



SPECIAL EDITION

HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE
Executive Director

Lauren Panarella

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our business partners, donors and volunteers, Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) represents a banner year for The Arc of Somerset County, despite the unprecedented economic recession. During Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010), we need your continued support to ensure that individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, and indeed all of Somerset County, benefit from our vital services.

You helped us provide excellent advocacy and services to improve the quality of life for 1,000 families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our advocacy successes this past year have included:

- Support for The Arc of New Jersey's "10 Percent Solution" to ultimately end the waiting list for residential services for people with developmental disabilities. More than 8,000 of these individuals have been on the waiting list for residential services for years. Timing is critical given that parents and caregivers are facing significant challenges of their own regarding health and aging.

See Executive Director on page 9

INSIDE

Advocates Elected
State Leaders
PAGE 3

Residents Win
Special Olympics
PAGE 7

Join Golf Tourney
August 27 to 30
PAGE 14

Clinical Services:
Achieving Highest Well-being

Effective July 1, Support Services changed its name to Clinical Services to reflect the vital nature of assistance this department provides. Clinical Services addresses psychosocial, physical, and life issues through direct observation, assessment, planning, and treatment. On staff are three registered nurses, one of whom is the nursing supervisor, five licensed practical nurses, four support specialists, a chaplain, and the director, who is a social worker. Together, they help individuals reach their highest physical and mental well-being.

To achieve this goal, the Clinical Services' staff monitors the overall health of individuals; supervises the administration of medication; addresses physical and mental health issues; administers general nursing care; serves as a liaison



Mary Atchey and Sharon McClellan at a Clinical Services event.

to community physical and mental healthcare providers; and supplies families with support, information, and referrals. Clinical Services also provides on-call medical advice 24/7; develops guidelines for addressing behavioral issues; designs programs and activities; connects people to faith communities of their choice; and assists individuals who are coping with grief and loss.

Sharon McClellan, MSW, Director of Clinical Services, finds working with people who have intellectual disabilities uplifting. "The field is always forward-moving—you're always learning and growing," she said. "And there is always potential for people to grow."

See "Clinical Services" on page 8

A Message from Edmond A. Brown, President



Edmond A. Brown

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

As we approach the next fiscal year, it is good for us to reflect back on our accomplishments. We set out to be the best place for people to give, the best place for consumers to receive services, and the best place for our employees to work.

This year we managed to receive help from 500 corporate, student, and individual volunteers. We also managed to drum up support from more than 50 community business partners. As I mentioned quite some time ago, we want to be viewed as the best place for donors to invest not only their hard earned money, but also their time.

We made the following headway in our programs:

- Camp Jotoni – In 2008, we provided camp services to more than 200 campers and received accreditation from the American Camp Association.
- Childhood Services – Our Early Intervention Program served 140 families with children. Feedback surveys indicate that we are doing the right things. The Daycare Program received 91 percent satisfaction, The Early Intervention Program, 100 percent, and the Respite Program, 100 percent.
- Employment Services – Our four employment centers provided jobs for more than 250 adults with disabilities, and the department launched a new secure document shredding project.

See President on page 2

The Arc of Somerset County MISSION

The Arc of Somerset County supports persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in realizing their dreams by providing lifelong advocacy and quality services.* We further support efforts towards the prevention of developmental disabilities.

*The word *families* includes all family members, as well as friends, caregivers, guardians, and advocates.

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President's Message, continued from page 1

- PACT (Parents and Children Together) – We helped keep nearly 100 families physically and emotionally healthy, and their children educationally on track through grade 12.
- Residential Services – We enhanced the quality of life for residents at the Franklin, Mobus, and Claremont Group Homes. They received new exterior ramps, which increased accessibility for residents. Some of our locations received new egress doors. We celebrated good health and stressed the importance of sports and recreation. For example, more than 40 athletes earned medals and recognition in the Somerset County Special Olympics.
- Clinical Services – We managed the health-care needs of 300 adults receiving Residential and Employment Services. Additionally, our Chaplain Consultant performed "Celebration

of Life" ceremonies for members of The Arc community who passed away.

Last but not least, we did many great things for our employees. We focused on tough compensation issues, put development programs in place, and filled many key positions. These accomplishments were all centered around improving the quality of those who ultimately receive care.

While we haven't accomplished all that we set out to do this year, we have made progress in the most critical areas and stayed focused on the things that matter most to our constituents. Thank you all for a great year!

Best regards,

Edmond Brown

President

Introducing The New Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families

Family Support Services, directed by Mary Atchey, is now part of the new Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, reporting to Laura Liebel, Director of Children & Family Services. Said Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director, "This reorganization will allow us to centralize information and services for families with children of all ages. Now we can be a more effective resource with a wider variety of options for services statewide."

FURNITURE NEEDED FOR FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

As part of this reorganization, a new Family Support Center will be located at the Manville headquarters. To furnish the Center, we need a living room set (sofa, loveseat, and chairs), large coffee table, end tables, lamps, dinette table with chairs, and five-drawer lateral filing cabinets. If you have furniture to donate, please contact Mary Atchey, Assistant Director of Children & Family Services, at 908-725-8544, ext. 624.

Barbara Cornelius Voted Vice President, New Jersey Statewide Advocacy Network



On May 12, at the first meeting of Council 3 of the New Jersey Statewide Advisory Project, Barbara Cornelius was voted Vice President of the New Jersey Statewide Advocacy

Network. "Evelyn nominated Barbara and she was elected," Karen Stanchak explained. Now, in addition to serving as Treasurer of Advocates for Change and Vice Chairperson of Council 3 of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Project, Barbara sits on the governing board of the Network statewide. "This appointment places Barbara at the forefront of the advocacy movement," Karen said. Way to go, Barbara!

