



A Message From The Executive Director



As we come to the close of 2015, two words come to mind – Thank you. Our gratitude extends far and wide as we have so many

things to be grateful for.

Our employees, first and foremost, have shown outstanding fortitude, compassion and dedication in their work with those we serve.

Our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees have partnered with us and our leadership team to provide guidance and resources that have enhanced our work, strengthened our strategic plan and reinforced our mission and vision for the children and adults with intellectual/ developmental disabilities that we serve.

Our volunteers have outdone themselves this year as over 350 volunteers supported 17 separate projects and donated over \$35,000.00 towards program and facilities upgrades. It was volunteers that started The Arc movement and volunteers continue to be a vital source of support for our work.

Our donors have contributed vital sources of funding and in kind donations that have helped to sustain and grow our programs and provide financial support to families who have limited means to access services.

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The Arc of Somerset County Celebrates a New Partnership with Raritan Valley Community College

HERALD

Celebrating More Than 40 Years of Service

The Arc of Somerset County Receives the 2015 Somerset County Disability Advocate Award



The Arc of Somerset County's Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF) was awarded the 2015 Somerset County Disability Advocate Award by the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services on Tuesday evening, November 24th at the Freeholder's Meeting in Somerville New Jersey.

The honor was in recognition for "Outstanding Service" demonstrating significant impact in meeting the needs of Somerset County citizens with disabilities and also for making a commitment to promote positive awareness to the needs of Somerset County citizens with disabilities.

"The success of JDCCF lies mainly with the dedicated, knowledgeable and talented group of staff who provide a broad range of supports to the individuals served", stated Michelle McMahon, Associate Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County. JDCCF provides special education; therapeutic programs and child care to children with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities ranging from 2 month to 6 years of age and remains the only developmental daycare/ preschool in and around Somerset County.

"The Arc of Somerset is proud to recognize the staff at The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families who have made commitment to providing quality care and making a difference in the lives of children with disabilities", stated Lauren Panarella, Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County.

For more information about The Arc of Somerset County and The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, please visit www.thearcofsomerset.org or call 908-725-8544.

The Arc of Somerset County Hires New Associate Executive Director



The Arc of Somerset County is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Associate Executive Director, Michelle McMahon effective September 28th 2015.

Mrs. McMahon has over 20 years experience working with individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities as well as with those who experience mental health and psychiatric conditions.

Most recently, Michelle has worked as the Director of Programs at Hudson Milestones and as The Director of Quality and Supports Services at Community Options. She is well versed in the operations of DDD, DCF, Early Intervention, Pre-school, Day Care,

Mental Health and other relevant service systems. In addition, Michelle sits on the NJ Foundation for the Blind Board of Directors and is a member of their Strategic Planning Committee.

Michelle earned her Bachelor's degree from Montclair State University & The University of Birmingham, England and earned her Master's degree in Psychology from Montclair State University.

Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County, Lauren Panarella states; "Michelle brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience regarding individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. She will be a great asset to The Arc of Somerset County and the families we serve as we move into the future."

Michelle will have direct oversight and responsibility for all of The Arc of Somerset County's service programs including: The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, PACT (Parents and Children Together), Camp Jotoni, Residential Services, Employment Services and Clinical Services.

Michelle is passionate about the mission of The Arc of Somerset County, and hopes to enhance its efforts to provide quality services and advocacy for the individuals it serves.

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.

The Arc Board of Directors:

President.....Tim McKeown
Vice President Debra Albanese
TreasurerStefanie Irwin
Secretary Jay Reyes
Immediate Past President..... Ron Slahetka

The Arc acknowledges members of the Board of Directors

The Arc Board Members:

Charley Huck Danielle La Rochelle
Bill Mackay Daryle Peterson
Michael Stefani

Executive Staff:

Executive Director Lauren Panarella
Associate Executive Director
.....Michelle McMahon

Department Directors:

Camp Jotoni.....Josh Burke
Children & Family Services..... Jen Orlick
Clinical Services.....Sharon McClellan
Employment Services.....Gary Kummer
Finance.....Jonedel Pangan
Foundation Development & PR
..... LisaMarie Arieno
Human ResourcesChristina Faraone
Information Technology.....Lance Flooden
Maintenance and Safety..... Jason Scheib
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
.....Jeanne Guarnieri
Quality Lisa Intili
Residential Services.....Stella Ecep

