabilities
- * Every individual deserves the opportunity for meaningful family relationships
- * Family involvement, at all levels, is essential to our mission



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Achieve with us. 3

Early Intervention

Early Intervention (EI) is a system of supports provided to children birth to three years of age who have developmental delays and/or some specific medically diagnosed condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay. The goal of EI is to help a family meet the developmental and health-related needs of their child. A child's Early Intervention services are based on the individual needs of the child and the primary concerns of the family. In the past year, The Arc provided EI services to more than 365 children in our community!



A Network of Support

The Early Intervention Program entered the life of 3-month-old Joshua in July of 2009. Born with physical disabilities affecting his hands and feet, it was unclear if Joshua would walk or have full use of his hands. For almost 3 years, he received physical, occupational, and speech therapies to address his complicated needs. Joshua grew slowly and had trouble putting on weight - his many specialists and tests yielded few answers. But his therapists continued to work to keep him limber, and gain functional control of his hands.

Today Joshua is able to walk, hold a cup to drink, do puzzles, and use an iPad. After celebrating his third birthday in May, Joshua now attends a preschool program where he demonstrates the cognitive and communication scores of a 6-year-old. Joshua will continue to require therapy, but his foundation for mobility and continued success was laid at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families.



Family Support assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in their efforts to remain together in their homes and communities. The home is typically the best environment for the individual, so Family Support is often defined as "whatever it takes" to help an individual stay in his or her natural home. Family involvement and empowerment are crucial in determining the needs of the individual or family. Raising a child with an intellectual or developmental disability can challenge a family's ability to cope; and parents, siblings, caregivers, and friends often feel overwhelmed. Family Support assists in obtaining quality supports necessary to enhance the quality of life for the family and the individual with a disability.

Family Support also hosts two events: *My Time*, a support group for siblings of children with disabilities, and *Kids' Night Out*, a Friday night drop-off recreation program for children with disabilities & their siblings.



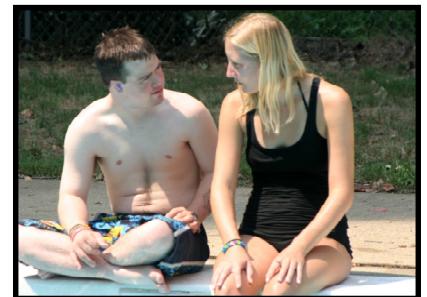
A Parent's Perspective

"Kids' Night Out and the staff offering this invaluable service have changed our lives. We are the parents of a special needs child on the autism spectrum and there are few, if any, other such services available. Through this program, our 10-year-old son and his otherwise neurotypical younger brother have the unique opportunity to take a few hours one Friday each month to gather and socialize with others sharing similar situations and life challenges. During the few hours together they don't focus on their challenges; they just enjoy being who they are! Meanwhile, parents like us have the chance to decompress and enjoy some much needed "me" time while knowing we have left our loved ones in such trusted and capable hands. Every time we drop our boys off, we count our blessings to have such a service available. And every time we pick them up at the end of the night, we mark our calendars for the next Kids' Night Out." – Ted & Kelly, parents of Luke & Aidan



Camp Jotoni

Camp Jotoni provides summer recreational services for campers from the age of 5 to 70+! Our programs consist of day camp, a residential program, travel camp, and an extended summer day camp. The camp is set on 15 acres in Warren, NJ, and the camp features a junior Olympic size pool, cabins, dining hall, open air pavilions, unspoiled woods, and nature trail. Campers have an opportunity to practice motor skills and develop an appreciation for their talents in each of these areas. Programs are adaptable to the needs and challenges of each camper, and social skills are an underlying theme to our program and are reinforced daily through various activities. Despite an early camp closure due to effects of Hurricane Irene, more than 177 campers enjoyed the Camp Jotoni experience in 2011.



From Wallflower to Social Butterfly

Jessica has been a camper for the past five summers - attending residential weeks, respite weekends, and travel camp. When she joined the camp family, Jessica was shy, reserved, and did not thrive in social situations. But now, whether she is sitting around a camp fire listening and even telling stories, riding roller coaster at Hershey Park, or wading in the waters at the shore, what Jessica enjoys the most is making her own decisions about what to do each day.

Camp staff have provided Jessica with coaching in various social settings that make it possible for her to engage in leisure activities that are typical of anyone her age.

Jessica has grown in multiple ways over her five year involvement with Camp Jotoni, but she has shown the most impressive improvement in her maturation in interpersonal interactions. Holding a conversation, while still not easy, has become not just a possibility, but something that Jessica seeks. She invites people into her world now - making that shy and reserved camper completely unrecognizable.

Parents and Children Together Program

PACT (Parents and Children Together) is a parenting-education program for families headed by individuals with developmental disabilities. PACT teaches parents the art of nurturing and raising healthy and well-adjusted children. PACT staff supports families so they are able to:

- * *Develop the means to support their children's basic needs*
- * *Participate fully in the education of their children*
- * *Understand their rights as parents and citizens*
- * *Feel supported and accepted*
- * *Live, work, and parent independently in the community*



Working Together for Joey's Success

In 2010, six-year-old Joey was referred to PACT because his feeding, swallowing, and undesirable mealtime behaviors resulted in frequent school absences. Despite their best intentions, Joey's parents became overwhelmed in managing his medical care. The school psychologist wanted to increase parent communication so Joey's doctors would have the necessary information to address his medical, motor, and learned feeding patterns to keep him educationally on track.