JERRY DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Petting Zoo Mesmerizes Children



izing children from Developmental Daycare, and the Preschool Program were a donkey, sheep, goats, and chickens. “Interacting with the animals was a creative way for children to practice

As part of Western Week, dozens of children were captured on camera by their parents and staff at a Petting Zoo at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF) on June 2. Students in the Early Intervention Program were among those who delighted in petting the rabbit, riding the pony, and quacking with the ducks. Also mesmer-

their communication skills—and to develop their sensory, gross, and fine motor skills,” remarked Laura Liebel, Direc-



tor of Children & Family Services. “For parents, it was a great way to network with each other and become better acquainted with JDCCF, our staff, and our programs.” Later in June, a clown visited JDCCF as part of Carnival Week. Stay tuned to the upcoming issues of the *Herald* for more information.

NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE ADVOCACY PROJECT

Council 3 Elects Evelyn Ramundo, Chairperson and Barbara Cornelius, Vice Chairperson

Evelyn Ramundo was voted Chairperson of Council 3 of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Project, and Barbara Cornelius was voted Vice Chairperson at a luncheon on April 25 at the L’Affaire Fine Catering in Mountainside, New Jersey. Council 3 covers Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset counties. “As soon as the winners were announced, Evelyn and Barbara burst into tears of joy,” recalled Karen Stanchak, Individual Habilitation Program (IHP) Coordinator, choking back her own tears. “I feel like a proud parent.”

Now Evelyn oversees the elections of officers, develops agendas, leads council members in advocacy initiatives, works with staff from the Statewide Self-Advocacy Project, attends meetings with board members and Council representatives, spearheads decision-making, and engages in public speaking. As Vice Chairperson, Barbara fills in for Evelyn when necessary, and attends advisory meetings with or on behalf of the Chairperson.

Prior to the election, candidates from each of the five Councils representing the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Project were required to deliver a speech. Evelyn described her responsibilities as Supervisor of the Day Program at Community Options and as President of Advocates for Change. For her part, Barbara introduced herself as Advocates for Change’s former Secretary and current Treasurer.

The list of accomplishments for the Advocates for Change was long and impressive: Held bake sales, collected donations to support advocacy projects, and sent care packages and holiday cards to soldiers stationed in Iraq; raised funds for members to attend advocacy luncheons and conferences; campaigned to remove the words “idiot” and “insane” from the N.J. Constitution and the word “retard” from all communications; wrote local officials about cuts in Medicare/Medicaid funding, and visited group homes to enlist the support of others.

It is an honor to have two people from The Arc of Somerset County chosen. “Advocates for Change has only 10 members to choose from, whereas other groups have an average of 30 members,” Karen explained.

Karen attributes this honor to the admirable way Advocates for Change have conducted themselves—from setting their own agendas to delivering reports. In addition to Karen, those working behind the scenes to provide Advocates for Change with guidance and support are Suman Paul, Support Specialist, and Karen Sutphen, Group Home Manager. “We look forward to Evelyn and Barbara enjoying a wonderful three years in office!” Karen enthused. To learn more about Advocates for Change, please visit the YouTube link on our Web site at www.thearcofsomerset.org.

Michael Thomas Receives NJACP STARS Award

On May 11, Michael Thomas received the 2009 STARS Award from the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) at an awards ceremony at the Forrestal Marriott in Princeton. In accepting his award, Michael grinned widely and flashed the audience a thumbs up sign. "He's a super guy," said Charlotte Hayden, Assistant Director of Employment Services. "He works incredibly hard as a dishwasher at the ShopRite® in Branchburg."



Michael Thomas with his supervisor at Shoprite

Michael joined Employment Services in November 2004 and quickly became one of the star producers working for TRIMLINE Medical Products. "He assembled, on average,

more than 2,500 blood pressure tube-and-connector sets a day—more than twice that of other team members," Charlotte said. Equally important is Michael's attention to accuracy and detail.

Friendly and outgoing, Michael first indicated that he would like to work in the community in March 2006. In August 2006, a position became available at the ShopRite in Branchburg. ShopRite Supervisor Cheryl Bingham wishes all her employees were as focused as Michael. "Michael can complete eight hours of work in just four hours!" she exclaimed.

Good job Michael and Job Coach Jennifer Forsythe.

Danny Stern Nominated for Pathmark® Service Award

Danny Stern, who works in the maintenance department of the Middlesex Pathmark®, was nominated for the company's Service Award for the month of May. Charged with keeping the shelves organized and clean for customers, Danny was happy to be nominated. "He deserves it," said a proud Charlotte Hayden, Assistant Director of Employment Services. "Whenever a new person walks in the room, Danny is always the first to say hello and ask who you are."

Apparently, a customer who had never before been to the Pathmark in Middlesex said Danny went out of his way to help him find a particular item. The customer was so pleased that he went to Danny's supervisor and said he would be sure to shop at the store again.

Congratulations to Danny and Job Coach Alan Sand!

New Ramp Improves Access to Branchburg Facility



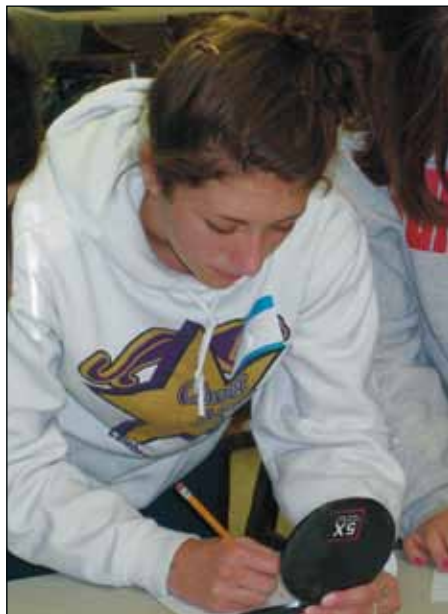
On May 27, Employment Services held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new concrete ramp at the Branchburg Adult Training Center. On hand to celebrate were, left to right, Christopher Corvino, Associate Executive Director, Trina Trent, Assistant Director of Employment Services, Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services, and Ed Eick, Project Coordinator for the Somerset County Community Development Office. The \$39,000 ramp was funded by a Somerset County Community Development Block Grant. Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services, praised Cernara Architect in Hillsborough and Hahr Construction in North Plainfield as "great partners and a pleasure to work with." The new, wider ramp improves safety and accessibility, particularly for those using wheelchairs and making deliveries.