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45 South Main Street
P.O. Box 903
Far Hills, NJ 07931
Ph. 908-658-3805
www.thearcofsomerset.org

Arc Celebrates the Fall and Holiday Season with Friends in Our Community

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 groups for their contributions toward a festive season at The Arc:

- On Wednesday Nov. 4th, over 200 attendees gathered for the 3rd Annual Monster MASHUP event held at the VFW of Manville. The MASHUP, a collaboration of the Clinical Services and Maintenance, Safety & Security Department featured a night of fun, fright, and ghoulishly good times that included a Halloween costume contest, prize giveaways, photo booth sessions, dancing, dinner, and dessert. Many photos were taken with friends, staff, and with Sparkee the official mascot of the Somerset Patriots baseball team. *Special thanks to VFW of Manville, Frank's Pizza & Restaurant of Manville, Mitzen Photography of Somerset, The Somerset Patriots, Herr's Chips of Somerset, The Arc Finance Department and St. Joseph's Church of Hillsborough for their generous contributions.*
- The Lion's Club of Warren for coordinating the Thanksgiving basket-drive for close to 100 Arc families and group homes. We are truly thankful for this drive that is conducted annually by the Lions.
- The United Way of Northern New Jersey for including those served by The Arc of Somerset County 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. Santa came on the morning of December 22nd to surprise the children at The Jerry Davis Center and to distribute these gifts to each child at the center.
- The Courier News for featuring several stories about Arc consumers and families in their 2015 Wish Book.
- Saint Joseph's Parish Community and The Westfield School of Dance for their holiday children's ballet held on Saturday, December 19th which benefitted to The Arc of Somerset County.
- Henkel Corporation's B-Now group celebrated the holidays for the fourth consecutive year with the residents at Commons Apartments by hosting a pizza and cookie decorating party along with Santa stopping by bringing gifts for all on Thursday December 10th
- The Kiwanis Club of Somerset Hills hosted a holiday pizza and cupcake party at The Warren Group Home on Friday, December 11th.
- L'Oreal's Franklin Manufacturing Plant adopted three families from The Arc's PACT Program (Parents and Children Together), daycare and early intervention program on Wednesday, December 23rd and gave Christmas gifts to their children, gifts cards to local retailers to the parents.
- 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.



The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Hosts Cocktail Reception for Camp Jotoni's Capital Campaign

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County hosted an official kick-off cocktail and presentation event to unveil plans for Camp Jotoni's Capital Campaign. The event was held at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club with approximately 100 guests who attended the kick-off event.

"The expansion of our services and property upgrades for Camp Jotoni is due to the need of those we serve who may have more complex disabilities", states Lauren Panarella, Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County. "In order to meet the changing needs of those we serve and our facilities, we have created a revitalization plan. This plan, developed in conjunction with several local professionals, will help the camp to continue their mission to serve the families of Somerset County. The goal is to create more accessible and functional facilities and grounds to ensure our services can continue to be offered to individuals regardless of the nature and complexity of their disabilities and to allow for expanded program opportunities".

"The capital campaign will have several phases that will be rolled out over the next several years, states Lisa Marie Arieno, Director of Foundation Development for The Arc Foundation of Somerset County. "We will be outreaching to local and surrounding communities of Somerset County and various supporting partners to join us in the discussion about our revitalization efforts to increase accessibility for all campers and create facilities that will allow for expanded service offerings.

If you would like a personal meeting and short presentation of the architectural plans for Camp Jotoni's renovation project, please contact Lisa Marie Arieno, at 908-658-3805 or email at lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org

If you are interested in donating toward the Capital Campaign for naming possibilities with a major gift, a one-time donation or annual pledges, please call Lisa Marie or send your check to
The Arc Foundation of Somerset County,
45 Route 202 South, P.O. Box 903, Far Hills, NJ 07931
Att: Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign



Message, continued from page 1

Corporations, Foundations, Families and individuals have generously donated to The Arc which in turn allows us to provide the outstanding services that we are currently offering.

As with previous years, we have faced many challenging situations this year and in particular we have worked closely with family and friends as we helped to provide end of life care support to several of our friends this year. Although sad, these experiences have taught us the value of family and the need to continue to grow and change as the needs of those we serve change.

