

The Arc of Somerset County Staff Awarded by Two Organizations in 2020



Message From Executive Director, Lauren Frary

As we approach the end to a very challenging year, I believe it is important for you to know what a truly outstanding team we have at The Arc of Somerset County.

You've read our messages and updates throughout the pandemic. Stories of protocols, precautions and sadly the passing of some of our Arc Family members.

The awfulness of the COVID-19 virus has impacted all of us in some way, be it to our health, livelihoods, or social networks.

In March the whole world came to a halt. We went from going about our work in pursuing our mission and vision for those with disabilities on a day to day basis to being in the position of figuring out how to protect the health, safety and welfare of over 750 individuals served and 300 employees.

Our priority throughout this time was and will continue to be - to always move forward; to continue our services to individuals and families in the best way possible.

See continued message on page 2

In this issue...
Resilience in our programs during COVID-19
Virtual Talent Show 2020
Home for the Holidays at the Arc

2020 has been a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we live, learn, work and socialize. Keeping people with I/DD safe while supporting them to live a meaningful life has been an enormous challenge. For Bob Hulit and Karen Kowalski, MPHOTR, it is a challenge that they have met head on with dedication, creativity, perseverance and empathy.

The Arc of New Jersey publicly acknowledged Bob Hulit, Curriculum Coordinator at [The Achievement Center \(TAC\) at Raritan Valley Community College](#) for his extraordinary efforts in keeping our students both actively learning and SAFE during the COVID-19 crisis in



TAC is a transitional post-secondary program that provides students with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in a college experience at RVCC while receiving individual support and specialized classes.

Bob celebrated his 2nd commencement of graduates on October 10th 2020 and has proved through this crisis, his perseverance for teaching and safety measures to do so, can be accomplished despite this world changing event.

His immediate pivot to online learning to maintain student engagement and keep parity with traditional post secondary learning options during the health crisis is a testament to Bob, the relevance of the program offerings and resilience of his students.

Karen Kowalski, MPH OTR Director of Adult Services at The Arc of Somerset County. was recently recognized with the [New Jersey Occupational Therapist Association \(NJOTA\) Award of Merit for 2020!](#)

Over the last three years, Karen has created an active and safe social environment for adults serviced by the Arc of Somerset County.



During the pandemic, Karen adapted her programs in creative ways to ensure the adults stay engaged and connected. One of the collaborations was with her OTA partners providing horticultural therapy which was very well received.

On a weekly basis, Karen develops a full program calendar of events that is creative, offers a variety of topics, guest lecturers and interests that allows her consumers and families to stay connected, safe and meet their individual needs. Karen is observed by her peers as a natural at making each Arc adult and caregiver feel recognized as she provides them opportunity to share and connect with each other in as many ways possible.

Congratulations to Karen Kowalski, MPH OTR with the New Jersey Occupational Therapist Award of Merit for 2020!

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
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Secretary.....Christopher Korenowski

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Camp Jotoni.....Josh Burke
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Foundation & Communication
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Human Resources.....Monimali Joshi
Information Technology....Lance Floden
Maintenance & Safety.....Jason Schieb
Parents and Children Together
.....Jeannette McClew
Quality & Compliance.. ...Chris Gunning



The Arc of Somerset County
141 S. Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835

P: 908.725.8544 F:908.704.0850

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County
45 Route 202 South
P.O. Box 903
Far Hills, NJ 07931
P: 908.658.3508
www.thearofsomerset.org

THE JERRY DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RESILIENCE TO COVID-19

Covid-19 paralyzed the world as we knew it, and for The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF), the first few weeks of the center shut down had a ripple effect to those families who depend on daycare services so they can continue to provide for their family.



For our JDCCF families, change was even harder as they found themselves in unprecedented circumstances of home-schooling coupled with remote work, all while coping with the intellectual challenges and emotional changes their children were facing at home, away from their peers and activities they had so comfortably settled into over the previous months.



Throughout the lock-down, virtual programming took a few timeslots 1-2 days of the week during the mid March–June timeframe with special guests for story time activities that involved readings from the Arc Adults, our Executive Director, Lauren Frary and as well as friends from the [New Roads School](#) located in Somerset. According to Jill Glassman, MSW Director of Children’s Services at the JDCCF, “the center’s first and foremost responsibility was to create a curriculum that upon re-opening guidelines from the CDC, would be flexible to what the currently enrolled children’s immediate needs were”.

The JDCCF official re-opening was June 29th and the resilience of the children were really special as they had already been accustomed to wearing masks and knowing the importance of personal space and touch boundaries.

Message from the Executive Director Continued...