"Service Learning Day" Brings Students To Employment Services

Students from Bernards High School in Bernardsville spent May 29 working at the Branchburg Adult Training Center (ATC) and developing friendships that brought tears of fondness to the eyes of one student as she left later that day. Thirty-seven juniors and seniors and five teachers led by Carolyn Benner spent Service Learning Day with Employment Services to experience the joy of serving others. "We had 8 to 10 juniors returning from the year before," remarked Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services. "These students had an opportunity to spend the day with another organization, but they chose to come back to The Arc of Somerset County."

As part of their sensitivity training, Amy Burns, Assistant Manager of Employment Services, had students button a shirt while wearing oven mitts, fold a towel without using their hands, and perform other exercises that simulate some of the challenges experienced by individuals who have developmental disabilities.

Afterwards students worked side-by-side with Arc members, packing medical supplies for Top Safety Products®, assembling folders for Chubb & Son, Inc., and fulfilling other contract jobs. The smiles and animated buzz reflected a camaraderie that came as naturally as if the students and members had worked together for days.



"Our workers thrive on making new friends," Jim said. "And the students seemed to be having just as much fun."

Service Learning Day ended with a mini-documentary profiling individuals who have disabilities and are successfully employed. During the discussion that followed, one teacher commented on the warmth of workers at the Branchburg ATC. "She was impressed by how open and friendly they are," Jim said.

"As the students were leaving and boarding the bus, a couple of girls wanted to run back and say goodbye to their co-workers," Jim added.

"One girl had tears in her eyes. 'There's a future social worker,'" quipped Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director.

Those who made this memorable exchange possible included Trina Trent, Assistant Director of Employment Services, Cheryl Brantley, Facility Manager, and Britt Blomgren, Contract Sales Manager. "A lot of preparations go into this event, but the rewards are well worth it," Jim noted. "The students give as much as they learn."



Talent Show Spotlights Stars

A Talent Show on May 16 at the Valley Park Adult Training Center drew whoops and cheers from an enthusiastic audience of Arc residents and staff.

"The success of our performers came as no surprise," said Bev Eshbach, Quality Management Coordinator. "We know how talented our residents are. And it was obvious they really practiced."

The following performers are listed, by residence, in alphabetical order.

Cambridge Group Home in Bridgewater: Veronica Cooper sang Jesus Loves Me.

Cedar Grove Group Home in Branchburg: Anthony Raczynski and Raymond Zarish recited Mary Had a Little Lamb.

Claremont Group Home in Franklin Park: Randy Blumers sang the National Anthem.

Commons Apartments in Bridgewater: Billy Coleman performed a comedy skit with a ventriloquist puppet.

Old Stirling Group Home in Warren: Doreen Delaney sang and danced to Upside Down by Diana Ross.

Respite Group Home in Hillsborough: Elizabeth Finnerty recited nursery rhymes.

South Street Apartments in Manville: Barbara Cornelius sang Single Ladies by Beyoncé.

Union Avenue Apartments in Bridgewater: John Ciok sang an Elvis song; Tracy Crockett, Debbie Godshall, and Elvina Grimes sang Why Do Fools Fall in Love; and Clifford Pierre sang Step in the Name of Love by R. Kelly.

Warren Group Home in Warren: Michael Hentosh sang and played the guitar to Drive My Car by the Beatles.

"Everybody really loved it," Bev said. "Arc residents enjoyed performing so much, they asked if they could do it again."

The Talent Show, the second presented this year by the Excursion Club, was first staged in October. In attendance was a representative from Somerset Vo-Tech High School who plans to stage a theatre production starring up to 25 Arc performers with the assistance of high school volunteers and staff from

The Arc of Somerset County. Stay tuned to upcoming issues of the *Herald* for more information.

"It took a lot of people to put this together," said Bev. Working with her to make this production possible were Pam Michael, Recreation Coordinator, Doretha Casey, Manager of Union Avenue 2, Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, and Marcus DeMott, Assistant Director of Residential Services. Bravo to the performers and staff.

Winners of Bowling Competition

In the Exceptional Bowling category of Special Olympics on May 2 at Basilone Field in Bridgewater: Clifford Pierre received three trophies for 3rd place, High Game, and Most Improved Player; Elvina Grimes received two trophies for High Game and 5th place; and Tracey Crockett received a trophy for 5th place.

Said Laura Maliani, Assistant Director of Residential Services, "Participants look forward to Special Olympics all year. Everyone is so proud of themselves that they wear their medals to work for awhile. It's all very exciting."

Sharon Booker: A Team Player Passionate About Training

Sharon Booker of the South Street Apartments in Manville received the Marti Helwig Memorial Scholarship from the Somerset County Special Olympics Board for her dedication to increase proficiency in her sport. Moreover, the board recognized Sharon for being "highly motivated, a team player, and a role model who is helpful to fellow athletes and for having the charisma to get the most out of life." Additionally, Sharon received a \$200 monetary award which she will use to buy luggage to visit her teenage son in Virginia at the end of the year. Congratulations, Sharon!

