



A message from the Executive Director and Board President

The New Year brings a special meaning for The Arc of Somerset County – Our 40th Year of Service.

In 1972, The Arc of Somerset County was founded with 2

employees serving 16 people in 2 programs. Over the course of the last 40 years, The Arc of Somerset County has grown to serving over 1,000 children

and adults in over 40 programs throughout the county.

Our name and mission have changed several times to reflect the progress of the disability movement and the increasing leadership role of self-advocates. However, we have held steadfast to our vision for individuals with disabilities: providing a life of opportunity, community integration and achievement for all citizens of our communities, regardless of ability.

We have reason to celebrate all of our accomplishments in the past as well as look forward to what we plan to accomplish in the future. We hope that you will join in our celebrations and events of our 40th anniversary and will continue to provide the outstanding support that we appreciate and cherish.



HERALD

celebrating 40 Years of Service

Employment Services Receives Its First State Contract Through Accses NJ



After many months of discussion, The Arc of Somerset County has secured a state contract to utilize our document shredding services. This contract will provide The Arc with the ability to employ several individuals with disabilities and will most likely expand to additional jobs in the future.

The contract with The State of NJ allows for The Arc to place document collection bins at the Department of Labor in Phillipsburg, NJ. The Arc of Somerset County will retrieve the bins on a quarterly basis and shred the contents.

This endeavor has been made possible by grants awarded from two Arc business partners, Qualcomm and Ethicon. "Although the amount of work may be limited at first, this is our first foray into the opportunities provided by ACCSES NJ's contract with The State of New Jersey," states Director of Employment Services, Jim O'Rourke. "We are excited about this new partnership and what it means for employment opportunities for adults with disabilities in Somerset County."

"This is the perfect example of community partnerships coming together to impact adults with disabilities. Ethicon, Qualcomm, and ACCSES NJ have all contributed to our efforts to get our shredding business to a level of viability and sustainability" notes Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "We are both proud and honored to have partnerships that can work together in support of our mission".

Local Arc Supporters Honored With Statewide Award

The Arc of New Jersey held its Annual Awards Dinner and Celebration on November 15, 2011 to recognize and applaud the exceptional efforts of individuals and organizations in the state's disability community who dedicate their time and talent to improving the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Two groups from The Arc of Somerset County were award recipients at the event: Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and Making A Difference Everywhere (MADE).



See *Supporters Honored* on page 2

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.

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

Supporters Honored, continued from page 1

Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, a Johnson & Johnson Company, received The Arc of NJ's Employer of the Year Award for its longstanding commitment to the employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

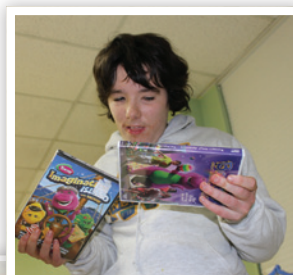
MADE, a group of civic-minded Bridgewater-Raritan High School students, received the Distinguished Community Service Award for their commitment to volunteering with the disability population.

Congratulations and thank you, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and MADE!

Arc Celebrates the Holidays with Friends and Family

Each year, The Arc of Somerset County is thrilled to work with various local organizations, groups, and individuals to ensure that the holidays are a truly special time for those we serve. We would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions toward a festive season at The Arc:

- The Lion's Club of Warren for coordinating the Thanksgiving basket drive for countless Arc families and group homes. We are truly thankful for this drive that the Lion's conduct annually.
- The United Way of Northern New Jersey for including persons served by The Arc in their annual Gifts of the Season program. This gift drive ensures that all members of the community receive at least one special present for the holidays.
- The Courier News for featuring several stories about Arc consumers and families in their 2011 WishBook. We are thrilled that all four of our featured wishes were fulfilled through the program!
- The Salvation Army for donating over 250 new toys, 30 pieces of new children's clothing, and a box of hand-knitted hats and mittens.
- Henkel Women's Affinity Group for "adopting" two group homes for the holidays, providing a holiday party and gifts for the residents. Both staff and residents were so grateful that they hope that this visit turns into a yearly tradition.
- The Arc's many generous donors that ensure that Arc consumers and families will continue to enjoy lives filled with growth, development, and achievement well beyond the holiday season.





