



HERALD

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,



Thanks to generous support from friends like you, The Arc of Somerset County is stronger than ever – in our physical structures and facilities and in our programs and services. And despite the economy, we have actually expanded our programs and services that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our federal and state grants only cover a portion of our budget. That means we rely on donations to make up the difference each year and allow our services to reach the families in the Somerset County and surrounding areas who need our help. We want to thank you for being a part of that effort.

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Arc Honors Business Partners

The Arc of Somerset County honored its many business partners that provide employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the *Celebration of Partnerships for Employability* event held on October 22 at the Branchburg Adult Training Center. New Jersey Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman was on hand to present the awards and offer his congratulations and gratitude to the recipient companies.

This event, typically held in February, was moved to October to align with National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). On October 1, President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation in recognition

of NDEAM, highlighting the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Administration’s commitment to “ensure people living with disabilities have fair access to jobs so they can contribute to our economy and realize their dreams.”



NJ Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman

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A Message from the President



As I reflect on the recent Arc Angel Gala, I am reminded that for all of the hard work that is currently being done by the employees and

volunteers of the Arc, none of it would matter if not for the work that was done by those who started it all.

As we now struggle through difficult economic times, I try to picture the struggles of the Arc’s founders. Not only did they have to manage through economic issues such as fundraising and state aid, but they also had the challenge of educating the community about the role of the agency and the intellectual and developmental disabilities that impact the Arc’s consumers. The Arc’s new mission statement states that “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.” I cannot think of a single individual who exemplifies that mission statement more than Fred Patterson, the recipient of this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award at the Arc Angel Gala.

Since joining the Board, there is no topic on which Fred has not added insight and wisdom. As the Arc has grown, Fred has helped the agency balance the need for improved processes and systems with the constant reminder that the Arc is a family organization and that ultimately everything is about what is best for the consumer. The individuals who have contributed to the Arc’s growth are too numerous to mention, but as we review the Arc’s mission statement and try to continue the work that has been done, we should take a moment to thank all of those who have helped lay the foundation of the Arc and create the agency it is today.

There undoubtedly are struggles ahead in these difficult economic times, but we should take comfort in knowing that those who helped to create and build the Arc faced many of the same challenges (and more). I look forward to another year of pursuing the mission of The Arc of Somerset County.

Eric Mandelbaum
President

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.

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Clinical Services Sharon McClellan
Development..... Tara Abbott
Employment Services..... Jim O'Rourke
Finance.....Jim Richart
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Maintenance and Safety.....Jason Scheib
Parents and Children Together
(PACT) Jeanne Guarnieri
Quality Lisa Intili
Residential Services Chris Gunning

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“Brian’s got very complex disabilities, both physical and mental. Not only has The Arc been able to manage those complex disabilities, both from a nursing and support perspective, but they’ve been able to truly allow those disabilities to just melt into the background. I can’t imagine what Brian’s life would be like without The Arc of Somerset County.”

- Edana Desatnick,

*Parent of a Camp Jotoni camper
Former Arc Board Member*

Whether creating new opportunities for our adults to become integrated in our communities, developing therapeutic programs for children or upgrading the facilities at Camp Jotoni, the Arc is committed to our mission to...“provide quality services and advocacy for individuals



with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to support development and achievement at every stage of life.”

As we continue to expand our services and strengthen our foundation, we need your help to sustain our nearly 40 year old tradition of providing vital and inspirational services for over 1,000 adults and children each year.

Your gift to our Annual Appeal will make a real difference to those we serve now and those we hope to serve in the future.

2010 Arc of Somerset County Annual Fund Campaign

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

_____ \$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ other

I would like to my donation to be used for the following:

- Please use all/part of my donation wherever it is needed most _____ (amount)
- “Campership” fund for Camp Jotoni _____ (amount)
- The Lou Baldino Legacy Fund (recreational program for residents) _____ (amount)
- The Jerry Davis Scholarship fund (children’s services) _____ (amount)

_____ I would like to learn about helping The Arc while building my retirement through the Planned Giving Program.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Payment by: _____ cash _____ check/ money order _____ Visa/ Master Card/ AmEx

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 Street, Manville, NJ 08835

For more information please contact: Lauren Panarella, Executive Director
Lauren@thearcofsomerset.org 908-725-8544 x 604