Congratulations to Special Olympics' Winners

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Special Olympics, beginning with the pre-qualifying games on May 2 at Basiline Field in Bridgewater. Those who placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd went on to compete in the statewide finals June 12-14 at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. The following winners are listed in alphabetical order:

Ardley Group Home in Hillsborough: Patricia Gill (gold medal for softball throw), Evelyn Ramundo (gold medals for softball throw and 50-meter walk) and Elliott Zuckerman (silver medal for softball throw, bronze medal for 25-meter walk, and 6th-place ribbon for 50-meter walk)



Branchburg Group Home in Branchburg: William (Tom) Boney (gold medal for 25-meter walk and ribbon for 50-meter walk)

Cambridge Group Home in Bridgewater: Veronica Cooper (bronze medals for softball throw and 50-meter walk, and 4th-place ribbon for 25-meter walk) and Donna Goble (gold medals for 25-meter-assisted walk and 50-meter-assisted walk, and silver medal for softball throw)

Cedar Grove Group Home in Branchburg: Anthony Raczynski (silver medal for 25-meter walk) and Raymond Zarish (gold medal for 50-meter walk and silver medal for 25-meter walk)

Claremont Group Home in Franklin Park: Steve Bobick (silver medal for 50-meter walk and bronze medal for 100-meter walk) and Larry Feano (4th-place ribbon for softball throw and silver medal for 50-meter walk)

Commons Apartments in Bridgewater: Amy Blomgren (bronze medal for 25-meter walk and silver medal for 50-meter walk), Burton Felice (bronze medal for 50-meter walk and ribbon for 100-meter walk), and Kyle Mueller (gold medal for 25-meter walk, silver medal for 50-meter walk, and ribbon for softball throw)

Franklin Group Home in Franklin: Paul Bisson (silver medal for 100-meter walk), Roland Petrella (bronze medal for 100-meter dash), and Scott Scalise (gold medal for 100-meter dash and bronze medal for softball throw)

Griggstown Group Home in Griggstown: Donald Belcher (4th-place ribbon for softball throw and silver medal for 50-meter walk), Joe Owsik (gold medals for 50-meter and 100-meter walk), and Charlie Souder (gold medal for 50-meter walk and bronze medal for 100-meter walk)

Mobus Group Home in North Plainfield: Donna McHugh (gold medal for softball throw)

Old Stirling Group Home in Warren: Doreen Delaney (silver medal for softball throw), Judith Jenson (silver medal for softball throw), Donald Kirsch (silver medal for softball throw), Wills Louis (gold medal for softball throw), David McMahon (silver medal for softball throw), and Annie Wilson (silver medal for softball throw)

South Street Apartments in Manville: Barbara Blair (gold medal for 25-meter walk and silver medal for 50-meter walk), Sharon Booker (silver medals for 100-meter walk and 50-meter walk, and recipient of the Marti Helwig Memorial Scholarship [See Sharon Booker: A Team Player Passionate About Training on page 6]), Robert Burgess (gold medals for 50-meter walk and softball throw, and silver medal for 100-meter walk), Barbara Cornelius (silver medal for 50-meter walk and bronze medal for 100-meter walk), and RoseMary Daily (bronze medal for 50-meter walk and 5th-place ribbon for 100-meter walk)

Stevens Lane Group Home in Martinsville: Lori Ellis (bronze medal for 25-meter walk) and Mary Lou Servidio (silver medals for 25- and 100-meter wheelchair races)

Union Avenue Apartments in Bridgewater: Tracey Crockett (silver medal for 50-yard dash and 6th-place ribbon for 100-yard dash), Elvina Grimes (silver medal for softball throw and bronze medal for 50-meter walk), Vicky Mihal (gold medal for wheelchair race), Clifford Pierre (bronze medal for 50-meter walk and silver medal for softball throw), and Ann Marie Whalen (gold medal for softball throw)

Warren Group Home in Warren: Michael Hentosh (gold medal for 25-meter walk and silver medal for softball throw), Warren Honimar (gold medals for 25-meter walk and softball throw), and Charles Huber (gold medals for 25-meter walk and softball throw)



Presently, Clinical Services is running two support groups: a socialization skills group facilitated by Volunteer Kara Ellis, LSW; and a supported living group facilitated by Sharon. Soon, two additional groups will be launched to support those coping with grief and those who have diabetes or other illnesses that influence food choices.

Going forward, volunteers are needed to spend quality time with individuals who are lacking close personal connections. "We're keenly interested in developing a mentoring program for individuals whose family and friends live far away, or have passed," Sharon said. "People misidentify symptoms of depression as being Alzheimer's or other ailments. Having a close

personal connection is significant to enhancing emotional, mental, and physical well-being."

Through keen observation, Clinical Services helped identify the issues that were keeping one individual, who is working in the community, from getting along well with others. "Once this person gained greater independence, he turned his entire life around," Sharon noted. "He moved into his own space in a group home and has been flourishing ever since."

Anyone interested in joining one of the support groups or volunteering for the mentoring program is welcome to contact Sharon at 908-725-8544, ext. 635.

Caregivers Enjoy Rest and Rejuvenation

Nearly 30 parents and guardians of children who have intellectual, developmental, and neurological disabilities paused from their caregiving activities to enjoy a day of pampering provided at no charge on May 2 at the Holiday Inn in Somerset. The annual Caring for Mothers and Others, launched for the first time last year, provides parents and guardians who are on call 24/7, with a much-needed respite. "Attendees were thrilled!" said Sharon McClellan, Director of Clinical Services. "We doubled our room size and offered twice as many services as last year."

Grateful for the daycare provided for their children, parents treated themselves to a buffet lunch and a host of recreational



Assistant Manager Amy Burns working with children.

counseling and massage to facial makeovers and astrological charts. Included were crafts, psychic readings, and an array of helpful tips provided by community agencies and schools.

The workers included 11 MADE (Making a Difference Everywhere) volunteers from Bridgewater-Raritan High School who assisted in setting up and supporting the booths and providing cleanup.

One parent described the event as superb and amazing: "a great opportunity to relax and spend time with new and familiar friends."

Another said she really appreciated Caring for Mothers and Others because "caregivers rarely get to care for themselves." Additional comments included: "Thanks so much for giving us a terrific break from our challenges," "What a great opportunity to recharge my batteries," and "Thank you so much for the delicious lunch and beautiful activities—and for topping it all off with Zumba (Latin rhythms spicing up an exercise routine)!"

"This year's event focused on the physical well-being of mothers and others with a yoga demonstration and a Zumba class," Sharon explained. "The staff joined in the Zumba class and it was a lot fun. Everyone left with a tremendous feeling of well-being."

Said Sharon, "I'd like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who contributed their valuable time and talents. We couldn't have done any of this without you."



