



Message From  
Executive Director, Lauren Frary

*"In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity"*  
~Albert Einstein~

As we end this fiscal year at The Arc of Somerset County, we typically take a look back at all that we have accomplished and outline our strategic priorities and goals for the upcoming year.

This year, I want to focus on our path forward and our renewed sense of urgency regarding our mission and our services to the community.

There's only one thing you can do when confronted with difficult times and that is to move forward.

The Arc did not allow the challenges of Covid-19 deter us from our work - it did move us in a different direction and at times gave us pause.

We used this difficult experience to use our imagination, creativity and innovation to work differently, to create new partnerships and to utilize the resources we have (both internal and external) and in new ways.

As we start a new 2022 Fiscal Year period- our growth will continue at a slow but steady pace, and our imagination and determination to accept new challenges in an ever changing world will continue to evolve with our mission with a person centered focus of inclusion and achievement for all. Thank you.

# JULY 2021 HERALD

*Celebrating Over 45 Years of Service*

## ***Adult Group Home Room-Mates Share a Collaboration Through Mutual Love of Art***

*Written by Karen Kowalski, MPH, OTR*

A beautiful story of collaboration through a mutual leisure time passion has developed between room-mates and friends, Marcia and Kathy. According to Marcia, a couple of years ago, she observed that Kathy was watching a lot of television; however, Kathy would sometimes watch her as she did her paintings. Marcia said that one day she decided to ask Kathy if she would like to learn how to paint and she said yes. Since that time, the two friends engage in this activity together. Marcia sets up the environment for Kathy to include placing a napkin over her outfit so she does not get paint on it, reminding Kathy to remove the bracelets from her right arm so that she does not drag the bracelets across fresh paint and providing Kathy with a stencil tracing of a picture.

Marcia then watches the art process with Kathy unfold, occasionally gently encouraging Kathy by saying "good job", "that looks pretty", "I like that color", additionally assisting her in cleaning the brush before the next color.

When Kathy is finished with her art work, she replaces her brush into the water cup, sits back, smiles and lets Marcia know that she is finished with creation. The ladies have agreed to host an outdoor art display at their apartment in August featuring their lovely collaborative works for all to enjoy looking at as well as learning about this artistic collaboration between friends. A true success for art, roommates and most importantly friends.



*Room-mates Marcia and Kathy collaborate on their love of creating art*



## The Arc of Somerset County MISSION

The Arc of Somerset County provides a lifetime of comprehensive services, advocacy and support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to promote growth, achievement and ongoing involvement in the community.

### The Arc Board of Directors:

President.....Michael Stefani  
Vice President.....Donna Pasek  
Treasurer.....Mark McDonough  
Secretary.....Christopher Korenowski

### The Arc Board Members:

Tom Applegate            John Zajac  
Daryle Peterson        Sharon Booker  
Ron Slahetka            Sandra Lynch  
Diana Robinson

### Executive Staff:

Executive Director... Lauren Frary  
Associate Executive Director..Chris Corvino

### Department Directors:

Adult Services.....Karen Kowalski  
Camp Jotoni.....Josh Burke  
Early Childhood Services.....Jill Glassman  
Clinical Services.....Sharon McClellan  
Finance.....Herbert McMullen  
Foundation & Communications  
.....Lisa Marie Arieno  
Human Resources.....Monimali Joshi  
Information Technology.....Lance Floden  
Maintenance & Safety.....Jason Scheib  
Parents and Children Together  
.....Jeannette McClew  
Post Secondary Programming  
.....Bob Hulit  
Quality & Compliance.....Chris Gunning



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Far Hills, NJ 07931  
P: 908.658.3508  
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## THE JERRY DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES GETS A SENSORY PLAYGROUND UPDATE FROM VOLUNTEERS

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families outdoor sensory playground—which was originally installed back in the fall of 2017 by a group of volunteers representing Leadership Somerset was one of the most special projects in the history of our agency.



With 2 years of wear and tear and almost one year of inactivity due to Covid-19, our special sensory playground was in desperate need of some love and attention.



On Saturday, June 19th the owners and staff from [City Wide Solutions of Central NJ](#) answered our plea for help and descended upon the playground with some new and creative sensory playground materials to install including a new activity station and a sensory garden.

The volunteer group developed a plan with items such as metal pots, pans, baking racks, sand plastic buckets, frying pans, bunt cake pan, sifters, wind-chimes, PVC pipes as well as garden plants that offer the four senses in touch, smell, taste and see.



