



HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO and Executive Director



Judy C. Miao

Times are a-changing for non-profits ...and The Arc of Somerset County is no exception.

The Search Committee charged me to be the change agent for growth

and to restructure the organization to better meet the changing landscape. In addition to the Board, a new team of leaders have emerged from within The Arc, adding more focus and new energies for program development and facilities improvement. We focused our energies on assuming full fiscal control, ensuring that the needs of consumers are being met, building a new Management Team, and creating a career path and a continuous improvement mindset.

I am pleased to share some key accomplishments and ongoing efforts.

Raising the bar on financial management, we hired our new Director of Finance, Jim Richart, who completed the fiscal year 2005/2006 audit. He is implementing a program management process to create a culture of financial responsibility and accountability.

See Executive Director on page 12.

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Tiffany Raffle Drawing – SEPT. 14
\$10,000 Spree \$50 per Chance
CALL 908-725-8544 X612

Campfire Ranch –
SEPT. 9 – Fundraiser for Camp Jotoni
Adults \$100 / Children \$25

Arc Angel Gala;
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year
DEC. 16

2006 EXPO, ELECTION, AND AWARDS

More than 125 consumers, volunteers, families, board members, staff, and guests attended The Arc of Somerset County's annual Expo, Election, and Awards meeting at the Somerset Hills Hotel on June 26. Executive Director and CEO Judy Miao welcomed attendees and thanked them for their tireless advocacy and support.

Featured Speaker, Tom Baffuto, The New Jersey Arc Executive Director, and Denbigh Dixon, Assistant Director, spoke of family advocacy as key to the success of caring for loved ones. And President Fran Maher expressed her deepest gratitude to four board members who retired: Ron Fulop, after 20 years; Majella Matyas, after four years; Denis Dooley II, after one year; and Joseph Di Rago, after one year.

Elected unanimously are new and returning board members: Bill Mackay, Carol Fanning, Evelyn Morris, Susan Donovan, Demi Lappas, Eileen Bradbury, Tarun Shah, Eric Mandelbaum, and Russell Ditzel. Elected officers are



Scott Carlson accepts The New Jersey Arc's Bill Sackter Award.

President Bill Mackay, 1st Vice President and Treasurer Edmond Brown, 2nd Vice President Eric Mandelbaum, Secretary Edana Desatnick, and Member-at-Large Brian Bosenberg.

ACCEPTING 2006 AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Somerset County nominee for The New Jersey Arc's Bill Sackter Award was given to Scott Carlson who overcame challenging health issues and celebrated his 25th year of employment at Efinger's Sporting Goods Store in Bound Brook. The

Somerset County nominee for The New Jersey Arc's Martin Papish Award went to Bob Hult for going above and beyond his duties of hiring and training consumers. He learned sign language and took consumers on outings. The Professional of the Year Award honored Speech Pathologist, JoEllen Pozarek, for her outstanding advocacy and support of children, parents and staff. And the



Award Winner Bob Hult

See Annual Expo, Election, and Awards on page 2

Message from Fran Maher, President



Fran Maher

The last year and a half has provided both great challenges and the opportunity for me to be part of a wonderful blossoming of The Arc.

In every area that the Board of Directors oversees, The Arc staff rewarded us with remarkable progress. Innumerable improvements in management are in place to better support our service programs.

Many thanks to a supportive Board of Directors and a strong group of officers. You have opened many doors that enable the agency to move forward in our mission.

Providing for the future, a new Arc Foundation is gathering active and talented trustees, a development director, and by-law revisions that support The Somerset Arc's operating company and bolster its annual budget. In addition, the operating company will continue to have its own staff person working at a grass-roots level to make more people aware of our mission and to offer a wider variety of ways to provide support.