Support Specialist Paul Lennon gives an astrology reading.

activities. More than two dozen Arc staff members and friends donated their talents, providing information and activities ranging from nutritional

Siblings Delight in a Day for Themselves

For the third time this year, siblings and parents of individuals with developmental disabilities participated in a quarterly program called My Time on April 26 at the YMCA in Hillsborough. Provided at no charge, My Time encourages children, ages 8 to 12, and their parents to discuss their feelings and have a good time. In addition to presentations and dialogue, attendees delighted in swimming, arts and crafts, games, and pizza.

"Our group really began to bond," said Sharon McClellan, Director of Clinical Services. "Moms are looking forward to our next meeting as much as their children. Parents are connecting with each other and getting a respite. Some are using this time to run errands and visit with friends."

For more information, please contact Mary Atchey, Assistant Director of Family Support Services, at 908-725-8544, ext. 624.

- The continuation of the Early Intervention Program (therapeutic services for children ages birth to three years) without interruption or significant increases in cost to families whose financial and personal resources are already limited. A child's success in the future often rests upon early intervention.
- Support of Self-Advocates in their statewide campaign to "shred the R word." This campaign galvanized advocates and educated the public about the need to remove outdated and offensive words from everyday language.
- Assisting 2009 graduates who have disabilities with a functional placement to advance their education and learning. This placement ensures that young adults continue to learn and develop the skills necessary for future employment.

Your support enhanced the quality of life for residents of The Arc of Somerset County. For example, your donations covered the cost of renovations and of the installation of ramps at several group homes. These ramps provide residents with accessibility and safety.

Your donations also provided the funds for purchasing Hoyer Lifts, which ensure the safety of individuals moving from their wheelchairs to their beds.

Donors made it possible for children and adults to attend Camp Jotoni through our scholarship program. Thanks to your generosity, many campers experienced their first and only vacation getaway, while their parents received a much-needed respite from caregiving responsibilities. You literally helped support entire families!

We have accomplished all this and more with diminishing resources and funding from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, a trend that is expected to continue. Because fundraising represents only 1 percent of our budget, now, more than ever, we need your help to mitigate the financial shortfall. This fiscal year, join us in our commitment to maintain the highest levels of programs and services for the children and adults who rely on them. Your contributions will fund the following priorities:

- Upgrade program facilities to meet the needs of our aging population. These improvements will ensure that residents can "age in place" (in their homes) with adequate accessibility, safety, and dignity.

- Establish our new "Family Resource Center" to provide parents and guardians with the information and referrals they need to be the best advocate for their child.
- Begin the process of creating an accessible, year-round "camp program." By transforming Camp Jotoni into a year-round facility, Somerset County families will have access to a broader menu of support services.

Here's how you can help:

- Make a cash donation by direct mail or make a credit card donation online. Our secure Web server ensures that online credit card transactions are safe, easy, and fast. All donations are tax-deductible.
- Participate in monthly giving. Automatic and convenient for donors, monthly giving provides The Arc of Somerset County with a steady, cost-effective means of supporting vital programs.
- Besides donating gifts of cash or securities, you can achieve your philanthropic goals for supporting The Arc of Somerset County through planned giving. With proper planning, charitable giving benefits donors as well as recipients. Examples of planned giving include: bequests, life income plans, charitable trusts, life estate gifts, annuities and insurance, and corporate matching gifts. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.thearcofsomerset.org.
- We invite you to participate in our special events: "Tea With Honey" in February, "Step Up for The Arc" Walkathon in May, The Barclays TICKETS For CHARITY "Golf Tournament" in August, and "The Arc Angel Gala" in November. Our special events offer something special for everyone!

**We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.**

Winston Churchill

On behalf of the entire Arc of Somerset County Family, thank you for giving this year and for making life better for so many individuals with developmental disabilities and their families!

Warmest regards,

Lauren Panarella

Executive Director

2009 Arc of Somerset County Annual Fund Campaign

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to The Arc of Somerset County for:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other

(Option) I would like to support the following programs:

- ☐ Camp Jotoni Campership Fund (Scholarships for campers.)
- ☐ The Lou Baldino Legacy Recreation Fund (Recreational activities for residents.)
- ☐ Scholarship Fund (Scholarships for Jerry Davis Daycare)
- ☐ General Support (General Operating Fund)
- ☐ I would consider including The Arc of Somerset County in my will.
- ☐ I wish to learn about your Planned Giving Program and about making a legacy gift to The Arc of Somerset County.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail*: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to receive communications by e-mail, when possible. ☐

Payment by ☐ Cash ☐ Check / Money Order ☐ Visa/MC ☐ AmEx

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Arc of Somerset County. **Send this form with your payment to:** The Arc of Somerset County, 141 South Main St., Manville, NJ 08835. For more information, please contact Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.

*Your e-mail address is needed for us to send you e-mail, action alerts, and the *Herald* newsletter online.



Dear Friend of The Arc,

It is time to renew your membership. Or, if you are not already a member, please join The Arc of Somerset County today! **Why join The Arc of Somerset County?** Because your membership will help provide the best possible advocacy in our community for children and adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

You will become a member of a growing network of informed parents, families, friends, neighbors, and community leaders committed to advancing public policy issues that benefit all families of Somerset County, particularly those with loved ones who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your membership support will also help us educate parents about how to recognize and seek treatment for intellectual disabilities early, and provide effective strategies for preventing developmental disabilities altogether.

Elected officials listen to their constituents. Join The Arc of Somerset County and let your voice be heard as we champion the rights of all community residents.

Sincerely,

Lauren Panarella

Executive Director

141 South Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835 Ph. 908-725-8544 Fax 908-704-0850

Application for Membership

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

☐ Individual Membership - \$25/yr

☐ Self-Advocate - \$10/yr

☐ Association or Nonprofit - \$250/yr

☐ Corporation - \$1,000/yr

Payment by ☐ Cash ☐ Check / Money Order ☐ Visa/MC ☐ AmEx

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Arc of Somerset County.

Arc membership dues are tax deductible.

Members of The Arc of Somerset County are also members of The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc of the United States.

