



A message from the Executive Director



As The Arc of Somerset County continues into its fourth decade of outstanding services for children and adults with intellectual and

developmental disabilities, we should take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year.

We enter into our 42nd year of service as strong and committed as our founding parents. Our services have expanded to provide a full range and variety of offerings for children and adults of all ages and abilities. Our programs represent unique services that support individuals to work, live and play in the community. Our growth serves to further strengthen our resolve to meet the ever changing needs of those we serve by:

- Promoting the expansion of housing and employment opportunities for individuals with a disability
- Support the choice of inclusion and integration in the education system and in all aspects of community living

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The Arc Hosts Over 1,000 Volunteer Hours at Camp Jotoni this Spring

HERALD

Celebrating More Than 40 Years of Service

The Jerry Davis Center Graduates Five Children

On June 16th the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families graduated five students from their preschool classroom. These children will be attending kindergarten in their home districts this fall. Parents and extended family gathered with the teaching staff to celebrate the successes of this past school year. The celebration included song performances by the graduates that included "Days of the Week" and "Itsy, Bitsy Spider" in Spanish. The teaching staff recited a touching poem that summarized the hard work, challenges and hope for the future of these students. After the students received their certificates, posed for pictures and tossed their mortar board, there was a family friendly celebration that included game and activity centers for child and parent involvement, and a picnic that included home-made lemonade crafted by the preschool class. The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families thanks the parents of our graduates for their trust and confidence in our teaching skills, and wishes Andrew, Kira, Meaghan, Tommy and Thomas all the best in their future school endeavors.



Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Participates in Pilot Program

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families continues to participate in the pilot of the Quality Rating Improvement Scales; Grow NJ Kids, test program. This past quarter the Center developed a quality improvement plan based on the outcomes of several internal environmental ratings and scoring on the pilot QRIS self assessment scale. Grow NJ Kids has presented monthly directors workshops on topics that have included: The Birth to 3 Learning Standards, The Preschool Learning Standards, further training in the Early Childhood and Infant & Toddler Development, Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS & ITERS), Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory (PCMI), and the Supports for Early Literacy Assessment (SELA). All of these materials and tools will be used in the classrooms and will determine future changes and improvements. In addition, a \$2,000 grant from Grow NJ Kids will help the school to purchase the materials and items that are necessary to enhance curriculum and the school environment. "This is a great opportunity to engage in a continuous quality improvement initiative" notes Associate Executive Director, Chris Corvino, "we look forward to further collaboration with the Grow NJ Kids program".

The Arc of Somerset County MISSION

The Arc of Somerset County provides quality services and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to support development and achievement at every stage of life.

The Arc Board Of Directors

President..... Ron Slahetka
Vice President Tim McKeown
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Treasurer Stefani Irwin
Immediate Past President.... Eric Mandelbaum

The Arc acknowledges members of the Board of Directors

The Arc Board Members

Charley Huck Bill Mackay
Michael Stefani Jay Reyes

In addition, The Arc acknowledges our retiring member who gave generously his time, talent and service to the Board of Directors and The Arc of Somerset County.

Retiring Member
Tarun Shah, Treasurer

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Executive Director Lauren Panarella
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..... Jeanne Guarnieri
Quality..... Lisa Intili
Director of Residential Services Stella Ecepp

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Employment Services Expands Work and Day Options for Individuals Served

On June 23, 2014 The Arc of Somerset County announced their new Director of Employment Services, Gary Kummer, who has been with the agency for over nine years.

As the new leader of the Employment Services Department, Gary will be looking to ensure that the quality services that have been provided will continue while we also look to meet the changing needs of those we serve. Below are a few updates from the Department:

- For the fiscal year 2013-2014 the Supported Employment Department placed 15 individuals in competitive jobs in the community.
- The department is working on the on the creation of two new rooms at the Gannett and Branchburg ATC's. The rooms will have the purpose of allowing for greater flexibility during the day for those individuals who may not be focused on the contract work that is currently available. Both rooms will provide those individuals who need to have more frequent breaks and opportunity for relaxation during the day with a quite space to do so. The goal is to allow individuals with the ability to continue their day services while having the ability to address their personal needs for a more soothing environment.
- Employment Services is in the process of finalizing a contract with the town of Bound Brook to help beautify their downtown area. Two days each week 3-4 individuals from the Gannett and Valley Park ATC will collect debris along all the streets of downtown Bound Brook. The Arc has provided the same service for years in downtown Manville. *"We are excited at this new opportunity for our individuals",* notes Director Gary Kummer, *"our goal is to ensure every individual has the option to work to the best of their ability".*



Arc Athletes Participate in Local, State and National Special Olympics

On June 15th, 2014 more than 18,000 individuals- including 3,500 Special Athletes from around the country participated in the kick off of the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games. While Athletes have competed in local and State events since 1962, there have only been 3 USA events. The first Special Olympics USA Game was in 2006 in Ames, Iowa, the second was in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2010 and this year's event was in New Jersey.