See Fran Maher on page 4

The Arc of Somerset Mission

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

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

THE ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Bill Mackay
1st VP/Treas.....Edmond A. Brown
2nd VP.....Eric Mandelbaum
Secretary.....Edana Desatnick
Member at Large.....Brian Bosenberg

THE ARC BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Bliss, Ed.D., R.N. Fran Maher
Eileen Bradbury Belinda Malave
Tom Brooks Evelyn Morris
Russell Ditzel Brian O'Malley
Susan Donovan Fred Patterson
Lisa Dudzik Scott Ritter
Carol Fanning Kapila Seshadri, M.D.
Eileen L. Gallagher Tarun Shah
Demi Lappas
Executive Director
& CEO.....Judy Miao

STAFF DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Camp Jotoni.....Chris Reagan
Continuous Improvement
.....Karen Ennis
Development.....Kathleen Hofer
Employment
Services.....Dawn Malavenda
Finance.....James Richart
Foundation
Development.....Bonnie Sovinee
Human Resources.....Jeanne Radich
IT.....William Scheib
Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center,
Acting Director.....Trisha Burke
Nursing Services...Elaine Giannascoli
PACT.....Jeanne Guarnieri
Residential Services....Chris Gunning
Safety & Maintenance
.....Gabe Trepiccione, CFM

The Arc of Somerset County
141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835
Ph. 908-725-8544 Fax 908-704-0850
www.thearcofsomerset.org



Professional of the Year Award Winner, Speech Pathologist, JoEllen Pozarek



The Employer of the Year Award went to Trimline Medical Products.

Employer of the Year Award went to Trimline Medical Products for its inclusive and supportive employment practices that have led to 10,000 products being produced daily by Arc consumers.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to Board President *Fran Maher* for her tireless advocacy and dedicated service from 1981 to 1990 and 2003 to 2006. Multiple groups received the Distinguished Community Service Award: the *Lions Club* of Warren Township, the *Elks BPOE #2252*, and the *Knights of Columbus #11409*, for their outstanding volunteer service and ongoing support of Camp Jotoni.

Awards for the "Step Up For The Arc" Walkathon went to *Carol Fanning* as the Top Individual Fundraiser, *Free and Accepted Masons: District #12* as the Top Community Team, the *Gerace's* as the Top Family Team, and *Konica Minolta Business Solutions* as the Top Corporate



Somerset Arc Board Member, Belinda Malave, is recognized for involvement with the Department of Human Services for the RVCC Resident Program by Arc Executive Director and CEO Judy Miao.



Volunteer of the Year, Fran Maher, accepting her award



Rodney Malchow, 1st VP of Lions Club of Warren, accepts a Distinguished Community Service Award.

Team, *Lisa Dudzik* and *Kirsten Fanning* received Individual Honorable Mentions. Accepting Team Honorable Mentions were *Mike Olivaris* for *Lucent*, *Gail Willis* for *Dendrite*, and *Laura Liebel* and *Michele Mack* (along with *Marisella, Claudia, Elizabeth, and Kathy*) for *Jerry Davis*.

Congratulations and thank you!

2005 "Angels Among Us" Earn Their Wings



Fred Patterson with Jenni Newbury

First row (left to right): 2005 Angels Among Us Committee Chair Kim Artis, Michelle Jay, Monica Bruno, Chelsea Lerch, Andrea English, Molly Moriarty, and Arc Angel event chair Majella Maryas. Back row: Franklin Dekker, Jenni Newbury, Mallory Zieger and Andrew Schlafly. Not pictured is Angel Katherine Bernot.



Chelsea Lerch



Scott Sullivan, Sandy Fino, Laura Fino and Ray Fino (Sandy and Ray were the 2005 Arc Angel Honorees).

The Angels Among Us program represents the finest in volunteerism by high school students with a long history of commitment to people with developmental disabilities. Area companies and foundations provide a significant donation to The Arc in honor of these student volunteer activities.

The selection committee is currently reviewing nominations for the 2006 Angels Among Us. An announcement will be made this fall.



Three Angels: Franklin Dekker, Andrea English, and Michelle Jay

Fiscal reporting is timely and accurate, with well-documented processes and ongoing communications within the executive and program areas. This lets us identify and correct issues at earlier stages. As a result, the agency is better able to prevent expensive errors, to increase receipts, to find ways to save money, and to spot fee-for-service opportunities in Somerset County.