Send this form with your dues payment to:

The Arc of Somerset County

141 South Main St., Manville, NJ 08835

For more information, please contact Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.

Honoring an Individual's Spirituality

Members of the Arc community who choose to explore their spirituality are supported by Chaplain Consultant Jamie L. Roos through bible study, one-on-one counseling, Celebration of Life ceremonies, and transportation to preferred places of worship. "The key is for people to be there for each other, even though we have different backgrounds and faith," said Jamie, a Diaconal Minister with the New Jersey Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "At the end of the day, we're all one big family."

Every other Tuesday, Jamie offers bible study either at the Branchburg Adult Training Center or at the Valley Park and Jill Court Adult Training Centers. On Tuesday nights Jamie offers bible study to residents of the Commons Apartments.

One Sunday a month, Jamie arranges for transportation for residents to visit the church or synagogue of their choice through OPEN R.O.A.D. (Open Religious Organization Accepting Disabilities), under the direction of Rabbi Evan Jaffe of the Flemington Jewish Community Center. "More people are asking to connect with their local congregations," Jamie noted. "It's important to have the support of your faith community."

When a member of The Arc community passes away, Jamie holds a Celebration of Life ceremony to express love and affection in a meaningful and commemorative way. In times of



Jamie L. Roos

need, upon request, spiritual counseling is available to residents one-on-one.

In March at the Commons Apartments, Rabbi Robin Nafshi from Temple Beth-El in Somerset presided over a celebration of Purim, commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people of ancient Persia from Haman's plot to annihilate them. Attendees assembled Purim baskets containing raisins, pretzels, and juice, and presented them to friends and family members as gifts.

Rabbi Nafshi returned in April to the Valley Park Adult Training, where she presided over a Seder, a Jewish ritual feast held on the first and the second nights of Passover in celebration of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Jamie had coordinated the Seder in conjunction with Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties, which provided gift cards to purchase food.

"The Purim and Passover celebrations were not just for residents who are Jewish," noted Karen Stanchak, Individual Habilitation Program (IHP) Coordinator. Only a few of the 50 people in attendance were Jewish," she added. "These celebrations are for anyone who wishes to expand their knowledge and experience."

Celebrating the Life of Loved Ones

JOAN SAPIENZA HELPED ESTABLISH THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY

Joan Sapienza, the first Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County, passed away on April 6. She was living in a nursing home in Vermont. Speaking with former Executive Director Lou Baldino a few weeks before her death, Joan joked that she was not really living in a nursing home, but had finally made it to a group home.

Joan made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals and their families. Some of those individuals remember her here.

Eileen Bradbury, 2nd Vice President on the Board of Directors, was introduced to Joan after expressing concern about her sister living in a state institution, the only place available at the time. "It was surprising to see someone take such an immediate interest," Eileen recalls. "Joan was swift in cutting through the bureaucratic red tape, literally plucking Rhona out of a very bad situation and placing her in a transitional group home at The Arc of Somerset County, where she lives today." Eileen admired Joan's "iron will" and powerful focus on goals. "She was a strong and compassionate leader," she said.

Maureen Gill, former Office Manager, had a similar experience. "What Joan promised me back in 1966 all came true. My daughter Tricia is now as independent as my other children!"

Board member Fred Patterson says Joan had a remarkable sense of humor and a way with words. Among her most memorable quotes are: "I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end." And "Fred, you have so much to give; I want you to start giving now!" Fred also recalls the role Joan played in purchasing Camp Jotoni. "Relatives of Sue Colodney, who founded the first group of mothers of children with disabilities, sold a small farm in Warren to the Plainfield YMCA, which eventually sold it to The Arc of Somerset County," Fred said. "The agency's budget was so small, no one thought it would be possible to buy a camp. But Joan told everyone not to go all wobbly on her. That she would make it happen."

"No one had a bigger heart for those on the fringes," Fred noted. "Joan willed her goals to happen, and happen they did in Somerset County." It is with deep gratitude and love that Joan Sapienza will be missed.

Charles Morgan Nominated for Bill Sackter Award

Charles Morgan of the Commons Apartments in Bridgewater has been nominated for the Bill Sackter Award to be presented at The Arc of New Jersey's 2009 Annual Awards Ceremony on November 5. The award was named after Bill Sackter who successfully transitioned into the community after 44 years in an institution, and later became a respected public speaker and business owner.



Charles Morgan

Similarly, Charlie spent nearly two decades in an institution before transitioning to the Commons Apartments in 1992 and working in the community. The owner of Auntie Anne's pretzels at the Bridgewater Commons Mall created a Greeter/Sales position for Charlie, who assured him he was the right person for the job. "With some apprehension, the owner gambled that the new position would generate sales—and it has!" enthused Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services. "For five years Charlie thrived in his job attracting customers and distributing samples. Business improved markedly."

A member of the Lebanon Reformed Church for more than 30 years, Charlie has established many friendships. Going out of their way every Sunday, parishioners drive to an Arc Employment Center for a vehicle to transport Charlie to

church. "Charlie is not only included in church functions, but families invite him into their homes for celebratory events," Chris said. "There are always church members at Charlie's annual IHP (Individual Habilitation Plan) meetings, birthday parties, and Special Olympics events. And, most importantly, his friends kept an almost constant vigil at the hospital when Charlie was recuperating from a serious operation."

During fellowship meetings at church, Charlie gives public speeches, much like Bill Sackter. He is eager to discuss what it's like to live with developmental disabilities. "Charlie is a constant reminder for me to have courage, loyalty, and faith in God," said one parishioner. "Like a brother, when bad things happen he worries about me and phones to make sure I'm okay."

Noted another friend, "Charlie is always open about his personal needs and struggles. This openness is an example of how to fully participate in community. We are called not only to selflessly serve, but to graciously receive."

