

The Arc of Somerset County 2021/2022 Annual Report

Board of Directors Directory

July 2021 – June 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Michael Stefani

Sr. Vice President

IronRidge Wealth Management Group, Basking
Ridge NJ

Vice President Donna Pasek

Vice President, Human Resources, Amarin Corp

Treasurer, Mark McDonough

Senior Vice-President and Treasurer, Merck & Co.,
Inc. (Retired)

Secretary, Christopher Korenowsky

Director of Public Services, Somerset County
Library System of NJ

Board of Directors Directory

July 2021 – June 2022

BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Applegate

Sharon Booker

Daryle Peterson

Ron Slahetka

Sandra Lynch

Diann Robinson

John R. Zajac, Attorney

Adult Services

2020-2021 brought us challenges...

*Creativity within our agency staff
and adults we serve...*

*Virtual engagement with
our local community...*

*2020-2021 brought us hope
that led to successes and gratitude...*



Adult Services

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Adult Services Department of The Arc of Somerset County immediately began implementing creative and innovative approaches in order to resume and maintain any level of normalcy and access for individuals, staff, friends/families and community partners. Crucially, focus on opportunities for engagement in activities, promotion of physical and mental health outlets and education as well as opportunities for connections with others – usually virtually - took priority. This effort and its success would not have been possible without the commitment of our consumers and community to embrace this new challenge and adapt to new ways of interacting.

Staff persons at all levels, community members and Occupational Therapy students from a variety of academic programs assisted with the development and implementation of virtual programming in addition to documenting these endeavors for national and state sponsored publications.

Systems were put in place as early as end of March 2020 for hands-on activities to be brought to all of the programs so that people could keep as active as possible to include bingo cards/manipulative activity books, art and craft supplies, games, PPE and safety education. The quarterly newsletter “The Buzz” ramped up publication to maintain document of these events, create a new record of consumer connections even at a distance and empower The Arc community by reflecting back the resilience of service recipients, friends and family.

Our much loved talent and art shows were able to resume within the virtual platform and Day Habilitation staff coordinated drive-by waves to individuals in their homes, provision of activities that would then be collaboratively completed virtually and of course, items corresponding to the many holidays spent in our “bubbles”.

While this time has certainly been challenging, the opportunities for resilience through creative and innovative approaches have been many. Adult Services looks forward to maintaining many of the initiatives created this past year out of necessity and expanding their scope alongside our consumers

**Karen Z. Kowalski, MPH, OTR
Director of Adult Services**

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families and Parents and Children Together



Jill Glassman, MSW
Director of Children's Services

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. Throughout the lock-down, virtual programming 1-2 days of the week during the mid March—June time frame 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.

The Parents And Children Together (PACT) program operates in the community and in service family homes working alongside service recipients to access services, supports and health outcomes. The program had to quickly pivot to provide access to safety net items including initially hard to come by items such as non perishable food in bulk, hygiene, cleaning and PPE supplies. Equally important, working as a source of reliable information and COVID-19 education became a daily function as we assisted families navigate this new way of life managing most things virtually, from doctor's appointments to schooling. PACT later worked with families to leave their homes safely again and begin to enjoy the activities they missed.



Jeannette McClew
Director of PACT

Finance

Financial Services focused on securing funding to ensure the agency and our programs had the resources needed to manage the prevention of the spread of COVID-19:

- **Completed our FY 2020 AUDIT – on time. The audit resulted in a Clean (Unqualified) Report; No Findings on either Compliance or Internal Control; No Management Comments and no questioned costs**
- **Successfully maintaining The Arc's cash flow and solvency during pandemic/crisis**
- **Increased agency operating cash reserves to allow for any unexpected costs during the pandemic**
- **Used virtual communications/meetings to provide more frequent financial updates to program directors and Finance Committee and Board**
- **Developed an updated monthly financial reporting package, with review and approval by our Finance Committee**

**Edward Perez
Director of Finance**



Human Resources

The Human Resources department was a key resource for our employees during the pandemic. They not only modified their practices and created virtual opportunities to engage with employees, but they took an individualized approach in addressing the many, many needs (personal and professional) needs of our employees.