We adapted our services to provide virtual programs which expended in both quantity and creativity. We collaborated with our community partners and volunteers to provide much needed resources such as food, PPE, supplies and other necessities. We worked closely with our state and county officials to ensure the most up to date information and guidance was available and assimilated into our business practices.

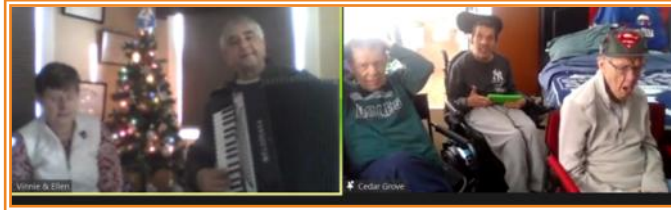
Of particular note, our employees and Department Leadership truly “stepped up to the plate” and used their individual and often collective determination and commitment to ensure our programs and those we serve continued with their daily routines with modifications, but also with the resources and supports needed to overcome the seemingly endless burdens of the pandemic.

I am both grateful and humbled by the true grit in which our employees have demonstrated in their unwavering desire to serve and support those who live with a disability in our communities. I look forward to the future when we can once again celebrate our accomplishments in person. In the mean time, I wish you and your families the best and most joyous of Hholidays and a bright and cheerful 2020.

Lauren Frary

ARC PROGRAMS OFFER ZOOM-TIME FUN!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and participated in a zoom activity with our Arc Adults in 2020! Our virtual programs such as Gardening classes, Art classes, and Yoga keep growing! We are very proud of how accustomed our folks at the Arc have adjusted to their day programming at home, and while we look forward to our day programs to continue in person- we wish everyone a safe winter season at home!



THE ARC'S GOT TALENT VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW OF 2020!

This year the Arc's Got Talent went virtual. With lots of dancing, singing as well as poetry reading, and an array of talents showcased, each of our participants proved to the virtual audience that they can shine no matter what the limitations are in life!



The line up included:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Ardasley Band | Deborah B. |
| Steve B. | Tracey C. |
| Kamala C. | Burton F. |
| Daniel F. | Elvina G. |
| Trevor I. | Danielle L. |
| Alex M. | Diana M. |
| Vicky M. | Latricher M. |
| Damandeep N. | William N. |
| Evelyn R. | Mary S. |
| Scott S. | Steve V. |
| Ray Z. | |
| The Men of Cedar Grove | |



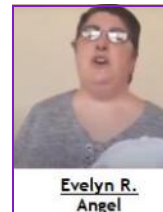
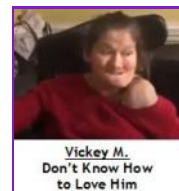
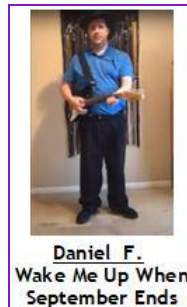
Thank you!

All staff who assisted in recording:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Doretha C | Michelle E |
| Susanna I. | Cliff L. |
| Eric M | Suman P. |
| Mary S. | Cameron S. |
| Patty T. | Victor W. |

Judges:

- Trina T.
Victor W.
Lauren F.



VIRTUAL RESILIENCE WITHIN ADULT SERVICES PROGRAMMING

-co-authors: Jennifer Cutino, Karen Z. Kowalski, MPH, OTR,
Mary Scibelli, Michelle Eng, OTS (Stockton University Occupational Therapy Student)

When the day habilitation programs needed to close temporarily as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many questions arose around the normal routines that were once so valued including:

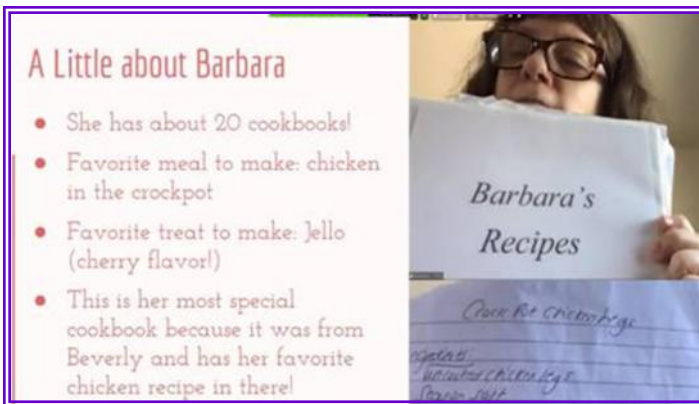
What will we do to fill our days during this time?

When will we be able to participate in groups that we have previously enjoyed?

When will we see each other again?

While the transition from in-person to virtual programming came with its own initial challenges such as learning new technology, navigating a virtual calendar with new classes, understanding communication social norms required within virtual programs, it also came with some semblance of repairing community by bringing individuals together to participate in groups, engaging in new experiences and establishing new roles and routines.