Said Chris, "Charlie's life is a story of the triumph of the human spirit and the meaning of friendship and courage. Congratulations to Charlie for a job well done."

sanofi-aventis Honors Partnership with The Arc

At its headquarters in Bridgewater on May 19, sanofi-aventis honored its partnership with nonprofit organizations, including The Arc of Somerset County, for enhancing the quality of life and independence of citizens with the most significant needs in the communities where the company conducts business and the employees live. Among the many ways sanofi-aventis fulfills its philanthropic mission is through financial contributions and employee volunteerism.



In 2008, more than 1,000 sanofi-aventis employees performed nearly 5,500 hours of volunteer services in the United States. For example, they completed activities such as scraping, painting, and preparing Camp Jotoni for opening day in June.

Lauren Panarella, Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County, attended the sanofi-aventis reception with Danny Blakely, who lives in the Rocky Hill Group Home. "It is an honor for us to be chosen as one of sanofi-aventis' significant partners in making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable citizens," Lauren said.



Other nonprofit organizations honored at the reception included Somerset County United Way, Reach Out and Read, Agape House operated by Volunteers of America in Delaware Valley, and Warren County Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you, sanofi-aventis.

Danny Blakely (center) flanked by friends at sanofi-aventis.

Master Gardener Program Budding at Camp Jotoni

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

ties are introducing vegetable gardening and sensory-oriented nature trail experiences to the bucolic Camp Jotoni in Warren. Two new themes will become a part of camper's weekly activities: The vegetable garden will be a place where "Camp Jotoni Grows" and the nature trail will be a place where "Camp Jotoni Explores." Jody Friedman is leading a team of fellow Rutgers Master Gardener who planted a vegetable and herb garden close to the kitchen. Kathy Chapin, one of the team members and the parent of Kyle Chapin, long-time camper and now a Counselor In Training, received a very generous donation of vegetables and supplies from Walter's Garden Center in Bernardsville. Other team members on planting day were Sherry Howe, Jane Bernabe, Cathy Vassello, and Ivanka Gucunski. "The vegetables and herbs will be cared for, harvested, and enjoyed by the campers," Jody said. Many different skills are employed in vegetable gardening and whatever is harvested that makes it to the table will awaken the campers' awareness of what eating "green" really means.



The team is also identifying and labeling trees and other species on the nature trail and in other locations on campus and developing "lessons" that will appeal to all of the senses. For example, campers could compare the feel of fresh green leaves with those that are dry and crumpled and describe them in their journals and arts and crafts projects. "We can schedule night walks and look under rocks—observe how a fallen tree

Members of the Horticultural Support Team of the Rutgers Master Gardener of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties

covered with wood-decay fungi appears to have no use, yet serves as home for animals and food for insects and even learn what to be cautious of," Jody said. "Even those who have visited Camp Jotoni for more than a decade will see their surroundings in a new light." As time goes on, the team will be gathering information from the campers and staff to further develop both the vegetable gardening and nature trail experiences.



The purpose of the program, which is still in the developmental stages at Camp Jotoni, is to deepen the connection campers have with their environment, to enhance their awareness of the world around them, and to have a great time. While Rutgers Master Gardener lack certifica-

tion as horticultural therapists, they appreciate and support the healing power of nature. "Gardens are non-threatening—they can't talk back, yet they rely on you to flourish," Jody explained. "You nurture them with sunlight and water, and they give back vegetables, flowers, and the simple joy of their beauty and tranquility."

"Hopefully this sense of cultivating life translates to the people in our lives who depend on us every day," Jody added. "Those who are in recovery, for example, make the connection that they ought to take good care of themselves."

Patience is one of the virtues gardening inspires. "There is a big disconnect between the world around us and what really matters," Jody said. "We get caught up in mechanics, such as computer games. That gives us a skewed idea of how long things take in the natural world. We forget that it takes patience to grow and thrive."

Thank you, Master Gardener, for enriching the lives of everyone at Camp Jotoni! We look forward to learning and growing together for years to come.



Volunteers from the Rutgers Master Gardener of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties Horticultural Support Team planted a vegetable and herb garden at Camp Jotoni.



MORE SUPPORTERS THAN EVER

On May 23, more than 280 members and supporters of The Arc of Somerset County participated in the seventh annual Step Up for the Arc Walkathon at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater, raising a net income of nearly \$15,000. "The vast majority of our support came from the businesses in our community," observed Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development. "Even during uncertain economic times, our neighbors really came through in support of individuals with developmental disabilities!"

Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, thanked a list of generous sponsors, and Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director, acknowledged the largest number of teams ever to participate. In attendance were Dennis Donatelli, Director of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project, and Susan Asher, Councilwoman in Manville Borough.



Left to right are Associate Executive Director Chris Corvino, Councilwoman Susan Asher, and Executive Director Lauren Panarella.

Said Councilwoman Asher, a Special Education Teacher in South Bound Brook, "I know firsthand what a difference we make in the lives of people with disabilities. I watch students struggle to learn, and am rewarded by the light in their eyes and the smile on their faces when they accomplish something new. The Arc of Somerset County performs many miracles with the people in their care. On behalf of Mayor Lillian Zuza of Manville and Council, I would like to thank The Arc for having such a positive influence on the members of our community who have disabilities."

In the Advocacy Tent, Amy Burns distributed information about the SEEDs Program (Student Education and Experience for Disability Sensitivity) she launched last year for students and teachers. The program utilizes learning exercises, such as folding a towel without using your hands, and other creative techniques to cultivate sensitivity toward people



Sign Up for PGA Golf Tourney August 27 to 30!

The Arc of Somerset County is proud to partner with The Barclays PGA Golf Tournament through TICKETS Fore CHARITY™, a fundraising program designed to generate revenue for local charities. Seventy-five percent of each ticket sold to The Barclays PGA Golf Tournament at the Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City from August 27 to 30 will be donated to The Arc of Somerset County.

Regarded as one of the most scenic golf courses in the country, Liberty National overlooks the Hudson River with panoramic views of the Manhattan skyline and the Statue of Liberty. The top 125 players, including Sergio Garcia, Phil Mickelson, and Vijay Singh, will compete at The Barclays Kickoff in the coveted FedExCup Playoffs.