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the following companies: A&P Stores, ACCSES NJ, ACME, AMC Theatres, American Jewelry Supply, Argyle Industries, Bernards Township Library, Brandywine Assisted Living at Middlebrook Crossing, Bridgewater Wholesalers, Inc., Burks Companies, Inc. @ Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, Chartwells Dining Services, Chubb & Son, Inc., Courier News, Discovery Orchestra of New Jersey, Environmental Center, Ethicon, Inc., HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, Kings Supermarket, Lego's Store Bridgewater Commons, Lincoln Services, Inc., L'Oreal USA Products, Inc., Mara Shipping, Morton Salt, N J Water Supply Authority, National Bio+ Green Sciences, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, a johnson & johnson company, inc., Oticon, Pathmark - Hillsborough, Pathmark - Hope Lawn, Pathmark - Middlesex, Pathmark - South Plainfield, Professional Management Associates, LLC., Promotion Resources, PRWT Services, Inc., Qualcomm

Flarion Technologies, Quick Check, Shop Rite - Branchburg, Somerset County Business Partnership, Somerset Medical Center, Stoelzle-Oberglas, Stop and Shop - Piscataway, Stop and Shop - Somerset, Synergy Direct Marketing, Target, TenPin Lanes, Top Safety Products, TRIMLINE Medical Products, Wal-Mart Store, Wal-Mart Store #2651, Wegman's - Bridgewater.



For more information about disability employment, contact Jim O'Rourke, Director of Employment Services at 908-707-1112 x22 or via email at jimo@thearcofsomerset.org.

An Afternoon with the Executive Director

Executive Director, Lauren Panarella held the first *Afternoon with The Executive Director* event on Sunday, September 19th, 2010. The event was created to provide family members with information on national public policy, NJ State budget updates, and local initiatives that affect individuals with a disability. Ms. Panarella opened the meeting with an overview of some of the current legislation and disability policy being considered by Congress and the Administration. Denbeigh Sheldon, Director of The Family Advocacy Program at The Arc of NJ, then spoke regarding ways families can become involved in advocacy activities on the state and local level. Ms. Panarella then provided attendees with

and overview of The Arc of Somerset County's, current initiatives and updates on programs. The program concluded with a presentation of the agency's new Planned Giving Program, by Board member, Marion Sommer.

Afternoon with the Executive Director events will be held several times a year to allow for greater family participation and partnership opportunities. Stay tuned for announcements of future meetings!

“I was thrilled with the turn out of this first time event,” noted Ms. Panarella. “Our families are our greatest resource and this event demonstrated the power of family advocacy”.



Governor Christie Issues Proclamation of Direct Support Professionals Week

Governor Chris Christie issued a Proclamation designating September 12-18, 2010 as Direct Support Professionals Week. This proclamation demonstrates the Governor's understanding of the value of our DSP's and the vital services they provide to individuals with a disability. The proclamation starts out with the following quote..... "In NJ over 30,000 individuals work as Director Support Professionals providing critical care to hundreds of thousand of children and adults with disabilities, empowering them and enabling them to lead meaningful, productive lives".

The Proclamation also paved the way for the roll out of the statewide use of the College of Direct Support starting in October 2010. On September 14th 2010,

Department of Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez announced the beginning of the **New Jersey Partnership for Direct Support Professional Workforce Development**. This initiative demonstrates the understanding that enhanced training and professional opportunities for Direct Support Professions leads to an enhancement of the quality of supports provided, greater employee satisfaction and a improved retention rates.
Lisa Intili, Director of Quality on the initiatives:

"I was fortunate enough to be present when Commissioner Velez's made the announcement of this long overdue initiative. The room filled with excitement from Persons Served, family members, representatives from the Governor's Office, DDD and many providing agencies throughout New Jersey."

Residential Recreation Initiatives

Art Classes

Doreen Delaney, a consumer who lives at the Arc's Old Stirling Group Home, loves to draw. For years she has drawn with paint, markers, crayons or pencils. When she heard that the Arc would be offering art classes two times per month her smile brightened the room.



Every other Wednesday evening Doreen and fifteen other residential consumers converge at the Arc's Branchburg Adult Training Center to participate in art lessons conducted by Deborah Morris from the school of Complete Yoga. Ms. Morris tailors each of the lessons to the individual interests and support needs of the people in the group.