1) Virtual On boarding and Training

Applicants are screened, interviewed and on boarded virtually Training was converted to online version. Multiple in person session were conducted to do in person training to keep staff socially distant.

2) Covid-19 Cases

Personal phone calls with guidance to staff with Covid-19 positive circumstances. Guiding staff to make sure that they are safe to return to workplace. Addressing staff questions about the Covid-19 laws such as FFCRA and guiding employees on how can they get benefits, unemployment benefits or NJ family leave. Communicating with staff and assisting programs during staffing shortage .We built a culture of connection through check-ins.

3) Staff recognition

DSPs were recognized and given incentives like Bonus, Bonus PTOs, and Quarantining at Program incentives etc. We offered all flexibility to staff for their individual situation they were handling. We were accommodating and inclusive. We modified our policies and practices to fit the need of the situation. We understood employees' needs, preferences, and circumstances when it came to work arrangements, employees felt it provided the individualized support they needed to help them accomplish work goals.

**Moni Joshi. PHR.SHRM, -CP
Director of Human Resources**



Clinical Services

Throughout 2020 The Arc of Somerset County Nurses and Support Specialists continued to provide daily service. Our electronic health record system was scanned each shift to look for changes in consumer health, coordinate care with physicians and advocate with local hospitals during a challenging many months.

- **Specialists worked directly in programs becoming part of a home “bubble” to engage residents and support staffing.**
- **Virtually, socially distant outside and otherwise all department services including training, behavioral support, medical support and "Stressbusters"! went uninterrupted; a credit to the resilience of our consumers and staff who worked in creative ways to make intimate and sometimes challenging conversations possible despite our distance.**
- **In 2022 we look forward to advancements in clinical care through continuing medical care committee meetings initiated by department leadership in response to our shared health emergency and continued commitment to consumers.**

Sharon McClellan, LSW
Director of Clinical Services



Camp Jotoni

2020 Camp season was largely suspended. Summer camp and the possibility of respite weekends before and after were not possible. The Arc of Somerset County's Camp Jotoni has a big audience of campers and families and so we quickly tried to maintain connections – virtually. From this - we created CAMP remote-Toni up and running.

Camp leadership and camper families came together for a multi week virtual summer program with meeting times and its own newsletter to ensure an ongoing important message: Camp Jotoni is still here, it has two new cabins that will be ready post COVID-19 and we will continue to try and reach our camp family no matter the circumstance.

We are so grateful to those who participated and stayed connected with us.

In Home respite Programming thrived in 2020 serving nearly 280 individuals throughout the year assisting them to hire or maintain a personal respite provider in their home. Maintenance of this service was crucial as Saturday respite and other options lessened. The personal resilience of those many families and quick transition to remote administration for the program meant actually expanded service in 2020. We again are thankful and look forward to increased service in the coming year.

Josh Burke, Director of Camp Jotoni



The Arc Foundation of Somerset County

The resiliency of our agency; both our employees and children/ adults served was nothing short of amazing through the 2020 pandemic crisis. The Arc Foundation of Somerset County approached the crisis with the foundation's mission in mind-our dedication to enhancing the quality of life and expanding programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the procurement of grants, fundraising, awareness, education, and public relations activities.

Many of the Foundations typical activities were put on hold and we used our imagination to develop new ways to support the programs and service recipients at The Arc of Somerset County.

Calls to The Arc of Somerset County's community of social media followers to help with donations of craft supplies, books, games, DVD's and table activities that would keep our group home residents engaged at home as their normal routine of going to a day program or work had been suspended. We received enough donations to distribute many months worth of activities to ALL of our residential homes and our childcare center.

Next, we reached out to our community partners and venues that we have used for fundraising events in the past. In addition The Arc Foundation put out a call to local civic organizations to help us with weekly meal preparations for each of our group homes so that there was more time for our staff to focus on the safety and well being of our folks at home. This outreach resulted in 10 weeks of nutrition and hot prepared meals from these partners, especially the Watchung Elks Lodge #885.

Finally, we put out a call to action to our constituents for donations to help offset the cost of Personal Protective Equipment and supplies that were in short supplies. Our call to action was heard and we received both financial and in-kind donations as well as grants which were gratefully accepted to help ensure adequate supplies for our employees and our service population.

