



HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

The year 2004 has certainly been eventful for the state of New Jersey and agencies serving people with disabilities. In September, the governor's announcement of his resignation made nationwide news and continues to do so. More important to Arc consumers is that despite a huge budget deficit, agencies serving people with developmental disabilities obtained a significant increase in government funding.



Lou Baldino

Our funding increase of 4 percent is the largest in many years. Although that barely covers a portion of rising costs and affords only a slight increase in staff salaries, it was an important step in the right direction.

We owe this increase to the tireless advocacy of our human services community. I am proud that The Arc of New Jersey led this effort, and that the collective power of The Arc's chapters played such a significant role in our success.

Unfortunately, New Jersey is faced with another year of budget deficits. Deficit projections have grown even larger, and some of the strategies used

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BILL SACKTER AWARD

Sharon Booker Aims High and Succeeds

Live Right, Eat Right, Fly Right. Living by this personal mantra has led Sharon Booker to become a role model for anyone who wishes to overcome challenges and achieve healthy goals. The Arc of New Jersey honored Sharon Booker for her courageous self-advocacy and community contributions with the Bill Sackter Award at its 2004 awards celebration in Princeton on November 30. *(This award was named after Bill Sackter, a public speaker and entrepreneur who left the security of an institution for independent living. His dramatic achievements inspired the acclaimed television film, Bill.)*

Sharon not only recovered from a heart attack and losing custody of her only son, but she achieved a series of remarkable triumphs: dropping 150 pounds, ending dependencies on

multiple medications, working two jobs, and moving from life in an institution with 24-hour supervision to her very own apartment! As if

these achievements were not enough, Sharon won a gold medal in the local Special Olympics (for the 100-mile walk, a softball throw, and the 50-mile walk) and silver and bronze medals in the state Special Olympics.

Dubbed a true inspiration, Sharon keeps learning and growing, as well as sharing good will with fellow consumers.

Presently she is aspiring to become a certified assistant in nursing, first aid, and CPR. She also aims to obtain a driver's license, a trust fund for her son, and a burial fund. Sensitive to the needs of others, Sharon spends time with Arc residents who rarely receive visitors.

See Sharon Booker on page 8.



Arc support counselor Natasha Sharpe and award winner Sharon Booker

A Message From the Chair of the Board

Dear Friends,

Over the holidays, I hope you will take a moment to think about the many individuals and families who rely on The Arc of Somerset County for early intervention, in-home respite, specialized preschool and daycare, as well as occupational employment, job placement, habilitative training, and residential care and support.

You are the donors, volunteers, parents and educators who understand the importance of this work, and who continue to support people with developmental disabilities. This *Herald* newsletter bears witness to the success of our collective efforts.

Here you can read about Sharon Booker who received the Bill Sackter Award for personal



excellence at The Arc of New Jersey's awards celebration in Princeton on November 30. Sharon's life challenges and triumphs are an inspiration to us all.

We are honored to share in the joy of advocacy and community inclusion, and encourage you to continue your support. Your tax-deductible donation at the end of this year will help people with developmental disabilities in more

ways than you can imagine.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and good will. Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year.

Warmest Regards,

Carol Geary

Mission of the Arc of Somerset

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.

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THE ARC ANGELS HOST A

Seats Are Still Available!



Eddie Brill

Seats are still available for the 2004 Arc Angels holiday celebration, The Most Wonderful Time of Year, at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills on December 10, beginning at 7 p.m. The evening promises crackling fires, a gourmet dinner, and popular entertainment. The comedian and talent coordinator for the David Letterman Show, Eddie Brill, will open the festivities as master of ceremonies, and singer and songwriter Ann Callaway Hampton, whose role in the Broadway musical *Swing* drew a Tony nomination, will perform songs she

has written for herself and stars such as Barbra Streisand. *The New York Times* says, "No contemporary singer matches Ms. Callaway."

Also planned is a silent and live auction featuring tickets to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and other extravaganzas. Additional tantalizing offers include certificates for shopping at fashionable boutiques such as Tiffany's, tickets to sporting events including the US Open, getaway vacations, and dining at exclusive restaurants.



Ann Hampton Callaway

The Angels Among Us Make a Difference

Honored will be high school seniors in the Somerset County area who have volunteered to support people with developmental disabilities. The Arc community will recognize 2004's Angels Among Us for their dedication to social issues and making a difference in other people's lives. Each honoree will receive a Baccarat angel, a \$1,000 scholarship, and an opportunity to obtain personal guidance from an Arc benefactor.

Congratulations to Ashley Artis of The Pingry School; John

and William Crerand, Allison Haines, and Scott Kryston of Bernards High School; Carli Ferris and Rahul Kulkarni of Bridgewater-Raritan High School; Brittany Haines of Blair Academy; Hillary Prey of Kent Place; and Michael Raynes of Ridge High School!