Program audits and self-audits of services have led to recommendations that are increasing our compliance with regulations and allowing us to meet a higher quality service standard. For example, The Arc staff now includes a pharmacist and a recreation specialist. We are exploring the possibility of welcoming into our programs medical residents who are specializing in Developmental Disabilities. I am inspired by our staff on every level—their enthusiasm, initiative and innovation.

Human Resources activities are beginning to show results and an increased sense of professionalism at all levels of service delivery. Realistic and ongoing performance appraisals have led to the recognition of excellence, a redefining of roles and responsibilities, and a greater sense of accountability. Employees continue to tell me that promotion from within, career

ladders, and new training opportunities are building morale. For example, a number of our direct care staff have enrolled in The Arc/RVCC Licensed Practical Nurse education program.

With all this, we have still managed to keep abreast of advocacy and to build our relationships with the government entities that affect our destiny.

I promised one and all that the focus of my presidency would be continuity and quality at point of service.

The organization and its executive leadership have responded with strength and commitment. About that “blossoming” of The Arc...keep in mind that from blossom to fruit is a slow steady process. I'm entirely confident that we will continue to improve, becoming a truly great service provider. The people we serve and their families deserve no less.

With all my heart, thank you, each and every one. Please welcome incoming President Bill MacKay with the same wonderful response.

Fran Maher
Outgoing President



Church & Dwight's Generosity Lifts Jay Grabowski in Body and Spirit



Pictured from left to right are Somerset Arc's Executive Director and CEO Judy Miao, Church & Dwight's Jaap Ketting, Rocky Hill Group Home resident Jay Grabowski, Somerset Arc's Director of Residential Services Chris Gunning, Rocky Hill Group Home Manager Amie Sumailah, and Church & Dwight's Foundation member Patricia Berry.

In October at the Rocky Hill Group Home, representatives of Church & Dwight, the makers of Arm & Hammer baking soda, presented Jay Grabowski with a check for \$9,525 to purchase a Hoyer Lift. The lift will raise Jay from his wheelchair onto his bed with the assistance of one Arc staff member, rather than two or three. Bathroom activities will be easier as well. The lift will be purchased by The Arc to raise Jay from his wheelchair onto his bed.

The generosity of Church & Dwight has lifted Jay's spirits as well as his body, leaving him smiling from ear and ear. Thank you Church & Dwight!



Jay gets a lift into bed.

Supporters Visit the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center



In November, the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center was visited by Erin Nile, a student in Rider College's "Cognitive Disabilities" course. Erin was conducting research for a class paper. To assist, Principal Gail Strong gave Erin a guided tour of three classrooms.

In March, Peg Forrestal of Ortho-McNeill Janssen Pharmaceuticals visited the Center to assess its progress. Over the past three years, Ortho-McNeill has donated \$36,000 to update the Center's technology. Without augmentative technology and devices purchased through Ortho-McNeill's grant, young students found relatively simple tasks difficult. Peg was amazed by how much technology can improve the quality of life for the children. And the staff and students are deeply grateful.

Brian is shown here on the first piece of equipment requested by therapists for the JDECC using funds from Ortho-McNeill Pharmaceuticals grant. Subsequent grants for assistive and augmentative technology enabled Brian to graduate from JDECC as he learned to operate a motorized wheelchair thus providing autonomy of movement.

Commons Apartments in Bridgewater Gets an Uncommon Facelift from Merrill Lynch Employees.

Eighty employees from Merrill Lynch worked for an entire day at the Commons Apartments to repaint and add improvements to our residence. The fix-up was organized by Impact Development Training Group as the finale of a team skills program.

The group painted five apartments and the clubroom, built a wheelchair-safe and -accessible patio, weeded the lawn, planted a beautiful new garden and built a fence around the dumpster. Quite an improvement!



ArcWalk Steps It Up with Big Success.

In it's fourth year, The Arc of Somerset raised over \$20,000 thanks to the involvement of caring individuals who formed teams, asked for sponsors, and walked on May 20th at Duke Island Park. Special thanks for the Free and Accepted Masons of District 12 who volunteer each year, prepare the food, and raise funds. This year they raised over \$3600.