Lisa Marie Arieno

Director of The Arc Foundation of Somerset County & Public Relations

The Achievement Center

THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTER (TAC), in partnership with Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) continued its growth this year despite COVID-19—serving 71 students during the past Academic calendar year (2021-2022) through our post secondary education classes, Club Friday Night Hangout, High School Transition classes, and Academic Support (College Management and Peer Mentoring). We have been so impressed with the resilience and attentiveness of our students and families who matched our speed in transitioning to virtual and hybrid classes and myriad safety protocols including distanced desks, mask and shield use as well as daily screenings. We were pleased to offer all classes as planned with no interruption.

This year saw 22 students taking traditionally offered RVCC college classes, and 12 students pursuing either an Associate Degree, or Certification in such academic pursuits as Art, Business Management, Computer Support, Early Childhood Education, Fitness, Literature and Writing, and Theater Arts. To our students, 2020 graduates, Club Friday Night Hangout Social Skills Group, families and campus colleagues we say thank you for your tenacity this past year. We look forward to Summer and Fall 2021!

**Bob Hulit
The Achievement Center
Curriculum Coordinator**



Information Technology

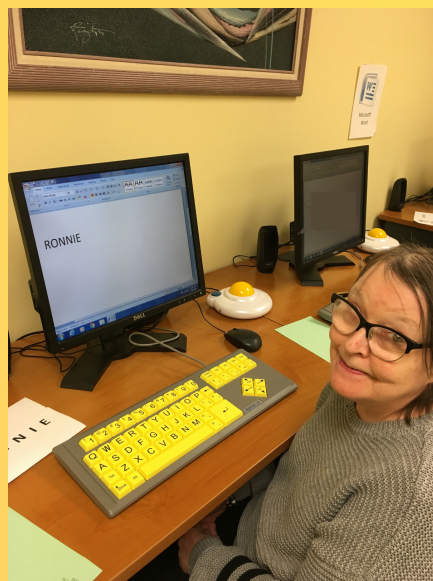
During the Pandemic, the IT department played a major role in keeping our agency running and functioning as normally as possible.

Many of our services turned to “virtual” modalities, and the IT department quickly secured the technology to do this. We were able to purchase several ZOOM memberships and cameras for virtual day program activities. The department also upgraded our hardware and software to ensure we could make use of this new virtual technology. In addition, the IT department supported our consumers as they purchased ipads and other devices to allow for continued contact with family members and participate in our virtual programming.

The IT department also provided employees with the ability to work from home, as needed. This allowed for our full complement of employees and departments to continue to function at a high level, despite the need to quarantine or stay home with children learning remotely.

Finally, the IT department helped to enhance the safety and security of our administrative office, by installing doorbell cameras and the related software, so that we could monitor visitors to the office and ensure proper safety measures were observed.

Lance Floden, IT Director



Maintenance

During the pandemic, we refocused on outdoor work and concentrated on priorities in the following areas:

- **Bathroom Painting and Rehab at Jill Ct & Camplain Rd day programs.**
- **Outdoor projects: Steinmetz GH deck board replacement, Cedar Grove Group home Shed roof replacement and fence replacement, Respite Group Home shed roof replacement.**
- **Claremont Group Home ramp painting. Ardsley Group Home Front & Rear ramp staining. Old Stirling Deck & ramp painting. Griggstown Group Home Fence repair. Soil erosion projects at many programs.**
- **Driveway repairs (asphalt replacement & crack filling) at Commons, Old Stirling Group Home, Steinmetz Group home and Union Ave. apartments.**
- **Director, Jason Scheib participated in a regular “Lets Talk Sports” ZOOM program for our Adults.**

**Jason Scheib
Director of Thank You Video From
The Arc of Somerset County
Maintenance Services**

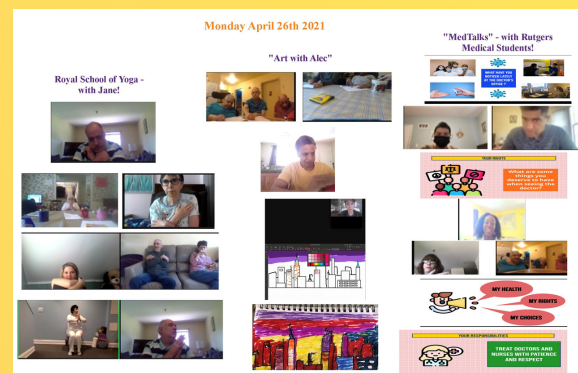


Program Grants

Through the procurement of grants from private foundations and Corporate giving programs and other sources, The Arc Foundation has been able to provide nearly \$200,000 in support to The Arc of Somerset Counties programs.