Two Success Stories Highlighting the Resilience of Individuals within The Arc of Somerset County Through the use of Virtual Programming



Barbara is one of many individuals at The Arc of Somerset County who has benefited immensely from virtual programming. At the start, Barbara remained fairly quiet during group sessions and preferred to speak with instructors privately if any issues arose.

Over the past few months she has begun to take on a leadership role within the group.

She greets group members, initiates meaningful conversations during and after virtual programs, notifies the instructors when there are technological difficulties and provides the opening introduction for virtual groups when given the opportunity.

Barbara also co-led a virtual program with occupational therapy students completing their Level II fieldwork at the Arc of Somerset County. As a group, they created a word search activity as well as a PowerPoint presentation of pictures showcasing Barbara's collection of cookbooks. Barbara answered questions and encouraged group members during this virtual group, showing great development as a leader. She developed the concept of a new virtual group with another individual at The Arc of Somerset County called "Hot Topix" dedicated to providing education on a variety of interesting topics and members of the community.

Diana is another individual who has benefited from attending virtual programming at The Arc of Somerset County as a virtual program regular, attending almost every program available on the calendar. Although initially quiet during virtual groups, she has begun to participate more within the past few months.

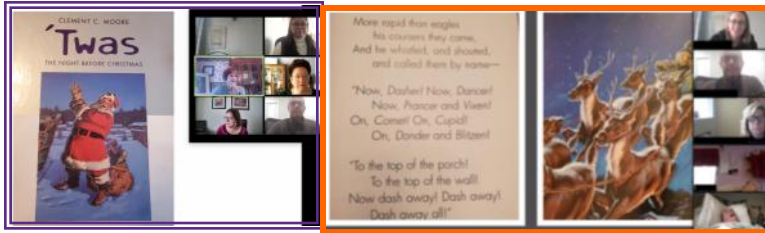
Diana now sings and dances along to familiar songs played during the virtual program "Music for Hope and Inspiration".

When given the opportunity, she also provides the opening and closing statements at the beginning and end of the virtual music group. This new role and responsibility for Diana has encouraged her to ask and answer questions more frequently.



THE ARC CELEBRATES ALL AND HOLIDAY SEASON WITH FRIENDS OF THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY AT HOME!

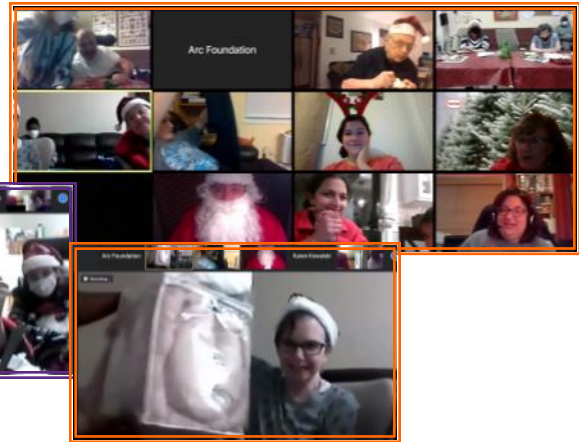
CATALANT WITH OLD STIRLING GROUP HOME- DEC 3RD, 2020



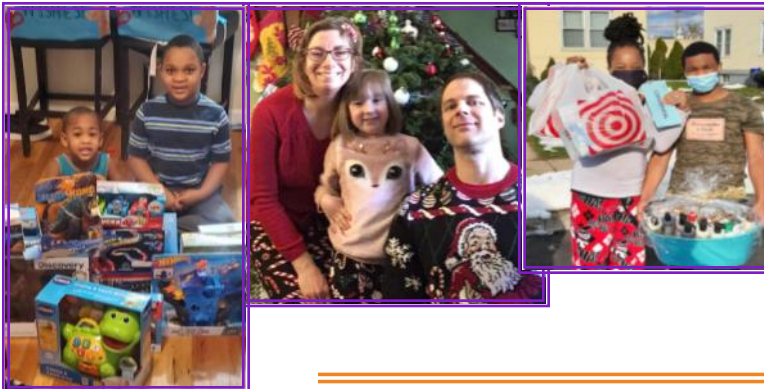
Much thanks to Catalant Pharmaceuticals for surprising our folks at Old Stirling Group Home with a fun and exciting reading of "Twas the night before Christmas". It was such a fun way to start off the holiday season!

HENKLE CELEBRATES WITH COMMONS 1 & 2—DEC 3RD, 2020

Thank you so much to Henkel for going above and beyond for our folks at Commons 1 & 2 Supervised Apartments this holiday season! Filling the home with laughter, love and joy with a special visit from Santa!