During the opening ceremony, which was held at the Prudential Center in Newark many of the athletes joined the Parade of Athletes and enjoyed words of inspiration from "Glee" actress Jane Lynch and even got a glimpse of Governor, Chris Christie who was named the honorary chair of the USA Games. New Jersey was well represented with 269 Team New Jersey member athletes.

The spirit of the games was present for our athletes at The Arc of Somerset County. Twenty two individuals participated in the NJ State Special Olympic Games that were held from May 30th to June 1st. One of our athletes brought home a gold medal in the Javelin throw. To add to the medal count, two individuals won medals in the National Games – gold in weight lifting and a bronze and silver in cycling.

Although not all athletes came home with a medal, the spirit of the games and the opportunity to pursue their personal best was the award for all of the athletes who participated.

The Special Olympics program was born out of Eunice Kennedy Shriver's mission of inclusion for those with intellectual disabilities, beginning with Camp Shriver, a summer camp she started at her Maryland farm in 1962. The motto of Special Olympics was and continues to be: "Let me win- But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



Message, continued from page 1

- Increase community awareness about individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Initiate collaborative efforts between and among other human service agencies
- Explore funding resources to meet the expanding needs of our community

It is these principles that created the foundation of our agency and they will continue to carry us for years to come.

The common thread in all of our successes is people. We are inspired by the tenacity and determination of those we serve and their families; our employees are leaders in their area of expertise and show commitment and compassion in everything they do; and our volunteers are the cornerstone of all that we accomplish.

I hope you will join us as we head into the future - strong, viable and focused on providing the supports that the children and adults we serve need to develop and achieve at every stage of life!

Sincerely,

Lauren Panarella

The Arc of Somerset County Receives Over 1,000 Vol

The Arc of Somerset County had an exciting month of June at their very own Camp Jotoni in Warren Township where three major companies sent volunteers to help revitalize the camp grounds and buildings. These events followed the first phase of the Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign that The Arc had put into place earlier this year in an effort to raise funds to invest in the Camp's future.



On June 6, Home Depot of Bridgewater sent eight employees to build a much needed fence around the camp's basketball court and completed gutter and flooring repairs to some of the cabins. The group returned on June 27 to install a new high traffic floor in the dining hall and performed repairs to the music pavilion roof.

On Tuesday, June 10, Henkel N.A. Corporation of Bridgewater sent ten employees to plant shrubs and flowers around the newly paved path from the music pavilion to the nature pavilion and around the camp's basketball court. The camp was in dire need of the new paving that covered mostly dirt road and grass which made it hard to navigate some of the campers who use a wheelchair for mobility. Through a \$13,000 grant from Henkel, The Arc was able to finish repaving and resurfacing work throughout the camp grounds which will help ensure safe and accessible walkway for the more than 200 children, adolescents and adults who experience the joy of Camp Jotoni.



The grant was offered by Henkel through their MIT program, (Make an Impact on Tomorrow). Henkel has long been a supporter of volunteer programs to The Arc of Somerset County. *"It is great to work for a company that supports the volunteerism of its employees"*, stated JoAnn Artfitch, the organizer of this event and employee of Henkel Corporation who also secured the MIT Grant. *"We all touch the hearts of others in ways that aren't always apparent to us. We want all of the work being done here leading up to opening day to bring smiles and joy to all who come here"*.

And finally, on Friday, June 13, L'Oreal Manufacturing facility based in Somerset organized a 250 employee volunteer day effort by sending their entire manufacturing plant to Camp Jotoni for the day. A large tent was erected on the grounds, a DJ played music, and breakfast and lunch was served to keep everyone energized throughout the day. L'Oreal partnered with the Grainger Foundation which helped with the project. L'Oreal covered all of the expenses related to the projects. In addition, The Grainger Foundation



Volunteer Hours for Camp Jotoni's Revitalization Project

presented The Arc with a \$10,000 donation for this project initiative. The Arc estimated that L'Oreal's volunteers completed over four years worth of maintenance and improvements to the camp, "This was an unprecedented event for The Arc of Somerset County", stated Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. "The generosity of time, talent, and funds has truly made an impact on Camp Jotoni and will ultimately benefit the individuals who attend the camp".

Since 1976, children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have enjoyed spending part of their summer at Camp Jotoni. Over the years many new programs have been added to camp including residential weeks, community outings, overnight trips off camp grounds, and most recently, respite weekends during the spring and fall. Volunteer efforts such as this, which were provided by Home Depot, Henkel and L'Oreal, help to preserve the camp facilities so that The Arc can continue to provide quality services for years to come. The Arc of Somerset County is grateful to these partners for this revitalization project and welcomes anyone who is interested in offering their time and services to the camp grounds this fall by calling our development office at 908-725-8544 Extension 608.



Arc Grant Achievements

- Temple Har Shalom awarded the Jerry Davis Center with \$2,150 for specialized gym equipment for our Developmental Daycare Center.
- The Provident Bank Foundation awarded the Jerry Davis Center with \$2,500 for the "Kids Night Out" respite program.
- Henkel of America, Inc. awarded Camp Jotoni with \$13,000 for the revitalization of the camp grounds which helped with the cost of paving paths at camp as well as new plants and shrubs.
- The Hyde and Watson Foundation awarded Camp Jotoni with \$5,000 for Camp Jotoni's facility renovation project.
- Qualcomm awarded \$2,000 that went toward the repairs and renovation of the Old Stirling Group Home deck.