National Down Syndrome Society Announces Education Grant Recipients

The National Down Syndrome Society's (NDSS) Transition and Postsecondary Education Model Program for People with Intellectual Disabilities will provide funding to Mercer County Community College and The College of New Jersey to create a program for students with Down Syndrome and other intellectual disabilities. The program is generously funded by Steve and Laura Riggio of Bernardsville, whose daughter Melissa, 17, has Down Syndrome.

"With the documented success of inclusion in elementary and secondary education, it is time to advance into the frontier of postsecondary education," said Mr. Riggio, CEO of Barnes & Noble and NDSS board member. "Both of the institutions selected to receive grants embrace our belief that people with intellectual disabilities deserve the opportunity to enrich their lives through higher education."

Multiple research studies have shown that postsecondary education has a positive impact on employment and

wages, social networks and self-determination among adults with intellectual disabilities. The program in New Jersey will develop best practices that can be replicated on college campuses countrywide. NDSS is also working to make the program affordable by exploring available funding and advocating for federal financial aid. NDSS already sponsors an annual postsecondary scholarship through The Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani Enrichment Fund.

Both Mercer County Community College and The College of New Jersey have received approximately \$50,000 in funding to develop their programs during the 2005-2006 school year. If the institutions meet all planning requirements, additional funds will be available for the first and second operational years. The first class of students is expected to begin the program in fall 2006.

The National Down Syndrome Society is a nonprofit organization with more than 200 affiliates nationwide representing more than 350,000 Americans.

Volunteer Knights, Lions, and Elks Spruce Up Camp Jotoni

Volunteers from the Knights of Columbus, and Lions and Elks Clubs spent months preparing The Somerset Arc's Camp Jotoni to open in June. They built ramps, scraped and painted cabins, replaced windows, and tended to the sundry details of summer camp for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Additional help came from students from Watchung Regional High School, volunteers from Cordis, a Johnson & Johnson company, and Nelson Tree Service, which trimmed branches and donated wood chips for outside paths.

Nestled in the Watchung Mountains, Camp Jotoni is an ideal spot for consumers to build their motor skills while engaging in physical activities and just having fun. Chris Reagan, Director of Camp Jotoni, praises the Knights of Columbus for volunteering at the camp every year. And he is grateful to the Lions and Elks Clubs, and to dozens of other volunteers who have contributed their time, talents, and much-needed supplies.

Once again Camp Jotoni is filled with the happy sounds of laughter. Up to 186 consumers will be splashing in the pool, singing around a campfire, and marveling at the sights and sounds of nature. Thank you generous volunteers!

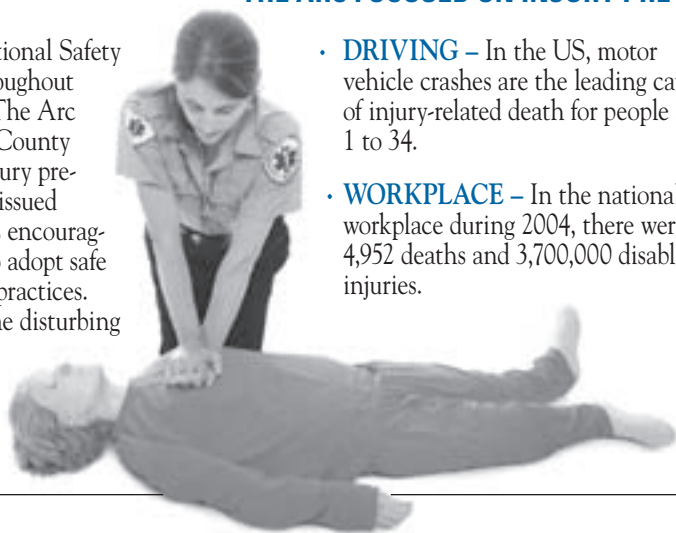
Over \$1000 was donated by the Sunday School class of Harlingen Church in Montgomery after a year of fundraising events by the children. This paid for the 48 gallons of paint needed to refurbish eight camp buildings. Thanks kids!



