



A Message From The Executive Director



Achievement – Achievement is the main thrust of our mission and what we work towards.

The Arc of Somerset

County looks to find opportunities for growth, development and achievement for all of the children, adolescents and adults we serve as well as their families and the community at large.

As we enter into our 45th year of service to our communities we are refocusing our energies on this very core of our mission and vision.

Over the past 45 years, The Arc as a local, State and National organization has seen our share of changes. Collectively we have influenced the direction of the disability movement and have watched our efforts create opportunities for achievement in all facets of our communities.

Over the years, The Arc has made so much progress toward ensuring the civil and human rights of our citizens with disabilities. Most notably, the passage of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), and the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) have made historic advances in ensuring individuals with disabilities are equally

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HERALD

Celebrating 45 Years of Service

The Arc of Somerset County Receives Grant for Accessible Music Program for Individuals with Disabilities

The Arc of Somerset County was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant for the “Accessing Music Promoting Success” program at their Branchburg Vocational Rehabilitation Facility. This program is made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and administered by the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission through the State/County Partnership Local Arts Program Grant.

The “Accessing Music Promoting Success” program at The Arc of Somerset County increases music access for individuals with disabilities and facilitates social participation and engagement within the context of adaptive music education for the diverse learning styles of the individuals served by The Arc. The program was developed to enhance programming options at the facility while promoting social involvement and wellness.

Co-Founder/Program Director, Karen Z. Kowalski states, “The “Accessing Music Promoting Success” program promotes a sense of well-being and success for individuals with disabilities through music. Specifically, these individuals have the opportunity to participate in an adaptive, high-tech system that allows them to successfully play music and engage with others, regardless of experience, training, or ability”.

Participants in this small group based program learn music concepts, develop the ability to create music in collaboration with other members of the group and learn music performance skills through the use of a group-participation system based on iPad technology and customized music applications, which were designed by Co-Founder/Technology Director, Tom Brislin. Under Kowalski’s direction, the group performs music together by simply touching an iPad, breaking down the barriers that prevent individuals from accessing conventional instruments. Groups play entire songs by following

an easy system of cues from the director, and can also improvise and interact with their fellow participants. The flexibility of the system allows for the inclusion of a range of unique learning needs and physical abilities.”It is amazing to see their progress after just nine sessions and they are all so thrilled to be in the program”, stated Lauren Frary, Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County. For more information about the “Accessing Music Promoting Success” program at The Arc of Somerset County’s Branchburg Vocational Rehabilitation Facility, please call 908-725-8544 ext: 604.



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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Arc Self-Advocates Travel to the Statehouse in Honor of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The officers from The Arc of Somerset County's Self Advocates, Advocates for Change, and their adviser, Suman Paul, visited the New Jersey State House on Monday, March 6th, to increase awareness about individuals with disabilities in honor of National Developmental Disability Awareness Month. The Self Advocates were provided with an opportunity to talk to elected officials about the important issues related to their lives, including their daily challenges. More than 35 legislators stopped by to speak with them and to recognize this important occasion.



Self Advocates for Change at the New Jersey State House



The Self Advocates also spoke to Elizabeth Connelly, the Department of Human Services Commissioner, about the challenges they face, such as the need for increased recognition of their human rights; wage increases for the staff who support them on a daily basis; and the medical and physical needs (new equipment, power chairs, wheelchair vans) that support their care in the home.

Commissioner Connelly also presented a state proclamation regarding National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to all the Self Advocates in attendance.

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represented in our legislative polices and laws. We have advocated for the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and have celebrated the closure of many institutions across the state and the nation.

As with any civil rights movement, we must continue to be vigilant in our efforts to ensure all citizens are provided equal rights and access to all that our great country has to offer.

In order to do this our organization must continually re-evaluate our alignment with our mission, scrutinize our effectiveness and efficiency and ensure that our services are of the highest quality and excellence.

We know that change is an inherent part of the life of a nonprofit and we anticipate major changes to our organization in the upcoming years, as the State of New Jersey moves towards a Fee for Service (Medicaid billing) model of funding.

Change is hard, but it also creates the opportunity to examine our agency and allow for new and innovative programs and supports that will meet the ongoing and unique needs of the Somerset County communities.

As The Arc of Somerset County moves through the next few years, we will most certainly need to adjust to major changes in our fiscal and program operations, but the opportunity to create innovative and progressive programs and services creates an air of excitement and renewed energy.

We will continue to rely on the support of our family, friends, community and business partners as we expand and shift our work – and we look forward to continue success and achievement with your support and dedication.