Ms. Morris stated, "We are all artists and the honor of working with the Arc Artists is especially fun and, of course, the teacher learns so much too! The people that come to the two classes that I teach a month are positive, happy to be there and flow so easily through a number of art projects! Many of them say that they are going to share or give their art to someone special-true artists! They all keep me on my toes!!!"

The Arc's plan is to not only continue the classes but add more so that Ms. Morris can share her talents with more consumers. As Doreen said "I like to draw, She's a nice lady, I have a lot of fun there". We are thrilled that all of these consumers will keep having fun for a long time to come.



Music Classes

Scott Scalise, a consumer who lives at our Franklin group home, loves music. He took guitar lessons for a period of time and loves Elvis Presley so much that



he recently visited Graceland. When he heard that the Arc would be offering music classes at our Valley Park Adult Training Center one Friday a month it didn't take him long to grab his guitar and head for the van. On

October 1st eighteen Residential consumers took part in our first music class at our Valley Park ATC. Deborah Gano from the school of complete Yoga led the group in singing accompanied with a keyboard. The consumers attending sang, danced, played guitar, bongo drums and tambourines.

Ms. Gano stated, "The vision for the music classes at The Arc of Somerset County is to give everyone an opportunity to freely express themselves through music either through singing, learning rhythms, and movement. It is a great way to expand and learn about different styles of music and most importantly to bring joy to the hearts of each and everyone there."

As for Scott he'll be there whenever the classes are offered saying, "I like it I want to go back again".

Celebrating the Life of Loved Ones

The Arc of Somerset County honors the lives of those who have recently passed.

Renae Bradshaw (1950 - 2010). Renae was a long time participant in our Valley Park Adult Training Center day program (formerly Kirby Ave. ATC). A celebration of life honoring the life of Renae Bradshaw was held at the Valley Park Adult Training Center on September 7th, 2010.



Veronica Kuria (1973 - 2010). Devoted wife and mother of two, and dedicated employee of The Arc of Somerset County. Veronica spent the past five years providing caring and compassionate supports to those in her care and always with a smile. She will be missed by all whose lives she touched. A celebration of life honoring the life of Veronica Kuria was held at the Jill Court Adult Training Center on July 27th, 2010.

Michael Lee (1955 - 2010) Michael attended the Branchburg Occupational Training Center for the past 25 years. A celebration of life honoring the life of Michael Lee was held at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center on August 3rd, 2010.

Katherine Lynn Patterson (1968- 2010). Daughter of Fred and Roe Patterson, sister of Barbara Patterson. Kathy attended the Jill Court day program and lived in the Steinmetz Group Home. Kathy, known for her infectious smile and love of music, was the inspiration and driving force of her father's advocacy work on behalf of millions of individuals with disabilities. A celebration of life honoring the life of Kathy Patterson was held at the Jill Court Adult Training Center on April 22nd, 2010.



William "Bill" Scheib (1945 - 2010) Bill served as the Director of IT for The Arc of Somerset County for 17 years. His commitment to making computers accessible for Arc consumers demonstrated his above-and-beyond attitude. This consumer-first focus and his sense of humor will be missed by those who knew and worked with him. A celebration of life honoring the life of Bill Scheib was held at the Arc Main Office on November 23rd, 2010.

Arc of Somerset Awarded Three Year Accreditation

After a thorough and comprehensive review, The Arc of Somerset County was awarded a three year accreditation by CARE, the highest recognition provided by the organization. For the first time ever, this honor includes the Gannett ATC, Jill Court ATC and Valley Park ATC in addition to the Branchburg ATC/OTC and Manville.



CARF is an internationally-recognized, independent, nonprofit organization that accredits several types of specialized services including employment and community services. The mission of CARF is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of persons served.

The CARF Survey team visited the Arc of Somerset's Employment Services Department from 8/16/10 to 8/18/10. They met with funding organizations, board members, administrators, employees and, most importantly, persons served. They observed service delivery and reviewed countless records and documents. In their final report received in October, they provided valuable recommendations to further enhance our services while congratulating the Agency on its many strengths.

"We are honored to again receive a three year accreditation from CARF and appreciate their collaboration in maintaining the highest standards of service at the Agency" remarked Lauren Panarella, Executive Director.