KEEPING AN EYE ON PREVENTION

**FOR NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH,
THE ARC FOCUSED ON INJURY PREVENTION!**

June was National Safety Month. Throughout the month, The Arc of Somerset County promoted injury prevention and issued news releases encouraging people to adopt safe and healthy practices. Here are some disturbing injury facts:



- **DRIVING** – In the US, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death for people ages 1 to 34.
- **WORKPLACE** – In the national workplace during 2004, there were 4,952 deaths and 3,700,000 disabling injuries.

- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** – Including First Aid and CPR – For every death from injury, there are 18 hospitalizations, 233 emergency room visits, and 450 doctor visits.
- **HOME AND COMMUNITY** – 71 percent of all injuries occur in the home and community; 53 percent result in accidental deaths.

Fred Patterson Is Awarded for Advancing Disabilities Prevention



In November, The Arc of New Jersey's Prevention Coalition hosted its 20th anniversary celebration at the Johnson & Johnson headquarters in New Brunswick. Professionals and volunteers were recognized and new interventions were launched. "I was proud to be among a crowd of kindred souls who care about the world and those who inhabit it," said Fred Pat-

terson, an award recipient and member of The Somerset Arc board. "The people who attended the celebration have saved countless lives and eliminated misery for many others."

The Coalition gave special recognition to Dr. Deborah Cohen, who has devoted her life to the prevention of developmental disabilities. Dr. Cohen was described as the consummate advocate, dedicating her life to those on the fringes

and sometimes in the shadows of despair. "She realizes that modifying the environment, passing legislation, enhancing the health care system, building coalitions, and leveraging the media can change the world," said Edward Palsho, Chairman of the NJ Safety Council.

"Every time a child moves into a lead-free residence, they have Debbie to thank," Edward added. "Every time a pregnant woman refuses to drink alcohol and her child is born free of FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome), she has Debbie to thank. Every time a child has a car-seat, they have Debbie to thank. Every child whose head was saved by a helmet can thank Debbie too." Edward Palsho called disabilities prevention the highest calling.

Those who made the Prevention Coalition's celebration possible include Tom Baffuto, Celine Fortin, Ted Shieve, Dave Sweaningen, and Ann Wilson.

Board Members Visit Consumers and Assess Daily Activities

This past fall, 12 board members visited consumers and direct care staff. Dividing themselves among group homes and supported living apartments, the board members de-

veloped friendships as they witnessed the consumers' daily activities. Board members enjoyed the family atmosphere and gained greater insight into how inadequate funding can limit activities.



Thanks to the generosity of "Friends of The Arc," consumers at two group homes received free vacations to a resort.

Volunteers Brighten Seasons For Apartment Residents

At the Commons Apartments in April, consumers thoroughly enjoyed a spring celebration, where they decorated eggs, painted faces, and made baskets. In December, consumers had a holiday celebration, where they adorned a gingerbread house, sang Christmas carols, and decorated stockings to hang in their apartments.

The Arc community is grateful to all of the generous volunteers, especially June O'Neill and her godchildren who brought gifts for each consumer.

The Courier News Readers Help Wishes Come True

Readers of The Courier News responded to the paper's Wish Book 2005 with \$7,000 in donations – to the delight of consumers at eight group homes. Consumers received donations to cover the cost of furniture, exercise equipment, a laptop computer, shower chairs, and necessities as well as a few

special desires. One furniture store donated a living room set, while a family donated household items.

A special thank you to The Courier News and their generous readers!

Remembering Longtime Friends and Supporters

The Somerset Arc community celebrates the lives of longtime friends and supporters who have died. It is with heartfelt gratitude that these cherished individuals will be remembered and loved.

SHAMARITA JONES, a consumer of the Union Avenue-supervised apartments and a trainee of the Branchburg OTC, died in her sleep on April 11. Born in 1977, Shamarita lived with her aunt in Newark until November, 2004, when she moved into the Mobus group home. In December 2005, she moved into the supervised apartments on Union Avenue. Shamarita – a kind person who was always joking and making people smile – worked at the Branchburg Shop-Rite. She will be greatly missed by family, friends, co-workers, and staff.