PACT worked with the parents and school psychologist to organize Joey's medical and feeding histories to create a more understandable plan in order to help the parents prioritize next steps. People with intellectual disabilities may often be reluctant to trust people and/or procedures they do not understand. In this case, the parents believed that their son would eventually just "grow out of" whatever was causing the issues. But with PACT's help, after seven months of problem solving, Joey was enrolled in an intensive feeding program at St. Joseph's Hospital.



Nearly two years after PACT's initial involvement, Joey successfully completed his feeding program, is back in school, and is able to feed himself when appropriate. All parties involved, including his doctors, school psychologist, and teachers, are extremely pleased with Joey and his family's successes.

Employment Services

Employment Services offers a variety of options for adults and their families seeking services that foster continued development and growth beyond the school years. Leveraging relationships with local businesses and organizations, we provide center-based programs and community-based employment opportunities as well as support for the transition from school to vocational life. In the past year, 264 individuals participated in the various Employment Services programs.



Finding His Place

With the support of his job coach, Kevin worked independently in the community for many years. However, the onset of serious health issues prevented him from working for an extended period of time. As a result, he lost interest in work and spent most of his days at home watching TV. With persistent encouragement from staff, Kevin agreed to visit the Valley Park Center three days per week on a trial basis. He quickly made friends and took an immediate interest in the work available at the center. His health and outlook continued to improve. After several months, Kevin willingly increased his attendance to five days per week. Now a productive member of the team, Kevin's big smile reveals his remarkable progress and success.



Residential Services provides a safe and healthy place to live, integrates individuals into their community, offers engaging recreational opportunities, and provides the supports required for individuals to meet their goals and dreams. This year, Residential Services celebrated several birthdays with residents in their 70's and 80's, held yoga classes, enjoyed weekly dances, and coordinated 5 new apartment opportunities. And now Residential Services looks forward to meeting nine new residents that will join our many group homes and apartments in the coming year.

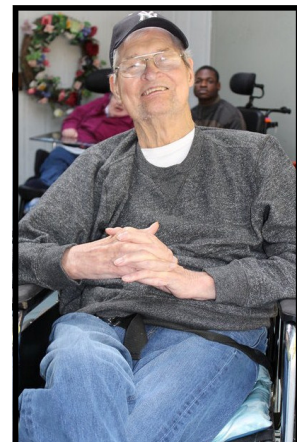


Weathering the Storm

The men of the Branchburg Group Home lost their residence to the flooding effects of Hurricane Irene on August 29, 2011. Nearly a foot of water rendered their home uninhabitable, displacing them in a matter of hours. The gentlemen took only what could be carried, leaving behind personal items, their furniture, their home. While they were welcome at our Respite and Old Stirling Group Homes, they lost what any of us lose in such a situation: certainty, privacy, favorite chairs, books, clothes, regular routines...the things that make a house a home. As days turned to weeks the gentlemen would ask, "Are we going back?" When weeks became months they asked, "Did we find a new home?"

Along the way, one gentleman did find a new home in Bridgewater - it represented a new independence in an apartment. The group was then joined by another looking for a home among friends with more support. Sixty property visits and nearly nine months later, the men of Branchburg will become the men of Pioneer Drive as they move into a 4 bedroom colonial with space for a garden, volleyball, and barbecues.

The success here is not in waiting patiently; not in enduring quietly. It is the grace, advocacy, and humor with which these gentlemen lost and regained a home that is the success. By negotiating their displacement with such composure, they have earned and re-earned the respect of friends and staff alike.



Financial Report

The Arc of Somerset County Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	2012 Estimate		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUES:			
Federal, State & County Financial Assistance	\$ 15,786,038	\$ -	\$ 15,786,038
Tuition and Fees	339,000	-	336,000
Contracts, Projects & Grants	234,000	33,500	267,500
Fundraising	110,000	-	110,000
United Way	39,000	-	39,000
Investment Income	13,662	-	13,662
Donated Facilities	39,300	-	39,300
Contributions	30,000	42,451	72,541
Other Revenue	140,852	-	140,852
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(12,390)	12,390	-
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 16,702,800</u>	<u>\$ 88,431</u>	<u>\$ 16,804,893</u>
EXPENSES:			
Program Services	\$ 16,254,496	\$ -	\$ 16,254,496
Development	155,900	-	155,900
Management & General	56,550	-	56,550
	<u>16,466,946</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,466,946</u>
Change in Net Assets	235,854	88,431	324,285
Net Assets, beginning of year	<u>1,131,032</u>	<u>253,069</u>	<u>1,384,101</u>
Net Asset, end of year	<u>\$ 1,366,886</u>	<u>\$ 341,500</u>	<u>\$ 1,708,386</u>

2012 Award Recipients

Community Media Excellence Award
Point Media – yoursomerset.com

Direct Support Professional of the Year – Employment
Debora Miller

Direct Support Professional of the Year – Residential
Florence Obado

Distinguished Community Service Award
Henkel

Educator of the Year Award
Patricia McGinley

Employer of the Year Award
Stoelzle Oberglas

Healthcare Professional of the Year Award
Dr. Lucy Esralew

Professional of the Year Award
Mary Beth Loughlin, LCSW

Volunteer of the Year Award
Christopher Haase

**The Arc of Somerset County
acknowledges retiring Board Member**

Eileen Bradbury

Thank you for your dedicated service!

The Arc of Somerset County Donor Family

2011-2012

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