Specific agency strengths noted by the survey team included the partnership with DDD and the Boggs Center, board and committee processes, the strategic plan, the budget process, fleet management, HR processes, the new Family Support Center, the appreciation of employees expressed by persons served, the quantity and regularity of contract work, and job development efforts in the community.

Corporate Volunteers Brighten Arc Programs

October marked a busy month for volunteering! Nearly 100 volunteers from local companies spent a day at various Arc programs completing beautification projects. These dedicated volunteers from companies such as Bridgewater Patch, sanofi-aventis, Tibotec Therapeutics, Ortho-McNeil Janssen, and LexisNexis donated their time and talent through the following projects:

October 7 – 2 volunteers came from the Bridgewater Patch newspaper to pull weeds and do yard clean-up at the Cambridge Group Home in Bridgewater.

October 12 – More than 30 volunteers from sanofi-aventis spent the day painting at the Branchburg Adult Training Center. Additionally, they donated beautiful furniture and carpet tile to completely transform the reception area at the center. This project was the second visit from the group in 2010.



October 13 – Nearly 20 volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics helped close down Camp Jotoni for the winter season by cleaning cabins, bath houses, and the dining hall as well as demolishing a bath house to make way for renovations. This project marks the fourth year that Tibotec volunteered at Camp Jotoni.

October 14 – Ortho-McNeil Janssen sent nearly 10 volunteers to Ardsley Group Home in Hillsborough to do some yard clean-up and wash all the windows.

October 22 – LexisNexis sent 30 volunteers to the Union Avenue Apartments in Bridgewater to paint four apartments, including the bedroom of a resident that was celebrating her birthday that day.

Thank you, volunteers of Bridgewater Patch, sanofi-aventis, Tibotec, Ortho-McNeil Janssen, and LexisNexis!

For additional information about scheduling a volunteer project for your organization, team or group, contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544 x610 or via email at taraa@thearcofsomerset.org.

Cedar Grove: “The Garden of Eden”

The tranquil back yard of Cedar Grove Group Home has been transformed into a beautiful, bountiful bonanza of fresh and green home grown vegetables. It is a source of pride and pleasure for the consumers, as well as staff, to grow their own vegetables and have them fresh on the dining table everyday. The idea of a vegetable garden sprouted in the summer of 2007 when Thomas P. joined CCGH as Asst. Manager and it gradually grew up with the whole-hearted support of George Joseph, manager, and group home residents. The consumers were more than willing to work in the garden and very happy to show every visitor the fruits of their achievement.



In Spring-Summer of 2010, the garden brought forth broccoli, lettuce, and many sizes and varieties of peppers, tomatoes, beans and eggplant. The big, cream colored flowers of the okra plant made the vegetable garden appear more like a flower garden. The bitter gourds and snake gourds overflowing their trellises were a rich source of vitamins, minerals and fiber.

The garden at Cedar Grove has yielded many benefits: residents enjoyed keeping themselves busy, tending the soil alongside staff and housemates deepened their sense

of involvement and belonging, and the fresh vegetables resulting from their efforts were a source of personal satisfaction and a benefit to their physical health. The innocence, harmony, peace, happiness, health and closeness to nature - all make this garden synonymous to the biblical “Garden of Eden”.



Arc Honors Former Board Members at Arc Angel Gala

On December 3, The Arc of Somerset County held its annual Arc Angel Gala, "A Lifetime of Opportunities," at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills, New Jersey.

The coveted Arc Angel Award was presented to Tom S. Brooks of AT&T for his longtime support of The Arc of Somerset County through volunteerism, board service, and philanthropy. Fred R. Patterson was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedicated and lifelong commitment to advocating for people with developmental disabilities.



Tom S. Brooks



Fred R. Patterson

Other award recipients included Bianca Caseiro and Vanessa Welsh. These seniors from Bridgewater-Raritan High School and Ridge High School each received the Angels Among Us Award for their volunteer work with the disability community. Finally, Brian O'Malley was the proud recipient of the Halo Award for his commitment and dedication to self-advocacy work that raises awareness about disability issues.

Stay tuned for more information about the 2010 Arc Angel Gala in an upcoming issue of the Herald.