RONARD SARDO, 44, died on February 7 at the Somerset Medical Center. A lifelong Raritan resident, he was a member and volunteer of the Manville Arc for the past 20 years and a communicant of St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church in Raritan. Ronald – who visited the Somerset Arc twice a week and served as toastmaster for several parties – is survived by his beloved mother Rose DiMuro Sardo of Raritan; his loving brothers, Paul of Raritan and David of Boynton Beach, Fla.; and a nephew, Duffy. Known as a thoughtful character who enjoyed watching wrestling video tapes, Ronald will be greatly missed.

ROSE ANN DROGAN, 63, passed away on February 18 at the Somerset Medical Center. Born in Somerville to Louis and Stella (Zebrick) Sebeny, Rose Ann lived in Manville all her life. She was a teacher's assistant at The Somerset Arc and a cook at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. Rose Ann

worked in the Saturday Respite program and the Monday night "Come and Dance" program. Even after her retirement, Rose Ann continued to volunteer for the dances. Staff and consumers remember her fondly.

MARIA MAS, a consumer living at the Claremont group home, lost her mother on Sunday, October 2, 2005.

DONNA BOSENBURG, whose brother Brian Bosenburg serves on the board of The Somerset Arc, lost her father on Friday, October 1, 2005.

TOM RYAN of the Ardsley Group Home lost his mother in September 2005. Mrs. Ryan's service was at the Layton Funeral Home in Bedminster.

MARY ELLEN TERRY of Basking Ridge and Bridgewater, died on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2006, at Care One at Madison Avenue in Morristown. She was 57. Mary Ellen courageously endured a long bout with myotonic dystrophy, a form of muscular dystrophy. She died one day after her 57th birthday.

Mary Ellen lived in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards for 42 years, attended schools there, and was an active parishioner at St. James Catholic Church, where she sang in the church choir. In October 1989, she became a resident of Union Avenue Supervised Apartments, maintained under the auspices of the Arc of Somerset County. She enjoyed working at the Manville office and volunteered reading at the Jerry Davis Day Care Center. She acted in amateur theater productions and in the video "Critical Crossroads," which was produced to explain the works of The Arc.



CORRECTION

Rocky Hill Council Member Peggy Harris and Richard Batchelder attended the annual meeting on June 27, 2005, with Mayor Brian Nolan. The people in the photograph were misidentified as Connie Hallman and George Morren.

Employment Services Consumers Create Record Revenues

DID YOU KNOW... that revenues for Contract Services during the 2005-2006 fiscal year reached an all-time high of more than \$160,000 – 36 percent higher than 2004-2005 and 31 percent higher than 2003-2004?

DID YOU KNOW... that Greenbrook consumers are making more Oticon repair kits, and they're doing it faster every week? Thank you consumers, Kerriann, Gary, and staff for your great work!

DID YOU KNOW... that Trimline consumers have assembled more than 2 million tube and connector sets this year and are planning to assemble even more next year?

DID YOU KNOW... The Somerset Arc has been awarded its fourth set-aside commodity contract to sell products to New Jersey state, county, and municipal governments?

DID YOU KNOW... We are always looking for additional projects for our production centers? Call Britt Blomgren at 908-707-0920 or e-mail her brittb@thearcofsomerset.org



Referrals Lead to Ongoing Business

- Thank you Fred Patterson, Somerset Arc board member, for securing a new customer who has donated thousands of dollars worth of tools and equipment and is bringing in steady business!
- Thank you to everyone who has provided leads and referrals over the past two years, including Bonnie Sovinee, Susan Brady, Jeanne Guarnieri, Chris Gunning, Fred Patterson,

Carol Geary, Judy Miao, Trina Trent, Charlotte Hayden, Britt Blomgren, and Lynda Williams.

- Thank you Kara Ellis from Branchburg for a recent referral that is providing The Arc with ongoing business!
- Thanks to Jim O'Rourke for all your hard work that brought success to Branchburg OTC/ATC.



Welcome Britt Blomgren As Contract Services Manager

Following a rewarding career, Jim O'Rourke has left The Arc of Somerset County. The Arc community honors Jim for his valuable contributions to Employment Services, and wishes him well.