*Jill Glassman, Director of Children's Services states, "As the children from JDCCF ran onto the newly renovated sensory playground for the first time, their faces said it all .*

*The look of excitement and pure joy was evidently visible . They couldn't wait to get their hands into and feet onto the multitude of sensory areas so appropriately created for their developmental play needs and learning experiences."*



*City Wide Solutions President, Tom Bridgeforth stated, "Seeing the children's discovery photos made our day. We are so happy everyone liked our updates ".*



*Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director states, "A project like this is more than just a refresh for our playground fixtures - it is a chance for our students to interact with new input, new experiences and (indirectly) to interact with their community through these wonderful installations. Many thanks to our most thoughtful volunteers".*



# DAY PROGRAMS RESUME WITH HYBRID SCHEDULE!

The start of June was the perfect opportunity to slowly re-introduce Adult Services Day Program participants into a “hybrid” schedule wherein there will be a live, in-person group as well as will be broadcasted live for those whom are virtual to participate in at the same time. All in-person day programs are now taking place at Jill Court Adult Training Center in Hillsborough.

Karen Kowalski, MPH OTR -Director of Adult Services states: “It is very good to keep up the strong connections that we have made within the past year so hopefully this will be a way that we can keep it going”.

Individuals whom our agency serves within day habilitation are very much looking forward to having each of our clients to participate virtually with other friends.



## THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY'S 2ND ANNUAL ART SHOW

On April 29th- The Arc of Somerset County's Adult Services Program leaders and clients we serve successfully contributed and debuted the 2nd Annual Virtual Art Show. Artwork featured were from both clients of The Arc as well as friends at The Somerset County Therapeutic Recreation Department that included the work of many different mediums, including photography.

[Click Here to View The Link to the Art Show Presentation!](#)



## THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY ADULT SERVICES BI-WEEKLY BUZZ NEWSLETTER IS A MUST READ FOR EVERYONE!



The bi-weekly newsletter that began back in 2018 has grown in abundance of both content and photos as well as activities for ALL readers! As the newsletter just reached it's 4th Volume and 13th Issue- our Director of Adult Services and Editor, Karen Kowalski and volunteer Publisher, Cliff Leon who is the content designer loves to put all the pieces of our stories together each week as well as our contributing writers who offer so many ideas to the online read.

Chris Corvino, Assistant Executive Director states: *“The Buzz is a long awaited item in our Adult Services Department. We at The Arc and families have long wanted a comprehensive newsletter to capture the lifestyle, special events and milestones of those who live, work, play and learn with the support of our services. It is and has been a wonderful opportunity to create “fame” among our Arc family and gives a new place for our consumers to learn about one another. During the past year + this has been especially important when in person events were hard to come by. I look forward to many years and a growing page count of The Buzz”.*

Be sure to check out our archives of The Buzz [Here](#).

# 2021 "STEP UP FOR THE ARC" 5K & WALK LIVE & VIRTUAL



The post COVID-19 pandemic lifted regulations to hosting events came just in time for our beloved annual "Step Up for The Arc of Somerset 5K and Walk" event held on Sunday June 6th at Duke Island Park.

It was a great morning for re-connecting with our community of supports and for our folks to get out and see one another after a full 16 months apart.

Special thanks to the following sponsors:

## Race Sponsors

Santander Bank  
PSE&G

## Gold Medal

Wawa Corporation  
Cermirara Architect

## Silver Medal

NJ American Water  
Gregory Hirsch, MD LLC  
Contract ALL LLC

Special thanks to the following Volunteer Groups

ALYUS Bridgewater

ACORN

## 1st Place Men's Adult

Mark Silberman 19:39

## 1st Place Women's Adult

Courtney Newman 21:17

## 1st Place Student Male

Zai Yang 17:40

## 1st Place Student Female

Allie Jones 21:36

## 1st Place Child Male

Dylan Araujo 28:01

## 1st Place Child Female

Prateeka Sengupta 37:37



## THE ARC RECOGNIZES OUR SPRINGTIME VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks to [Drew Marine](#) for visiting Camp Jotoni this week and for the wonderful camper supplies that will make so many faces smile this season!

A big THANK YOU goes out to our friends at [Hillsborough Education Association](#) for coming out and beautifying our Steinmetz Group Home on Friday. We appreciate you all and everything you do for us







## KAYLEE AND WENDY AT CEDAR GROVE GROUP HOME

Kaylee and Wendy found The Arc on Volunteer Match and reached out to create a beautiful vegetable garden for our folks at Cedar Knolls!