Arc Donations

- Fraternal Order of Eagles # 2137 Somerset Aerie donated \$5,000 to The Arc of Somerset County; which will be used to update our training room.
- The Jewish Federation of Somerset Hunterdon & Warren Counties donated \$8,517 for scholarships to children attending the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families.
- NJ State Council Knights of Columbus #11409 of Warren NJ donated \$2,000 with cooperation of local merchants in the Warren area and Our Lady of the Mount church parishioners who donated to the 2014 Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign.
- McGough Family Trust donated \$500 toward new chairs for the Branchburg facility.
- United Way of Roanoke Valley donated \$1,000 to The Arc of Somerset County which was sponsored by the new Advance Auto Store in Manville.
- Lebanon Reformed Church donated \$1,000 to The Arc of Somerset County.
- Green Knoll Ladies Golf League donated \$730 to the Camp Jotoni campership.

Over 400 Individuals Supported the Annual Step Up for The Arc Walk & 5K Run

The Arc of Somerset County hosted their annual "Step Up for The Arc Walk & 5K Run" event on Saturday, June 7th at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater to over 400 runners, walkers and supporters who gathered on a beautiful sunny day. New this year were various food and service vendors offering information, demonstrations and samples to the attendees, as well as a special performance from Somerville School of Rock of the National Anthem and continuous sounds from New Jersey DJ Services!

The 12th Masonic District hosted their annual picnic at the end of the race/walk and the band played classic rock songs on stage as the main entertainment.

The event would not have been possible without the generous support from our sponsors:

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Top Department: Maintenance,
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Thank you to everyone who made the 2014 Step Up for The Arc Walk & 5K Run a wonderful morning for all to enjoy and a successful fundraiser for The Arc of Somerset County!

The Arc of Somerset Hosts their 42nd Annual Meeting on June 16th at the Olde Mill Inn



The Arc of Somerset County hosted its 42nd Annual Meeting on June 16 at the Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge to celebrate the past years successes and to honor community businesses members and individuals who made those successes possible.

KWG Industries of Hillsborough accepted an award for The Arc of Somerset County's Employer of the Year.

L'Oreal USA Franklin manufacturing plant was honored as The Arc of Somerset County's Distinguished Community Service Award winner.

The Provident Bank Foundation accepted The Arc of Somerset County Community Partner of the Year Award.

Lions Club of Warren Township accepted the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Bridgewater Patch received the Media Excellence Award.

Marj Graham, a family interventionist for the Parents and Children Together (PACT) Program, received the Professional of the Year Award. Bob Hult, a clinical support specialist, also accepted the Professional of the Year Award. Karen Sutphen and Janice Neesen received Direct Support Professionals of the Year. Both are long-time employees of The Arc of Somerset County, and work directly with the adults served.

During the Annual meeting, The Arc of Somerset County nominated and accepted the new Board of Directors, Slate of Officers including:

Ron Slahetka, President, Tim McKeown, Vice President, Stefanie Irwin, Treasurer, Debra Albanese, Secretary, Eric Mandelbaum, Immediate Past President, Charles Huck, Member, William Mackay, Member, Jay Reyes, Member. A new Board member, Michael Stefani was approved by the membership and began his term in July. In addition, Tarun Shah was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his 8 years of service to the Board in honor of his retirement from The Board of Directors.

Thank you to all of our Board members for their dedication and support of The Arc of Somerset County!





For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



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Save the Date

Community Day at Camp Jotoni

The Arc of Somerset County will host an open house at our camp in Warren on Saturday, September 27th from 1:00pm-4:00pm. This family friendly event is an opportunity for all members of the community to tour the camp property and learn more about the camps programs and services offered at Camp Jotoni (rain date: Sunday September 28th).

Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Open House

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Open House will be in late fall at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families facility. Join us for a tour of the school and learn about our new programs for the 2014-2015 school year.

Educational Seminar "Income Tax Reduction and Estate Tax Elimination in the New Economy"

On September 30th, The Arc of Somerset County will host a FREE educational seminar titled "Income Tax Reduction and Estate Tax Elimination in the New Economy" at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club from 6:00pm-8:00PM. This event is open to the public. Cocktails and light fare will be available for all attendees. RSVP is required. Call 908-725-8544 X 610 before September 25th to RSVP to attend this free and informative seminar.

National Disability Awareness Month (NDEAM)

During the month of October, The Arc will honor our many community business partners that provide employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. Please check our website for future updates about NDEAM events.

Arc Angel Gala

The Annual Arc Angel Gala: "Celebrating Volunteerism" will be held Friday, November 14th at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club. Join us as we honor several corporate and community volunteers for their commitment to volunteerism with The Arc over the past few years. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For additional information, please contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-725-8544 x610 or via e-mail at lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org.