Arc Honored Local Business Leaders During National Disability Employment Awareness Month

On Friday, October 21, The Arc of Somerset County honored local business leaders who provide employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at its “Celebration of Partnerships for Employability” event. Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Somerset County Freeholder Jack Ciattarelli joined The Arc in thanking its many outstanding business partners.

The event was held in association with National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM has been sponsored by the Department of Labor since 1945 in an effort to inform the public about the issues involving the employment of individuals with disabilities. With 78% of the disability population currently unemployed, business leaders that eliminate barriers should be applauded and recognized.

The Arc honored the following companies at the 2011 event: ACCSESNJ, Acme, American Association of

Feline Practitioners, American Jewelry, Arbor Glen, Argyle Industries, Bernards Township Library, Brandywine Assisted Living, Bridgewater Motorworks, Burks Company, Chartwell’s Dining Services, Chubb & Son, D&R Canal Park, Environmental Center, HealthCare Institute of NJ, Jewish Family Services, Kings Supermarket, Lego, Mara Shipping, Montgomery High School, Morton Salt, NJ Water Supply Authority, National Bio+ Green Sciences, Ortho Diagnostics, Oticon, Pathmark, Promotion Resources, PWRT, Qualcomm Flarion Technologies, RediCare, Somerset County Business Partnership, Somerset Medical Center, Stoelzle-Oberglas, Stop and Shop, Synergy Direct Marketing, Target, Ten Pen Lanes, Top Safety Products, Wal-Mart, Wegmans Food Markets and Welch Allyn.

The 2011 “Celebration of Partnerships for Employability” was graciously hosted by Qualcomm, an Arc business partner and employer of individuals with disabilities.

Volunteers Brighten The Arc

Companies from the local community generously shared their time, talent and supplies to spruce up some of The Arc’s group homes and Camp Jotoni. Over 75 volunteers participated in the following projects:

October 7 – Nearly 15 volunteers from Janssen painted at the Commons Apartments in Bridgewater.

October 11 – 6 volunteers from Johnson & Johnson painted bedrooms at the Old Stirling Group Home in Warren.

October 11 – Over 50 Tibotec employees volunteered at Camp Jotoni to close the camp for the winter and to demolish and re-build the railing around the Nature Pavilion. This project was Tibotec’s fifth year volunteering at Camp Jotoni.



Thank you volunteers of Janssen, Johnson & Johnson and Tibotec!

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.

Arc Continues to Expand Programs and Services



Camp Jotoni Trail Blazers Club starts this spring!

Camp Jotoni is excited to announce a new program for our families - The Trail Blazers Club!

Starting in May, Camp Jotoni will offer a series of fun and exciting weekend programs for campers ages 18 and older. Each weekend program will have a theme with a series of activities to go along with it. Currently on the schedule is a "Spring into Summer" weekend featuring a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure and a "Summer's Coming" weekend featuring a Mexican fiesta and a trip to the Jersey Shore.

The goal of the Trail Blazers club is to offer participants the opportunity to reconnect with their friends from summer camp while enjoying a full schedule of activities and community outings. While campers are enjoying their weekend, parents are given the opportunity for some respite from their often 24-hour care giving responsibilities. "Respite and recreational services are the most requested service from our families," notes Camp Director, Chris Reagan. "This program will provide for both of these services."

Eligibility criteria and applications are available by contacting Karina Alvarado at 908-725-8544 x672.



functioning and routine is of utmost importance. The Arc has created a specialized day program designed to encourage and foster skill maintenance of participants.

Arc creates program to serve aging consumers

The Arc is thrilled to launch a new program to address the unique needs of persons served as they age. As individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities begin to experience the early onset of dementia or Alzheimer's disease, maintenance of their current

functioning and routine is of utmost importance. The Arc has created a specialized day program designed to encourage and foster skill maintenance of participants.