## WILLIS TOWER WATSON AT CAMP JOTONI

Thank you to our long time supporter and partner Willis Tower Watson volunteers for helping us power wash and stain all of our activity pavilions.



## TEVA PHARMACEUTICALS

The Arc of Somerset County and Camp Jotoni would like to thank new group TEVA for coming out and helping beautify camp for our opening season with prepping our dining hall for the season.

## IMMACULATA H.S. LATA HELPS WITH CAMP JOTONI'S NATURE TRAIL

Thanks to some special students of Immaculata High School who came out to help restore our nature trail at Camp Jotoni in May.



## Everest Re Group, Ltd HELPS OPEN CAMP JOTONI

THANK YOU to Everest for coming out and helping clean up camp and bring it up to opening standards!

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County is now taking reservations for FALL 2021 Volunteer Groups to help us with numerous indoor and outdoor projects at our various program facilities around the County. Please call Lisa Marie at 908-658-3805 for more information about FALL Volunteer Projects with us!

## THE ARC FOUNDATION OF SOMERSET COUNTY TO HOST “UNMASKING OUR HEROES” FALL COCKTAIL AWARDS RECEPTION

This fall, The Arc Foundation of Somerset County will be publicly recognizing the efforts of some of those community supporters who quickly responded to the call with the resources and supports needed to overcome the seemingly endless burdens of the pandemic. Their response allowed us to serve and support those who live with a disability in our communities during this most crucial time in our history.

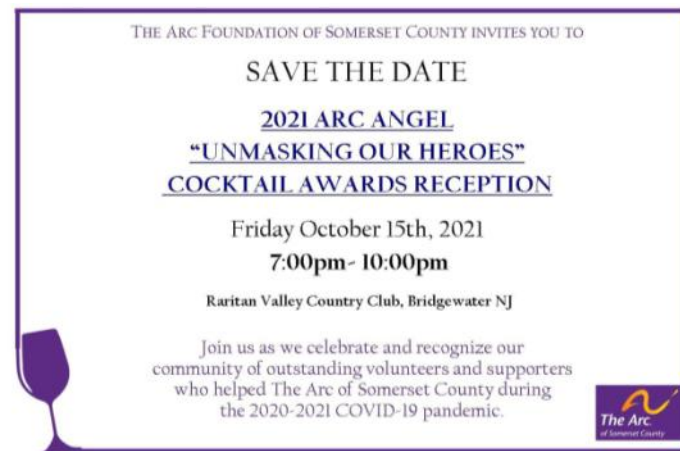
We very much appreciate those in our community who came forward to help our agency through this very difficult time and want to recognize those who really made an impactful difference through this period.

Please join us as we honor these volunteers we call “Heroes” who came to our call when help was needed during the Covid-19 crisis through a [SPONSORSHIP](#) or placement of an ad with a message in our [digital ad journal](#).

### Our 2020 COVID-19 Heroes Being Awarded are:

- \* Watchung Elks #885
- \* City Wide Solutions of Central NJ
- \* The Mask Squad of Somerset County
- \* Bernard’s Ensemble
- \* Somerset County Sheriff’s Department
- \* The Arc of NJ
- \* Axis Capital

*Special recognition will be made on behalf of The Arc of Somerset County Board of Directors and The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Board of Trustees and Staff of The Arc of Somerset County for their role in aiding and supporting our group homes during the holiday season of 2020*



*For more information on how you can sponsor one or more members of the volunteer groups below to attend this recognition ceremony, please contact Lisa Marie- The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Director at 908-658-3805*

## THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY WELCOMES BOB HULIT AS DIRECTOR OF POST SECONDARY PROGRAMMING



The Arc of Somerset County recently recognized our newest Director, Bob Hulit as our Director of Post Secondary Programming. Bob has been leading The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College and expanded its size and reach to include social skills programming, mentorship of existing RVCC students as well as those looking beyond to other school experiences. Bob has been with The Arc of Somerset County for over 20 years and served diligently as both Job Coach, Supported Employment lead and a Clinical Support Specialist. He is well known to our clients and remains an important figure in The Band of Brothers and other esteemed Arc groups and events. We look forward to new and exciting developments for our college and adulthood-focused consumers in the months to come. Welcome Bob!