L'OREAL'S GIFT OF THE SEASON



The Arc of Somerset County thanks L'Oreal of Franklin for their Annual "Gifts of the Season" supporting 3 of our families enrolled in the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF) program, Early Intervention and Parents and Children Together (PACT) with a wish list of gifts the families were unable to purchase on their own due to financial hardship and with COVID-19 this year.

2020 VIRTUAL HOLIDAY HANG OUT WITH MR. AND MRS. CLAUSE

This year, the Arc of Somerset County Adult Program Holiday Party looked a bit different this year as our residents of the Arc each met online for a fun hour of holiday cupcake decorating (and eating), a holiday play with music, and a surprise visit from Mr. & Mrs. Clause!

Check out the holiday play on our [link here!](#) Enjoy!



3RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING RAISES OVER \$150K THANKS TO LOYAL PARTICIPANTS AND A MATCHED GIFT!



On Monday, September 14th, The Arc Foundation of Somerset County hosted the 3rd Annual “Clubs for Cabins” golf outing for the 1st time at Raritan Valley Country Club.

The Foundation was pleased to host some returning sponsors and foursomes as well as a few new participants to the outing.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

- Title Sponsor, Composecure
- Dinner Sponsor, Magyar Bank
- Eagle Sponsor, Elizabeth McKenna, Merrill Lynch
- Eagle Sponsor, Synergy Electric
- Cart Sponsors
 - DHR Wealth Management
 - LPL Financial
- Putting Green Sponsor
 - Mark McDonough



Tee Sponsors:

- Carroll Engineering
- Creech Team Homes
- Steamfitters Local 475

The fundraiser was the 3rd event held for Camp Jotoni’s Cabins Renovation Campaign. The campaign, now in its 6th year is continuing to raise funds to upright Cabins 3 & 4 (two out of a total of four). Thanks to everyone who attended and supported this important annual event that which generations of campers at Camp Jotoni will feel the impact of your support for many years to come!

THE ARC GRANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND DONATIONS

We are proud to recognize the following grant achievements

- Henkel of America: \$10,000—Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign
- Church & Dwight: \$4,000—Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign
- Ethicon Inc.: \$5,000—Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign

COVID-19 DONATIONS

During the last 9 months, The Arc Foundation of Somerset County’s Board of Trustees and The Arc of Somerset County Board of Director’s helped raise over \$15,000 in value of in-kind donations to our residential group homes and programs that included PPE, meal donations during the holidays, cleaning and recreational activity supplies such as puzzles, crafts and special goodies for the homes. Thank you to EVERYONE who donated time, goods and most of all—gave us their hearts!

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

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County accepts the following gifts

- Stocks
- 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

CAMP JOTONI CABIN RENOVATION UPDATE

2 CABINS UP- 2 MORE TO GO!

A Letter from The Arc Foundation of Somerset County's Board of Trustee President Matt Adams

Dear Camp Jotoni Families & Friends and Supporters of The Arc of Somerset County,

As a parent of my young adult named Tower who is a long time Camp Jotoni camper, I know first hand that 2020 has been a most difficult and stressful year for just about everyone who is a parent of a special needs child and main caretaker. With remote learning and suspended programs for our children and adults, everyday has been a new struggle and learning experience of patience.

One thing that is certain: Camp Jotoni (while suspended this past summer due to COVID-19) is excited to see you in 2021! As of today, the staff at Camp Jotoni and the Arc of Somerset County are planning for the opening of two new cabins out of four, such that they will be readily available for both summer and fall respite programs.

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.



Since July 2020, we have raised over \$300K- just about \$500K away from our goal to upright cabins 3 & 4 in time for this spring.

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](#).

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 31st 2020, to The Arc Foundation of Somerset County P.O. Box 903 Far Hills, NJ 07938

P.S: We hope you will take advantage of the recent tax break for charitable giving now in effect for the CARES Act.

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 12
- Have Heat and AC
- Have 2 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?

Creating A Special Needs Trust Webinar

(Encore rerun January 5-7)

Tuesday Jan 5 @ 11:00 am Wednesday Jan 6 @ 7:00 pm Thursday Jan 7 @ 11:00 am and
7:00 pm

<https://planningcommunity.org/thearc/special-needs-estate-planning-somerset-county/>

March is National Developmental Disabilities Month

The Arc continues to promote awareness of the strengths and achievements of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We hope you will join us this March as we celebrate the lives of people with I/DD and promote growth and highlight their importance in the community.

Check out our [social media pages](#) for details on how to be a part of the recognition month.

Step Up for The Arc 5K and Walk

Be on the lookout for the “Step Up for The Arc 5K and Walk Event” details will be announced in late January 2021 for our mid- June event

Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony

The Arc will honor volunteers, staff, consumers, supporters and community partners in June 2021

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