Britt Blomgren is The Somerset Arc's new Contract Services Manager. He joined The Arc in 2000 as Warehouse Manager for six years prior to assuming his present position. Britt serves on the Businesses Development Commission of CNA Services for Access New Jersey, a group that focuses on developing business and employment opportunities for Community Rehabilitation Programs. Welcome!

Vehicles Are Needed To Transport Consumers

In Somerset County, more than 36,000 residents over age 5 have a developmental disability. Given The Arc's limited resources, meeting the needs of these residents is often a challenge.

Presently 18 vehicles are needed to transport consumers from their homes to work sites and medical facilities. A third of these vehicles will require wheelchair lifts.

The Somerset Arc is looking for donations to cover these costs, ranging from \$12,000 for sedans to \$65,000 for wheelchair-accessible vans. Support in this area would go a long way in assisting Somerset County consumers.



This is a digitally altered stock photograph. The Arc does not currently have this van, but it would be a great help to our consumers.



Signing the EDA Bond Charles Adornetto, Jr., Vice President, Sovereign Bank; James H. Freis, Esq., Drinker Bibble & Reath, LLP (hidden) from the Arc of Somerset are, Fran Maher. Evelyn Morris, Jim Richart and Steve Feerrar.



Arc Foundation Director of Development, Bonnie Sovinee presents #11409 Knights of Columbus Grand Knight John Runfalo with an Outstanding Community Service Award.



Donna Tancardo, Community Grants Coordinator of #2659 WalMart in Manville presents a \$1000 matching grant towards the ArcWalk 2006.



Dunellen # 2544 Commodore John Barry Knights of Columbus proudly donate funds to The Arc of Somerset. Pictured (left to right) are John Buico, Special Needs Drive Chairman; Arc Foundation Director of Development Bonnie Sovinee; newly elected Grand Knight Tim Hand; and Past Grand Knight Bern Firmer.

Sweet Success From Tea With Honey

The sixth annual Tea With Honey event raised over \$30,000 for the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. Some of those funds were used this year to replace the aging floor in classroom 6. More flooring upgrades are anticipated.

Tea With Honey raffle prize drawn at random by co-chair Monica Ihlefeld.



Executive Director, continued from page 1

The EDA bond refinancing for the next 20 years was successfully signed with Sovereign Bank through the able assistance of Steve Feerrar, our financial consultant.

Meeting the needs of consumers is our Mission and priority. The Board's Safety and Prevention Committee makes unannounced site visits regularly and provides feedback. Many significant contracts are keeping the consumers busily employed. Consumers were awarded set-aside status by ACCSES New Jersey.

A newly hired Recreation Specialist develops monthly activity calendars for each group home. More visits by residents, interns, and service-learning students are positioning The Arc as an excellent resource for professionals-in-training.

Building a new Management Team that is focused on teamwork and open communication is an awesome experience. Many staff advanced into leadership positions. We are creating a career path and succession planning for our existing talent.

Continuous improvement has led to a considerable consolidation and integration of all program processes. Karen Ennis is re-joining The Arc to oversee Quality Assurance, Process Improvement, and Therapy Services, which is an online application service for the developmental disability community.

The Arc is entering the Technology Age with updated DSL phone lines, computers, and the use of online applications.

In addition to hiring an Associate Executive Director, my priorities will be focused on the following strategic initiatives:

- developing a three-to-five-year strategic plan with a vision statement
- implementing a business (marketing) planning process
- continuing advocacy at the national, state & local levels
- developing new business, partnerships, and alliances
- enhancing development & fundraising to increase Arc donations through endowments, planned giving, capital campaigns, major donors, and events

There has not been a dull moment over the last twelve months, and I don't expect that to change over the next 12 months. However, I want to assure everyone that I am accessible and welcome your feedback.

My ultimate goal is to build upon the long tradition of family at The Arc of Somerset County – as a place where everyone does their very best to serve and to make a difference for our consumers, their families, and our many constituencies.

My best wishes for a great summer.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Miao

Executive Director & CEO



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

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



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United Way**
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