For more information about The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College, please visit the [Webpage Here](#)





# CAMP JOTONI CAMPERS RETURN AND ENJOY 2 NEW CABINS

*Campers returned back to Camp Jotoni in late June and smiles were wide when they approached the 2 new cabins! While the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 resulted in - person camp suspension, leaving a major void of seeing friends and beloved counselors, the return for many was heartwarming for both our campers and their families.*

*While camp registrations were reduced to half capacity— it is our priority to complete cabins 3 & 4 so that each and every camper can enjoy the benefits of the accessible cabins for full year respite use. There is still work that needs to be done as we approach the fall 2021 season. With each cabin built, your camper and your family will have increased opportunities to enjoy Camp Jotoni's respite program all 12 months of the year. Camp Jotoni respite care will expand to include additional weekends through all 4 seasons and will be available more frequently to our growing number of campers and their families.*

*The Arc Foundation of Somerset County is asking each and every supporter of Camp Jotoni to donate what they can in effort to reach this final goal for cabins 3 & 4 before December 31st 2021. If you are considering including Camp Jotoni's cabin 3 & 4 campaign in your year-end giving, we want to make your giving experience as easy and rewarding as possible. To ensure that we receive and credit your donation properly, please note the following:*

*To make a gift online, which we strongly encourage you visit our [webpage here](#).*

*The date of your online transaction will be the date of your gift.*

*Foundation staff will be available to talk with you regarding a gift from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 28–31 at 908-528-6567.*

***The Arc Foundation of Somerset County accepts the following gifts for Camp Jotoni's Renovation Campaign:***

- Stocks
- Wire transfers and ACH payments:
- IRA: (qualified charitable distributions)

*Send Your Gift by [credit card](#) or check via postal mail on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, to The Arc Foundation of Somerset County P.O. Box 903 Far Hills, NJ 07938*

Sincerely,

*Matt Adams, Board of Trustee President for The Arc Foundation of Somerset County  
Parent of Tower*

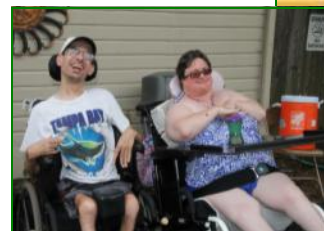
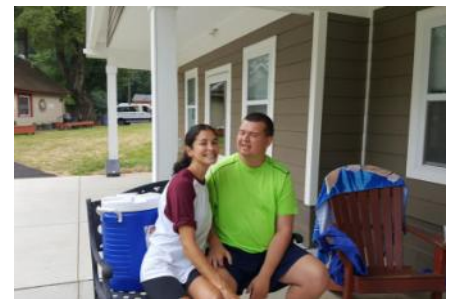


## Old Cabins Did Not Have

- Heat
- Air conditioning
- ADA Accessible Bathrooms
- Slept 6

## 4 New Cabins will:

- Sleep 16
- Have Heat and AC
- Have 3 ADA Accessible Bathrooms and Shower Stalls in each Cabin



Please Help Us Demolish and Renovate  
Cabins 3 & 4

[Donate to this Campaign TODAY!](#)



**For people with intellectual  
and development disabilities**

141 South Main Street  
Manville, NJ 08835



The Arc of Somerset County is a  
501(c) (3) organization

***Achieve with us.***

## **What's Happening in 2021 -2022?**

### ***Camp Jotoni's 4th Annual Clubs for Cabins***

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County will be hosting the 4th Annual "Clubs for Cabins" golf event Fundraiser, Monday, September 13th at Raritan Valley Country Club to raise funds for the final phase of our accessible cabins 3 & 4

[Sponsorships and Foursomes are NOW available](#)

### ***2021 Arc Angel Awards Cocktail Reception "Unmasking Our Heroes"***

Friday, October 15th 2021 at Raritan Valley Country Club 7:00pm-10:00pm

[Sponsorships are NOW available](#)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Arc Angel Gala 50th Anniversary**  
**Friday, June 10th 2022**  
**Bridgewater Marriott**

## **DID YOU KNOW THE ARC FOUNDATION OF SOMERSET COUNTY CAN WORK WITH YOU ON AN ESTATE PLANNED GIFTS?**

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- Wire transfers and ACH payments:
- IRA: (qualified charitable distributions)

For more information, please contact Lisa Marie Arieno, Director of The Arc Foundation of Somerset County at 908-658-3805 or email: [lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org](mailto:lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org)