Grants and Donations Enhance Services at The Arc

The Arc of Somerset County salutes all of our community and corporate donors who have given so generously to help support programs and services for those with a disability.

sanofi-aventis – awarded The Arc of Somerset County with a \$15,000 grant to help support the Developmental Day Care program as well as the "Play and Learn" therapeutic groups for children.

E.J. Grassman Trust – awarded the The Arc of Somerset County with a \$10,000 grant to purchase a generator for the Old Stirling Group Home. The Old Stirling Group Home provides services for 10 medically fragile individuals. The generator will ensure the continuation of services at the home in the event of a power outage or weather emergency.

Community Development Block Grant –

The Arc of Somerset County was awarded \$77,000 from Somerset County. These funds will be applied to two programs; \$29,668 will be used to support and sustain our Developmental Day Care program which serves children from 18 months to 4 years of age, and \$60,000 will be used to fund accessibility initiatives in our community group homes.

Thrivent/ Good Shepard Lutheran Church –

presented The Arc of Somerset County with a donation of \$1800. These funds will be used to help support the Camp Jotoni "campership" program which allows children and adults with disabilities to attend a week of summer camp under a scholarship. The campership fund was developed to ensure all individuals who want to attend a summer camp program would have access to Camp Jotoni despite the lack of financial resources.

Knights of Columbus, Manville Chapter – presented The Arc of Somerset County with a donation of \$1855 to be used for general program support.

"These funds represent vital resources that will enable our agency to pursue our mission of advocacy and quality services for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability" states Executive Director, Lauren Panarella "On behalf of The Arc of Somerset County and those we serve, I extend our most sincere gratitude for the generosity of our community partners and donors".

Did You Know...?

Did you know... Qualcomm, a global leader in technology for mobile devices, uses the Arc of Somerset to assemble and package prototype components for their engineering location in NJ?

Did you know... during the past year, workers at the Branchburg center prepared more than five million cosmetic bottles for glass manufacturer, Stoelzle-Oberglass, in support of its customer's (L'Oreal) production line?

Did you know... we are always looking for additional projects for our production centers and additional jobs in the community for our workers? Just call Britt Blomgren, at 908-707-1112 x21 or Joanne Kaiser at x37.



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

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Manville, NJ 08835



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Save the Date: FY 2011 Calendar!

Arc Calendar Sale

Purchase your "Faces of The Arc" calendar and help support Arc programs. Calendars are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.thearcofsomerset.org.

Arc Membership Drive in January

The Arc of Somerset County will be conducting a membership drive during the month of January. Lend your voice to the Arc Movement through membership! To learn more about becoming a member of The Arc, contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544 x610.

Celebration of Success Donor Event in April

The Arc of Somerset County will honor our many donors and supporters at a brief evening reception.

Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run in May

The Arc of Somerset County will be holding its annual walkathon and 5k event on a Saturday in May. Visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/arc-somerset> in January or contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544 x610 to learn more.

Annual Membership Meeting, Awards Ceremony, and Exhibition on June 21, 2011

For additional information, please contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544 x610.

S.E.E.D.S. Makes Its Debut at The 2010 Arc National Convention

On Thursday, November 4th, The Student Education and Experience for Disability Sensitivity Program (S.E.E.D.S.) was presented by creator and former Arc of Somerset staff person Amy Burns at the Arc National Convention. The S.E.E.D.S. program was created to provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about the disabled population through an informative in-class lecture, dynamic student activities, and group discussion. To date, the program has been presented to over one thousand students across New Jersey. The 2010 convention will mark the first time the program is being offered to other service providers. The session, titled: *Stand Up! Anti-bullying strategies for students, educators and families from SEEDS*, introduced participants to the concepts and techniques utilized in the S.E.E.D.S. program. The Arc of Somerset County is pleased to offer the outreach of S.E.E.D.S. to schools and providers as a reproducible way to impact the attitudinal barriers facing those with disabilities. Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director said, "The work of Amy and the S.E.E.D.S. initiative represents an important piece of the Arc's work, to be a resource to the community as a whole as well as those we serve directly. Addressing attitudinal barriers at an age when students are creating their social life with peers starts the beginning of a long community conversation that we have throughout our lives." Thank you Amy for your dedication and creativity.