The program will be named "Morella's Place" in honor of a former service recipient, Morella Nooney. Morella was an active and energetic woman with Down's Syndrome who was diagnosed with early onset dementia – a diagnosis that made it difficult to participate in a traditional day program. Morella's Place will be the first program that specifically meets this unique need in Somerset County.

Morella's Place is a joint project of The Arc of Somerset County's Employment Services and Clinical Services that has been made possible by a grant from Ethicon, a Johnson & Johnson company. Six consumers have been selected to participate in a pilot program that will

begin in March. Staff working in the Morella's Place program will receive extensive training in dementia care, and will be advised by Dr. Lucille Esralew of Trinitas Hospital.



to Meet Ever-Changing Needs of Persons Served

“rethink autism” curriculum comes to The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families

Children receiving early intervention services through The Arc will now have the benefit of a new curriculum. The “rethink autism” curriculum is a web-based comprehensive program that allows teachers and therapists to read and watch the program samples that provide step-by-step, research-based teaching strategies for professionals who work with children who experience global delays and/or autism. The curriculum can also be altered by the professional team to meet the unique needs of each individual child. The lessons contained in the “rethink autism” curriculum include core areas of Pre-Academic, Academic, Social/ Emotional, Daily Living, Motors Skills, Play/ Leisure, Expressive and Receptive Language.

The Arc of Somerset County is one of many Arc chapters across the state that developed a consortium to choose and write an application to the State for acceptance of this curriculum.

Initially, The Arc of Somerset County will start with 12 children in the program. “We are excited about this new program for the children we serve,” commented Jennifer Orlick, Director of Children and Family Services. “The program’s flexibility will allow us to enhance the outcomes for children with global needs. We anticipate seeing progress with these children on a week-to-week basis, which will ultimately impact their development in the future.”



Arc Honored Elizabeth M. Boggs Center and Others at Arc Angel Gala

On Friday, November 18, The Arc of Somerset County held its annual Arc Angel Gala, "Achieving Together." The event, held at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills, NJ, was sponsored by Chairman Circle Sponsors AT&T and B.W. Bosenberg Corporation. Somerset County Freeholder and NJ Assemblyman-Elect Jack Ciattarelli served as the event emcee.

The Arc was honored to present awards to a group of individuals that have each worked to support and grow the mission of the agency. Event honorees included Arc Angel Award recipient, The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities; Halo Award recipient, Phil Tellep; and Angel Among Us Award recipients, Megan Chan and Celeste Cirillo-Penn.



The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, was presented with the 2011 Arc Angel Award. Accepting the award on behalf of The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center was Dr. Deborah M. Spitalnik, the center's founding and present executive director.

Recently appointed to President Obama's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, Dr. Spitalnik serves on committees both in New Jersey and nationally, and provides extensive consultation to families, policy makers, state agencies, and service providers.

Phil Tellep was presented with the Halo Award, an honor reserved for an individual who receives services from The Arc while also making a significant contribution to



the organization and the larger community. Phil was honored for serving as an inspiring role model who has demonstrated that hard work and persistence really can make your dreams come true, as evidenced by his continued employment with the Lego Store in the Bridgewater Commons Mall.

The Angel Among Us Award was presented to Megan Chan of Immaculata High School. Megan has given generously of her time to a variety of organizations that provide services to individuals with disabilities. Also receiving the Angel Among Us Award was Celeste Cirillo-Penn of Bridgewater-Raritan High School. Celeste volunteers with the Somerset County Department of Therapeutic Recreation by working with children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The event would not have been possible without the efforts of the Arc Angel Gala Committee. Thank you, Eileen Bradbury, Carol Fanning, Pat Fox, Diane Galfy, Dawn Jacobus, Kristin Fanning Lees, Carol Penn, Judy Ronzo, Carole Simonse, Maggie Sweeney, and Barbara Vanderberg!

Grants and Donations Provide Program Support

The Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation awarded The Arc of Somerset County with a \$2,500 grant to support accessibility projects at Camp Jotoni in Warren. This is the first grant The Arc has received from The Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation.

Novo Nordisk awarded The Arc of Somerset County with a \$5,000 grant to provide a diabetes education and prevention program. This is the first grant The Arc has received from Novo Nordisk.