These grants include:

- Funding for Health and Wellness initiatives for our Adult Residents and Day Program attendees
- Student Tuition Assistance for the Children who attend The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families
- Increased health education and access to community medical resources for our Parents and Children Together (PACT) families
- Supplemental technology for our residential programs and residents to facilitate virtual programs, activities and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Camper scholarships for Camp Jotoni attendees to remove any financial barriers to our summer camp program



Volunteerism and Donated Supports

Community Partners...

We thank our community of supporters who are there to help in service through volunteering their time and talent to enhancing our group homes and programs over the years.

Corporate Partners...

We recognize our corporate community through annual awards and recognition programs held annually. We honor their commitment and loyalty to The Arc of Somerset County's mission.

Somerset County Partners...

We are grateful for true partners within Somerset County for lending a hand when needed, and for offering our service recipients a chance in their community to achieve success.

Our volunteers provide the time and offer us the resources needed to help us focus on quality programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Somerset County.

Volunteering efforts included:

**Outdoor beautification of our group homes and program centers including the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families
Companion days with our adults
Holiday celebrations and virtual zoom programs**



Fundraising Events & Campaigns

"Step Up for the Arc Annual 5K and Walk Event" Held Every Spring is an opportunity for our corporate and community partners to show their support of those we serve and a chance to interact and celebrate one another in-person and virtually.



For over 45 years, our annual "Arc Angel Gala" which takes place each fall has celebrated those we serve, their families and Angels within our local community who support and advocate for those living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Launched in 2018- The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Board of Trustees and Campaign Committee began the annual "Clubs for Cabins" Golf Outing which helped raise significant restricted funding for the renovation of Camp Jotoni's Capital Campaign Project.



The need to renovate our special needs camp has been an ongoing effort since 2014.



Camp Jotoni provides special needs camp and respite services to children and adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as other complex disabilities. Camp Jotoni's registrations have increased in the last 3 years with enrollment of over 350 campers.

Capital Campaign and Legacy Program

Launched in 2014- The Arc Foundation of Somerset County, Board of Trustees and the annual "Clubs for Cabins" Golf Outing Golf Committee helped outreach this campaign from the ground up raising significant restricted funding for the renovation of Camp Jotoni Cabins through the following:

\$595,050 Planned Gifts Received

\$193,525 Golf Outings

\$108,808 Memorials

\$106,267 Misc. Donations

\$34,000 Grants

\$26,268 Crowd Funding via social media

\$10,275 Pledges

\$4,051 Annual Appeal Fund

The campaign has continued with the second phase of a goal toward raising \$800K to complete Cabins 3 & 4 before the 2022 camp season.

WHY a capital campaign for Camp Jotoni?

- Increased respite services and frequency (year round)**
- Increased number of individuals served (by 50%)**
- Increased opportunities for creative/ community programs**

Through partnerships with individuals, foundations and businesses, families will have the newfound chance to experience rejuvenating free time that has eluded them for so long. In the process, our campers will have unfettered access to an enhanced Camp Jotoni that effectively meets every campers needs.

An investment in Camp Jotoni is a hand up to all those families seeking respite from the rigors of caring for a loved one with extensive intellectual or physical limitations. We hope you will join us in investing in our campers, our families and our future.

Thank You From The Arc of Somerset County



Administrative Office

141 South Main Street Manville, NJ 08835

Phone Number: 908-725-8544

The Arc Foundation Foundation

45 US Route 202 South, Far Hills, NJ 07931

Phone Number: 908-658-3805

<https://www.thearcofsomerset.org>