2015 brought several key achievements to our agency that we are very proud of including:

- Movement of The Arc Foundation of Somerset to a new office in Far Hills, NJ
- Launching of the Capital Campaign for Camp Jotoni
- Successful start with systems change towards Fee for Service
- The roll out of our new college program – "The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College"

Our achievements have far outweighed our challenges and our entire workforce has worked together to create some extraordinary opportunities for The Arc and those with disabilities we serve. As we move into 2016 – I know our mission and vision for those we serve will continue to drive our work and together we will achieve even more.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year. Regardless of your affiliation to The Arc, please know that you are valued contributor and an important part of our current and future successes.

Thank you,

Lauren Panarella

"The Arc Hosts Successful Gala Celebrating A New Partnership"



The Arc of Somerset County celebrated their annual gala at The Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren Township on Friday, November 13, **"A Celebration of New Partnerships"** as they honored the President of Raritan Valley Community College, Dr. Michael McDonough for his partnership with The Arc of Somerset County in their recent collaboration and pilot program of **"The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College"**.

"The Achievement Center", which piloted in September of 2015 is a transitional post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities which provides young students with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in a college experience at Raritan Valley Community College while receiving additional support from The Arc, allowing them to have a fully integrated college experience.

Since September, The Achievement center has rolled out the pilot program with students from both Hunterdon and Somerset Counties.

The event was emceed for the eighth year by Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and over 180 guests were there to celebrate this new partnership.

Each year, The Arc of Somerset County also honors high school students from the county who dedicate their high school experience volunteering for other students with special needs.

This year, three students were selected to receive the **"Angels Among Us"** award from Rutgers Preparatory School. Kaelyn Patel, Daniel Schantz and Julia Lombardo were honored for their role in "Tend to A Friend" club, a non-profit organization created by former Rutgers Prep Students, Dylan and Austin Ritter which support the inclusion of children with special needs in activities within the community. The chosen recipients from Rutgers Prep were selected for their role in leading "Kid's Night Out", a monthly evening event that offers respite to parents in Somerset County who are raising young children with disabilities.



Partnership with Raritan Valley Community College"

Two other students, Barbara Kania of Somerville High School and Jillian Haggard of Ridge High School were also honored for their role as a mentor and life skills builder for students with special needs.

"It is both an honor and a privilege to have the partnership and support of so many dedicated community members" stated Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "The Arc of Somerset County is truly grateful to our partners and all that they bring to our communities"

This event would not have been possible without the efforts of the Volunteer Arc Angel Committee. Thank you, Carol Fanning, Kristin Lees, Carol Penn, Ann Silwanowicz, Carol Simonse, Barbara Vanderberg, Sue Vanderoef, Micheala Mangini and Jennifer Minervino.



Arc Grant Achievements in Qtr 3 & 4 2015:

We are proud to recognize the following grant achievements this fall for The Arc of Somerset County:

- Henkel of America, Inc. awarded \$5,000 for the respite recreation room at our Camplain Road ATC.
- Qualcomm Foundation awarded \$10,000 to replace the cafeteria floor at Branchburg ATC/OTC.
- Magyar Bank Charitable Foundation awarded \$1,000 for The Jerry Davis Center daycare scholarships.
- Vincent and Sonia Canterelli Charitable Fund of Princeton Area Community Foundation awarded The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families \$5,000 for a new shade structure for the daycare outdoor classroom.

Arc of Somerset Donations in Qtr 3 & 4:

- NJ State Council Knights of Columbus Gift is from St. Damien Council # 6575 located in Stirling, St. Jude Council # 6573, Gift from St. John Basilone Council # 13264 of Raritan, to The Arc of Somerset County
- Mr. Tony Petrella, toward the Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign
- Mr. Tony Petrella, toward The Arc Foundation of Somerset County
- Mr. & Mrs. Richart, toward The Arc Foundation of Somerset County
- Spooky Brook Ladies Golf League, for Camp Jotoni Camperships
- Green Knoll Ladies Golf League, for Camp Jotoni Camperships
- Viking Pest Control to The Arc of Somerset County

Volunteers Brighten The Arc

Companies from local community shared their time, talent, and supplies during the fall of 2015 to spruce up Arc group homes and Camp Jotoni.



November 2: stained a deck that spans 3 sides of the house at Old Stirling Group Home



October 16: Volunteers from **Janssen Pharmaceuticals** came to Camp Jotoni for winterization projects to help us close camp for the winter.