William Crerand



Allison Haines



Scott Kryston



Carli Ferris



Hillary Prey



John Crerand



Brittany Haines

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Kim Artis

considers her volunteer work a privilege, and enjoys sharing it with her two children. Tom emphasized the need for The Arc's programs and services: "Without The Arc, many parents

Kim Artis and Tom Brooks Receive 2004 Arc Angel Awards

Arc Angel Awards will be given to Kim Artis and Tom Brooks for their invaluable contributions as volunteer and board member, respectively.

Both greeted news of the award with modest surprise, noting that being of service to others provides its own rewards. Kim

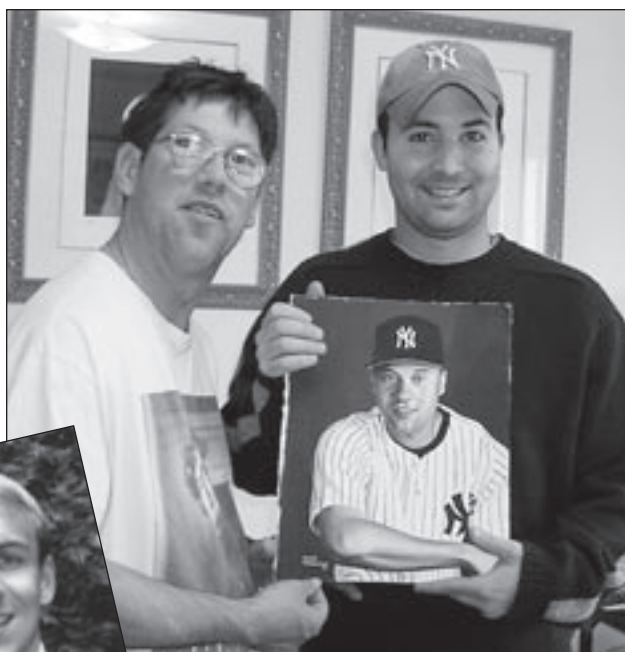
wouldn't have the opportunity to learn how to give their children a happy life."

The Arc community is grateful to the public for supporting annual Arc Angel events. Join family and friends in bringing joy to Arc consumers while supporting programs for people with developmental disabilities.

The Fiddler's Elbow Country Club is located at 811 Rattlesnake Bridge Road; tickets are \$325 each.



Thomas Brooks



Arc board member Brian O'Malley accepts an original watercolor of The New York Yankees' Derek Jeter from famous sports artist James Fiorentino. This commissioned watercolor, to be framed by the Jacob Swerdlow Gallery, will be sold at the Arc Angels' holiday celebration, The Most Wonderful Time of The Year.



Michael Raynes



Rahul Kulkarni

Even preparing for the holiday celebration is fun.



Buy a Raffle Ticket for a New Silver Audi Convertible

The grand prize of The Arc of Somerset County's 2004 raffle drawing is a silver Audi A4 Cabriolet convertible with a black leather interior. Tickets priced at \$100 each are available through The Arc at 908-725-8544, ext. 612 or online at http://thearcofsomerset.org/aa/audi_affle.pdf. All contributions are tax-deductible; proceeds will support programs for people with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your support!

RAFFLE DONATION

- ☐ I would like ____ ticket(s) at \$100 each.
- ☐ I would like more information on the Audi A4 Cabriolet raffle to benefit The Arc of Somerset County.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Please mail check (made payable to The Arc of Somerset County) and form to:

The Arc of Somerset County, Audi A4 Cabriolet Raffle
P.O. Box 493, Bedminster, NJ 07921

The drawing will be held at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills on Dec. 10 at 11 p.m. All contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you for your generous support.

Thanks to Flemington Audi.

The 2005 Audi A4 Cabriolet can be seen at:
Flemington Audi, Routes 202 and 31, Flemington, New Jersey (ask for Ed Kiley)

The Arc of New Jersey Honors Charlotte Hayden

The Arc of New Jersey honored Charlotte Hayden for her countywide contribution to this year's successful walkathon at the 2004 Awards Celebration in Princeton on November 30. Charlotte stands out as The Arc of Somerset County's top fundraiser,

selling donor cards to area churches and arranging three consumer days to collect walkathon contributions. Additionally, she personally raised \$578.

Congratulations to Charlotte who helped make this year's Arc walkathon a runaway success!



Charlotte Hayden

STATE COMMUNICATOR'S AWARD

The Arc Recognizes Bonnie Sovinee



Fred Patterson and Bonnie Sovinee

awareness and understanding of people with developmental disabilities. Bonnie extends her gratitude to Fred Patterson,

Bonnie Sovinee's "branding" of The Arc of Somerset County won The Arc of New Jersey's statewide Communicator's Award at the 2004 awards celebration in Princeton on November 30. Congratulations to Bonnie, director of development, for spearheading The Arc's ongoing campaign to raise

board member at large, Lou Baldino, executive director, Mary Burke, associate executive director, and their creative team.