Lauren Frary,
 Executive Director
 The Arc of Somerset County

Arc Adult is Introduced to Local GiGi's Playhouse Program

The Arc of Somerset County is committed to providing recreation opportunities for the individuals we serve based upon the individuals interest. These opportunities often lead to unexpected benefits, similar to those experienced by Scott, one of the individuals who receive services through The Arc's Adult Services Department.

Scott began his relationship with The Arc of Somerset County in the late 1990's when he and his family were searching for a job for him. The Arc of Somerset County's job coach looked for a job based upon his interests, and he was hired to perform janitorial services at several Arc facilities. His expanded relationship with The Arc happened in 2008 when he moved into one of The Arc's group homes that is home to five other adult men. He easily adjusted to the routine of the home and has become friends with several of his roommates, going to summer camp with two of them every year. He continues to go to work every day, now working three days a week at The Arc's Occupational Training Center in Branchburg and two days a week for the Borough of Rocky Hill performing janitorial services.

Scott enjoys participating making new friends and his family was interested in increasing his socialization opportunities. During the last few years he expressed interest in learning how to cook. His Support Specialist, Suman Paul, from The Arc's Clinical Services Department searched for cooking classes that he could attend but was unable to find one that would meet his needs. Suman attended The Arc's annual Step Up For The Arc event in June 2016, where she spoke with guest representatives from GiGi's Playhouse in Hillsborough, a center that offers therapeutic and educational programs for individuals with Down Syndrome and other disabilities, and found out they offer many programs for adults with disabilities including one that teaches cooking.

Scott began attending the program and learned about meal preparation, cooking techniques, table setting and cleanup. He enjoyed the classes so much that he now attends programs there twice a month. In addition to learning cooking skills, staff has noticed his socialization skills improved and his self-esteem has increased. "Scott has always interacted well with others but now he appears to be more confident which has encouraged him to increase his verbal in interactions others," noted Bob Hulit, Support Specialist and Band of Brother's Coordinator.

The Arc of Somerset County values each and every partnership within the Somerset County community and wishes to thank GiGi's Playhouse for their valued day programs for adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The Arc Remembers Fred Patterson

The Arc of Somerset County, and the entire disability movement lost a true hero. Fred Patterson founding member of The Arc of Somerset County passed away this April. Fred was an outstanding advocate and a passionate supporter of The Arc. Fred was inspired by his daughter, Kathy who was born with significant and complex disabilities. He used his experience as a parent of a child with special needs to become a leader in the disability movement. Among his many accomplishments, Fred was present at the signing of the Americans with Disability Act, by President Bush, he was appointed as the first chairman of the Governor's council on the prevention of disabilities by Governor Kean and appointed a member of the President's committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities under President Bush and he was the driving force behind the "Key of our Own" Campaign – to end waiting lists for families seeking basic services for their children with disabilities. Fred was a founding member of The Arc of Somerset County's Board of Directors and he served on the Boards of the Arc of NJ and The Arc of the United States. For 30 years from 1964 to 1994, Fred worked as the Director of Corporate Relations for Johnson & Johnson. He used his position to create a long term relationship with Johnson and Johnson that continues today. Fred made a significant impact on the lives of so many individuals with disabilities and his influence will be felt for many, many years to come.



The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Coordinates a Full and Successful Spring Volunteer Program

Since March 2017, The Arc of Somerset County received over 100 volunteer hours from numerous local corporate and civic communities who believe in The Arc's mission and seek to fulfill the work needed that helps our agency focus on the quality of programs supported for those we serve.



On April 26th, Qualcomm organized the basement, cleaned and painted walls at Ardsley Group Home

On May 11th, Henkel painted the deck and ceilings at Steinmetz Group Home

On May 12th, Turner Construction helped Camp Jotoni build a new outhouse, installed new ceiling tiles, new cubbies in the cabins and, mulched the Nature Trail

On May 18th, Azko Nobel worked on landscaping projects at Rocky Hill Group Home

On May 20th, the Hillsborough Education Association planted a new vegetable garden at the Respite Group Home

On June 3rd, Citi Warren offered volunteers at our annual Arc Walk Event

June 4th-10th the Stonecrest Community Church helped renovate a new serenity garden and walkway at Old Stirling Group Home as well as cleaned and painted the decks, and installed a new kitchen floor.

On June 6th, CompoSecure worked on landscaping projects at Franklin Group Home

On June 11th, Citi Warren painted the office hallway at our Branchburg Adult Training Center

On June 11th a group from Composecure, LLC. helped with spring landscaping projects at Claremont Group Home.

On June 16th, some staff from L'Oreal-Somerset helped open Camp Jotoni with a deep cleaning of the cabins and cafeteria.

On June 16th, some staff from L'Oreal-Somerset helped with landscaping and cleaning at Griggstown Group Home

On June 16th, some staff from L'Oreal-Clark worked on landscaping projects for Mobus Group Home



For more information about our corporate and community group volunteer projects planned for this fall, please contact Laura Ziegler at 908-658-3805 or email lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org

The Arc of Somerset County Now Listed as a Charity on AMAZON SMILE!