Johnson & Johnson Information Technology team performed several group volunteer projects in November:



November 5: yard cleanup, painting soffits, dining room, living room at Ardsley Group Home.

November 10: painted and cleaned the yard at the Respite Group Home.

November 13: removed old shrubs and planted new ones along with several painting upgrades at Griggstown Group Home.

November 15: **St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church of Millstone** painted the bathrooms and kitchen at Jill Court Adult Training Center.

November 24: **Withum Smith Brown of Morristown** painted the bathroom, kitchen & den, performed landscaping and deck staining at Warren Group Home.



For additional information about scheduling a volunteer project for your organization, team or group, contact Laura Ziegler at 908-658-3805 or via email at lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org.

The Supportive Living Program Continues to Make Strides in Independent Living

The Supportive Living Program continues to make huge strides in supporting the individuals they serve, promoting their independence in the community. One individual served, Brian, has received outstanding support from his program staff, Sakree and Trenice, and their dedication to him has made a true impact on his life. Brian's daily challenge of keeping his apartment, organized and clutter free has been an ongoing concern for Brian. His staff used patience and gentle guidance to help him achieve his goal for his apartment. Brian's staff fostered the development of a trusting therapeutic relationship, which has resulted in Brian allowing them into his life. Over the last 6 months, Brian decided that he wanted to relocate. He had been living in his prior apartment for over 20 years. Though this place was home, Brian wanted to try to live in a new location. With the support of Sakree and Trenice, Brian was able to find a new apartment that would meet his needs and still feel like home. The staff have worked beyond the call of duty assuring that his move (which is a very stressful event) was as easy as possible and have they worn many hats as advocates, counselors, confidants to name just a few. They have worked on Brian's behalf to assure his Section 8 rental subsidy has been transferred properly and his new apartment is up to the NJ DDD licensing standards. They have done their best to assure this process is as seamless as possible and as least stressful as possible. Brian will be in his new apartment before the holidays and he is very excited to plan a house warming party to invite his friends and staff over to see his new home.



Did you know....

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County will work with you on planned giving deferred gifts for our agency?

Planned Giving is a gift a person decides to give at some future date

or at the time of their death. Donors make planned gifts to charities to help ensure that the programs and services of a favorite charity continue to benefit others. Consult your attorney or tax advisor if you wish to explore your

options on planned giving with The Arc Foundation of Somerset County or contact Lisa Marie Arieno, Director of Foundation Development at 908-658-3805 or email: lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org

2015 Annual Appeal

Please show your support by contributing to the 2015 Annual Appeal to help provide funding for the following programs at The Arc:

Option 1. Our need for increased subsidies for our preschool/daycare program at The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families will help us remove the financial barriers to quality childcare while providing comprehensive services to children with disabilities.

Option 2. For the adults that we serve, an Adult Recreational Fund has been established. It is imperative that we continue support the health and wellness to our Arc adult population as they age. This funding will increase opportunities for exercise, recreation, and community interaction.

What YOU can do:

Make a donation through our easy, secure giving page at <http://www.thearcofsomerset.org/donate/edonate.html>

Or

Send a check to: The Arc of Somerset County, 141 South Main St., Manville, NJ 08835.

Please reference **Annual Appeal** and select which fund you wish to donate to for The Arc of Somerset County - **Option 1 or Option 2.**



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



**Somerset County
United Way**

Affiliated Agency

The Arc of Somerset County is a
501(c)(3) organization.

Achieve with us.

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Save the Date

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The Arc continues to lead the way in promoting awareness of the strengths and achievements of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), the power of The Arc movement is all around us as people with autism, cerebral palsy and other disabilities blaze new trails.

As people with I/DD across the nation become increasingly visible in our daily lives, The Arc strives to build more welcoming communities through education and outreach. We hope you will join us this March as we celebrate the lives of people with I/DD. For more information, please visit <http://www.thearc.org/what-we-do/resources/toolkits/dd-awareness>

Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run

This year's event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 4 that Duke Island Park in Bridgewater. This date will be confirmed in mid January. Visit our website for more information or to sign up as a runner or walker.

T-shirt sponsorship opportunities are currently available.

Questions? Contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-658-3805 or via email at lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org

Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Ceremony

The Arc will honor its volunteers, staff, consumers, supporters, and community partners in June. Our official date and location is to be announced at the end of January. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-725-8544 X 610 for additional information.