Bonnie's campaign began with an analysis of the need for updating The Arc's profile, market, public image, and current identity. She and her team of creative talent updated the logo, making it smooth, flowing, and bright. Explains Bonnie, "A good branding (positioning) tells the public in one sentence what you're about and why it matters." Hence, The Arc's new tagline: *Where people with developmental disabilities learn to live their dreams.*

In any awareness campaign, frequency and repetition are key. Bonnie and her team reinforced awareness by updating this newsletter from *The Challenge* to the *Herald*, and creating new brochures for the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, Camp Jotoni, and The Arc's membership drive. Moreover, they are improving the website to ensure it is interactive and that all Somerset Arc publications are available online.

OTC Welcomes Work Projects

DID YOU KNOW...that our Branchburg Production Center assembled several thousand energy conservation kits to help utility companies promote responsible energy usage?

DID YOU KNOW...the state of New Jersey has a set-aside program for people with developmental disabilities?

DID YOU KNOW...that our Occupational Training Center completed its first project obtained through the state's set-aside program?

DID YOU KNOW...The Arc has more than 200 adults available for work every day at four Somerset locations?

DID YOU KNOW...that The Arc is always looking for additional projects for its production centers? Those who need

help with projects are welcome to call Jim O'Rourke at 908-707-0920 or email jimo@thearcofsomerset.org.

A special thank you to Fred Patterson for making several promising referrals last month, and to Susan Brady for a referral that resulted in three projects from just one customer!



Workshop Aids Siblings of People with Developmental Disabilities

The Arc of Somerset County held a workshop at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bridgewater on November 9 to apprise families of disability law. Ira M. Fingles, from Hinkle & Fingles Attorneys at Law, addressed the concerns of siblings who must assume responsibility for people with developmental disabilities from aging parents.

An expert on disability law, Ira provided an overview of the adult service system and special education entitlements such as Medicaid. He also discussed issues relating to guardianship and estate planning.

In brief, Ira instructed families on how to assume meaningful responsibilities with the least disruption to daily life. Several attendees, including a lawyer and a CPA who has a child with autism, gave the seminar glowing praise.

Additional seminars are being held throughout the state. To check the schedule for dates and times, visit The Arc of New Jersey website at www.arcnj.org.



Attorney Ira M. Fingles apprising families of disability law.

Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center's Open House Is a Success



Interested parents and professionals attended the Open House at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center on Thursday, November 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They appreciated the opportunity to witness such high quality and affordable preschool, daycare, and after-school programs.

Staff spotlighted the Manville center's five pivotal programs: Early Intervention for infants and toddlers; Developmental Daycare, Preschool Disabled, and Private Preschool for children ages three months to three years; and PACT (Parents and Children Together) for parents who have developmental disabilities. Therapist Donna Kelly aired a video that showed children participating in activities throughout the year.

The Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center's capable staff and comprehensive interdisciplinary programs appealed to visitors as a loving and a happy place for children with and without special needs to learn and grow during their formative years.

Gail Strong Is New Principal of Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center

Gail Strong has been appointed principal of the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. Formerly a principal in Jefferson Township, Livingston, East Hanover, Short Hills, and Paterson, she brings a wealth of experience and dedication. Gail has also served as adjunct professor at Caldwell College and The College of St. Elizabeth.

The new principal earned a BS in elementary education at The College of St. Elizabeth and a MA in education at Seton Hall University. She is certified as a supervisor, principal, and an elementary school teacher.



Gail Strong

KEEPING AN EYE ON PREVENTION

HALF OF THE 350 CAUSES OF MENTAL RETARDATION ARE PREVENTABLE!

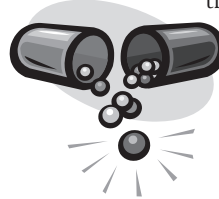
Preparing a Progress Report on Prevention

The New Jersey Office for the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities together with the Governor's Council on Prevention are preparing to present a progress report to Acting Governor Richard Codey and the state legislature on June 10. It's been 20 years since these agencies published their first report: *Programs to Prevent Mental Retardation in New Jersey*. Says Fred Patterson, chair of the Governor's Council, "We are the only state that has a

Governor's Council on Prevention and an annual appropriation that supports ongoing initiatives, such as a three-year public education program."

Members of the state Office and Governor's Council have documented dramatic accomplishments resulting from their efforts.

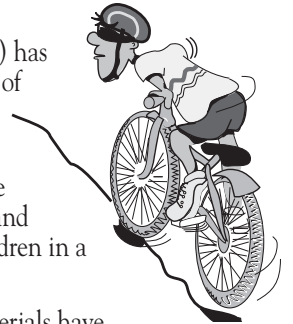
- While lead poisoning persists in impairing children's health, development, behavior and learning, today, it rarely causes death and mental retardation.
- A \$450,000 appropriation and new state programs have reduced the number of children affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol.