The Knights of Columbus (Raritan Council #13264) awarded The Arc of Somerset County with a donation of \$2,600.95. The Knights raised these funds through their annual drive in 2011.

Toys "R" Us awarded The Arc of Somerset County with a \$15,000 grant through its Children's Fund to support subsidized therapeutic programs and childcare for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is the first grant The Arc has received from the Toys "R" Us Children's Fund.

The Arc of Somerset County Announces the Creation of Donor Legacy Society

The Arc of Somerset County has been providing advocacy and services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families for 40 years. To mark this milestone year, we have created the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society to recognize and thank our members, families and friends who have made a commitment to our agency, our mission, and our future.

Forty years ago, The Arc of Somerset County could not have imagined the challenges we encounter today. And forty years from now, we will face problems we cannot foresee in 2012. Planned gifts will provide The Arc with financial resources to prepare ourselves to deal with those challenges now and far into the future.

Through their generosity, members of the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society will allow The Arc to continue to address the lifelong needs of families in the Somerset County area who have a child, sibling or loved one with a disability. They will also provide an ongoing source of resources to respond quickly to the ever-changing and critical needs of our persons served and their families. In this way, planned giving can be considered a gift that today's families will pass on to the families of tomorrow.

Members of the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society are recognized as outstanding philanthropic leaders. They receive special recognition, as well as invitations to all Arc events including any exclusive Legacy Society events. Members also receive complimentary Arc memberships and subscriptions to Arc publications.

There are two ways to become a member of the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society. First, donors that include The Arc of Somerset County in their estate plan are eligible for membership. Alternatively, donors can make a multi-year pledge of at least \$500 per year to the Achieve With Us Annual Appeal, to be paid each year for at least 5 years.

Please return the form below in order to list your name among the many who are committed to ensuring that all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are able to *realize their dreams*.

Yes, I would like to join the Realizing Dreams Legacy Society.

☐ Option A: I have included The Arc of Somerset County in my estate plan.

☐ Option B: I pledge to make a contribution of at least \$500 per year for the next 5 years to the Achieve With Us Annual Appeal.

☐ I am making a contribution of \$_____ for the 2011/2012 Achieve With Us Annual Appeal

☐ I contributed \$500 or more in the 2011/2012 Achieve With Us Annual Appeal, and would like this contribution to count toward my five-year commitment.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Email_____

How many years have you been involved with The Arc of Somerset County? _____

How did you become involved with the disability movement? _____

☐ Please contact me about Planned Giving opportunities at The Arc of Somerset County.

The Arc of Somerset County • 141 South Main Street • Manville, NJ 08835 • 908.725.8544 x610



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



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501(c)(3) organization.

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Save the Date!

Arc Membership Drive

By becoming a member of The Arc, you lend your voice to a network of advocates dedicated to ensuring quality services are available for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Simply send your dues payment of \$25 to The Arc of Somerset County at 141 South Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835. All membership dues are tax deductible. Questions? Contact Laura Ziegler at 908-725-8544 x608.

Parenting Your Teenager Workshop

Arc Family Interventionist Lisa Zaneto will present a workshop for parents of teenagers on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00 pm at 40 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ. Participants will learn strategies of positive communication. Questions? Contact Lisa Zaneto at 908-725-8544 x636.

Caring For Mothers and Others

The Arc will provide a day of respite, pampering, and relaxation for our caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Saturday,

May 5 at the Holiday Inn of Somerset. To learn more, or to volunteer for this special event, please contact Mary Atchey at 908-725-8544 x624.

Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, June 2 at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater. Visit www.firstgiving.com/arc-somerset for more information or to sign up as a runner or walker. T-shirt sponsorship opportunities are currently available. Questions? Contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544 x610 or via email at taraa@thearcofsomerset.org.

Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Ceremony

The Arc will honor its volunteers, staff, consumers, supporters, and community partners on Monday, June 18 at the Bridgewater Holiday Inn at 6:00 pm. Join us for refreshments and exhibitions by program directors at 5:00 pm. Event is free and open to the public. Contact Laura Ziegler at 908-725-8544 x608 for additional information.