Do you shop on Amazon? Now those shopping trips can support The Arc of Somerset County as well. Locate The Arc of Somerset County before adding items to your cart and 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will go to The Arc of Somerset County/The Arc Foundation of Somerset County. Happy Shopping!



The Arc of Somerset County Receives Grant from Henkel for Branchburg Vocational Rehabilitation Facility Paint Renovation

The Arc of Somerset County was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant by Henkel N.A. Corporation's "Making an Impact on Tomorrow" ("MIT") program to help defray the cost to revitalize the interior walls of the Branchburg Employment Services facility. The Arc of Somerset County provides community and center-based adult programs at the Branchburg facility and is one of four facilities in Somerset County to serve over 200 individuals. Activities are designed to fit the cognitive and physical skill levels as well as the interests of the individuals enrolled in the various programs. The focus of the program is to foster positive work attitudes and behaviors while increasing social skill development for individuals who have little or no exposure to a work environment.



The interior paint project brightened the interior of the facility that had gone for years without upgrades or change. "It is important to ensure that the environment where those we serve work is positive so this interior paint project came at a most appropriate time for The Arc of Somerset County" states Lauren Frary, Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County. "We believe that this bright new interior paint job will help our employment center folks work to their best abilities and enhance their experiences during the time they spend at their work/ recreational program".

The Community Outreach Committee of Henkel Corporation, a local Somerset County company located in Bridgewater, works closely with The Arc of Somerset County's adult population each year with various volunteer projects and holiday gatherings. "Over the years, Henkel volunteers have developed a special connection with The Arc residents" states Lisa N. Seidman, Assistant General Counsel, Legal Department of Henkel Corporation. "We truly enjoy spending time with the residents when we host the annual holiday party, and more recently while hosting various recreational activities at the Branchburg facility. We are so grateful for the opportunity to help make the Branchburg facility a warm and welcoming place".

Arc Grant Achievements

Henkel of America, Inc. \$5,000 toward the Branchburg Adult Training Center

Qualcomm Foundation, \$10,000 toward the JDCCF Daycare and Preschool Subsidy Program

Arc Donations

Roselle Savings Bank, \$1,000

The Burton G. & Anne C. Greenblatt Foundation, Inc., \$1,000

Mr. John Ascione, \$500

The Arc of Somerset County Celebrates the Step Up for The Arc Walk and 5K on June 3rd

The Arc of Somerset County hosted their annual “Step Up for the Arc Walk and 5k Run” event on Saturday, June 3rd at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater to many of runners and community walkers and supporters who many gathered for their first time, and others who showed their annual support of our agency and those we serve.

Special thanks to the overwhelming support of our sponsors this year and to those that came out in the rain to celebrate with us!



Thank You!

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Top Department Team
Ilene Court Craftsman (Maintenance)

Top Arc Staff Member
Roy S. Lawrence

Top Corporate Group
Cerminara Architect

Top Family Team
Mandelbaum Family

The Arc of Somerset County Hosts their 45th Annual Meeting on June 22nd at The Olde Mill Inn

The Arc of Somerset County hosted its Annual Meeting on June 22 at the Old Mille Inn in Bernard Township to celebrate the past year's successes and to honor community business members and individuals who made those successes possible.

Stoelzle-Oberglas accepted an award for The Arc of Somerset County's Employer of the Year

Siobhan Diamant accepted the award for Professional of the Year-Clinical Services

Hillsborough Education Association accepted an award for Community Partner of the Year

Casey Coyle accepted an award for Volunteer of the Year

Stonecrest Community Church accepted an award for Volunteer Group of the Year



The Arc of Somerset County acknowledges our retiring Board Members: Ron Slahetka, Charles Huck, Bill McKay and Danielle La Rochelle.

Thank you to all of our Board Members for their dedication and support of The Arc of Somerset County!





For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



**Somerset County
United Way**
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Achieve with us.

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Save the Date!

Camp Jotoni Community Day Celebration

Join us for an afternoon of family fun as we celebrate Community Day at Camp Jotoni, Sunday, August 13th 12:00pm-4:00pm with outdoor activities for all, an awesome tricky tray auction, BBQ picnic, and a 12:30-2:30 sampling of local Craft Brews. RSVP to Laura Zeigler at 908-658-3805 or email: lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org before August 11th.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is October!

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 2017 Arc Angel Gala: Celebrating 45 Years of Service will be held on Friday, November 3rd at a new location – Bridgewater Marriott, Bridgewater New Jersey. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For additional information, please contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-658-3805 or e-mail: lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org