• Educational materials have alerted physicians and women that taking folic acid before and during pregnancy helps prevent neural tube defects.

- The screening technology for identifying newborns at risk of mental retardation due to genetic abnormalities has been greatly expanded and improved.

For more information on the state's progress with prevention, visit <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/OPMRDD/offp.html>.

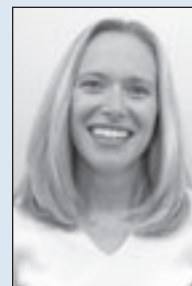


Fred Patterson Is Reappointed To State Council



Congratulations to Fred Patterson on his recent reappointment to his second three-year term on the NJ Governor's Council on Traumatic Brain Injury.

Lisa Dudzik Is Honored



At the 17th annual Volunteer Recognition Night awards dinner in Basking Ridge on Nov. 11, The Arc of Somerset County honored Lisa Dudzik as Community Volunteer of the Year. Lisa served on the Arc Angel and the Tea with Honey committees and raised \$150,000 to help underwrite programs at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center. Accepting her award with gracious modesty, Lisa praised her fellow volunteers and family for their support.



J&J's Northeast Region Awards Carol Geary

Johnson & Johnson's Northeast Region honored Carol Geary with its 2004 Volunteer Recognition Grant Award for her years of volunteer work. The accompanying grant of \$7,500 goes to The Arc of Somerset County, where Carol is board president.

Congratulations to Carol, and thank you for making this award possible!

The Arc of Somerset County Receives \$17,000 Gift

The Arc of Somerset County was one of six local charities to receive gifts totaling \$102,000 from SJP Properties, Johnson & Johnson, and the Somerset County United Way. Other

recipients include Matheny School and Hospital, the Midland School, the Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center, the Somerset Hills Learning Institute, and United Way's Community Care Fund.



Accepting the gift at a reception held at the Matheny Medical and Educational Center in Peapack on November 9 are, left to right, parent Carlene Bravo with son Joshua, Ethicon's director of community and public affairs Sandy Kiser, Arc board chair Carol Geary, Arc executive director Lou Baldino, SJP representative Elaine Pozyski, and Arc Childhood Services director Amy Perrine with Isabella Bravo. Joshua and Isabella receive services at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center.

Cherishing the Memories of Longtime Supporters and Friends

Consumers, volunteers, and staff at The Arc of Somerset celebrate and honor the lives of longtime supporters and friends who died recently and are dearly missed. The dedication and support of these cherished contributors have made this world a better place for more people than they will ever know. It is with heartfelt gratitude that they will always be remembered and loved.

TOM BLOMGREN, past board member and active committeeman instrumental in supporting special projects, died in November. Tom's daughter Amy lives in an Arc residence and his son Britt manages the Occupational Training Center in Branchburg.

MARGIE FIGLIOLINO, who spent years working diligently on the Arc Angel Committee and organized the first Step Up for the Arc walkathon, died in August.

OLIVER MILLER passed away in September. His wife Frieda has served as an Arc board member for many years, and his daughter Frieda lives in an Arc residence.

JOHN O'MALLEY passed away in November. His son, Brian O'Malley, is an Arc spokesperson, consumer, and board member.

DONNA SARISKY, admired as The Arc of Somerset County's amiable former receptionist of 16 years, died in October.



Sharon Booker, continued from page 1

AIMING HIGH AND SUCCEEDING

The road to informed choice and community inclusion has been rocky at times. After her heart attack, Sharon was required to attend two years of counseling and to follow a strict diet. Sharon aimed higher by taking a two-year class in independent living. She passed the class, assumed a second job and earned enough money to travel to Virginia from New Jersey to visit her son.

Another two years of self-advocacy won Sharon the right to move into a supervised-living apartment. Overcoming challenges with roommates and her former care agency, Sharon sought advocacy from Michael Metaxotas who helped her become a resident of The Arc of Somerset County.

The Arc community is happy to bestow the Bill Sackter award on Sharon Booker. Congratulations Sharon, and thank you for paving the way for others!

Executive Director, continued from page 1

to close last year's shortfall are no longer available. Once again we will work closely with The Arc of New Jersey and other human service agencies to secure a funding increase. Even if we are successful, the increase will be insufficient to cover rising costs and adequate compensation for our dedicated staff.

Consumers need The Arc, and The Arc needs support from people like you. I hope you will add The Arc of Somerset County to your list of charitable donations at the end of this

year. Your support goes a long way in helping people with developmental disabilities learn to live their dreams.

I wish you happy holidays and a healthy New Year.

Best Regards,

Louis M. Baldino
Executive Director



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

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