Daily grounds tickets—reasonably priced at \$45 each—are on sale from now until August. Friends, family, colleagues,

and golf enthusiasts are encouraged to enjoy a spectacular golf outing, while also supporting vital programs at The Arc of Somerset County.

The \$45 TICKETS Fore CHARITY can only be purchased online. Simply visit www.thebarclaysgolf.com/tfc, select the day and quantity of tickets you would like to purchase, enter code **ARCSC** to designate The Arc of Somerset County as the benefiting charitable organization, and provide your payment information. You will receive an e-confirmation and e-ticket. Please be sure to print out the e-ticket and present it at the gate.

For more information, please visit www.thebarclaysgolf.com/tfc or call Dan Chelel at 201-444-5356. We look forward to seeing you at Liberty National!

BEFORE "STEP UP FOR THE ARC"

who have disabilities that are developmental, physical, cognitive, and/or learning-related.

Self-Advocates collected more than 200 signatures on a pledge to refrain from using the word "retard," and to urge others to refrain from using a word that is so hurtful. They also handed out pins with a red X crossing out the letter R. The Advocacy Tent was set up for the first time last year to distribute information on legislative and other initiatives to help individuals with disabilities realize their dreams.

Pleased with the enthusiastic support of members of The Arc of Somerset County, families, friends, and local business leaders, Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, extended deep gratitude to statewide sponsor Hinkle, Fingles & Prior, Attorneys at Law representing people with disabilities and their families since 1974, and to statewide supporters: M&Ms® and District 12 of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey's Free and Accepted Masons. For the seventh consecutive year, the Masons raised funds, hosting a pancake breakfast on May 9, and treated walkers and supporters to refreshments they had donated and prepared.

Thanks also to local Gold Medal Sponsors Applebee's®

and Walmart, and sponsors AlphaGraphics®, American Legion - Post 304, Barry's Appliance & TV, Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman, Bongiorno & Associates Insurance, Branchburg Chubb & Son, Bridgewater Wholesalers, Inc.®, Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli, Dunkin' Donuts® of Manville, Gregory D Hirsch, MD, Huckdesign, Manville Federal Credit Union, The Manville Pizza 'n Pasta, MetDesk of MetLife, Millington Savings Bank, Oak Tree Bus Service, Inc., Platinum Designs, LLC, Kapila Seshadri, MD, Skylands Community Bank, and Tom DeLucas Towing.

Congratulations to Top Consumer Fundraiser: Roland Petrella (\$250), Top Individual Fundraiser: Eric Mandelbaum (\$3,295), Top Family Team: Kuzian Family (\$736), Top Community Team: District 12 of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey's Free and Accepted Masons (\$1,105), Top Arc Staff Team: Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (\$851), and Top Corporate Team: TRIMLINE Medical Products (\$1,114).

Noted Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, "One woman, who had never before spent time with individuals who have disabilities, said she met and hugged so many people that she left feeling happy and inspired."



Arc Angel Gala To Honor Brian W. Bosenberg

The 2009 Arc Angel Gala Reception is scheduled for November 6 at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills. The Arc of Somerset County is proud to honor Brian W. Bosenberg, President of B.W. Bosenberg & Company. The Honorable Jack M. Ciattarelli, Somerset County Freeholder, will return for the second year as emcee.

It is a pleasure to recognize supporters who have already signed up: Tom Baffuto, Barry's Appliance & TV, Basking Ridge Country Club, The Chubb Corporation, Chubb & Son, Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli, Frank and Pam Clancey, William C. & Jean I. Ellis, *Family Magazine*, Carol Fanning, Flemington Car & Truck Country, Optician, Gill St. Bernard's School, Hinkle, Fingles & Prior, Eric and Jacqueline Mandelbaum, Maschio's Food Services, Inc., Kirk & Judith Meighan, Fred & Roe Patterson, Priority Medical Corp., PSE&G,

Somerset Hills Veterinary Services, Summit Associates, Inc., Union Avenue Pharmacy, Viking Termite & Pest Control, Village Office Supply, Wegmans and Gerald A. York.

"Words are inadequate to convey the enormous gratitude felt by those with developmental disabilities and their families toward our loyal and generous supporters," noted Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development. "In spite of a crushing economic recession, our donors understand our need, mission, and programs. We hope that others will join us in making this event a memorable success."

Sponsorships include: \$10,000 for the Chairman's Circle, \$7,500 for the Vice Chairman's Circle, \$5,000 for Benefactors, and \$3,500 for Sponsors. Tickets sell for \$175 per person and \$300 per couple. Underwriting opportunities include: Gold Medal - \$15,000; Silver Medal - \$10,000; and Bronze Medal - \$5,000. To sponsor the Gala and/or purchase tickets, please call Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext 613.



Brian W. Bosenberg, President of B.W. Bosenberg & Company, Co-Chair of the 2008 Arc Angel Gala



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learn to live their dreams.SM

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Save the Date!



THE BARCLAYS PGA GOLF TOURNAMENT FROM AUGUST 27 TO 30

Seventy-five percent of all proceeds from ticket sales to The Barclays PGA Golf Tournament at the Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City August 27-30 will be donated to The Arc of Somerset County. (See *PGA Golf Tourney Supports The Arc* on page 14.) For more information, please visit www.thebarclaysgolf.com/tfc or call Dan Chelel at 201-444-5356.

OCTOBER: NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

For activities scheduled to honor National Disability Employment Awareness Month, stay tuned to upcoming issues of the *Herald*.

2009 ARC ANGEL GALA RECEPTION ON NOVEMBER 6

The 2009 Arc Angel Gala Reception is scheduled for November 6 at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills. To sponsor the Gala and/or purchase tickets, please call Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.



It Pays to Think Green! Join The E-mail Club

Help The Arc of Somerset County save on printing costs and maximize the use of donor contributions, while helping to save the environment by becoming a member of our E-mail Club. Members will receive action alerts, special announcements, and newsletters online. Send your e-mail address, home address, and telephone number to The Arc of Somerset County, attention: camilles@thearcofsomerset.org. Thank you!

