



HERALD

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

When we think of volunteers, we think of those who assist in providing our recreation programs. We think of those who serve on The Arc of Somerset County's various committees and board of directors. We think of those who help in fundraising, and in painting the group homes and Camp Jotoni.



Lou Baldino

This spring, volunteers helped The Arc in a way that is different and equally significant. They educated and persuaded our elected representatives to increase funding for New Jersey residents who have developmental disabilities.

When Governor Jim McGreevey submitted his budget proposal, it included a one-percent increase in funding for the Department of Human Services, our largest funding source. This was simply inadequate; it would fail to avert a serious disintegration of services for people with disabilities statewide. It would also fail to make up for last year, when costs increased and funding remained static.

To address this shortfall, The Arc of New Jersey helped form the "Coalition for the Cost of Providing Care"

See Executive Director on page 12.

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2004 ANNUAL MEETING

Families Influence the Care of Loved Ones

"The annual meeting of The Arc of Somerset County on June 28 was the best ever!" echoed the majority of attendees. Nearly 100 consumers, volunteers, families, board and staff members described the keynote address on "The Advocacy Roles of Families and The Arc" as informative and concise. More than a dozen contributors received awards for helping to achieve The Arc's mission in the areas of advocacy, support, and prevention, and all attendees shared pride in the impressive accomplishments of the previous year.

Before the business meeting began at the Somerset Hills Hotel, attendees examined displays of The Arc's various departments: Childhood, Development, Employment, Residential, Support, and Safety, Fleet, and Maintenance Services. The election of officers followed, along with the presentation of awards.

In his keynote address, Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey, asserted that families significantly influence the care

of loved ones. When it comes to The Arc's advocacy role, caretaker involvement is the key to success. This year, the personal stories families shared with legislators convinced them to increase the state's cost-of-care budget allocation for people with developmental disabilities by 4 percent! Continued caretaker involvement is essential to our ongoing success.

For a list of the newly elected 2004-2005 officers, see page two. For award recipients, see page 6.



Tom Baffuto addresses a rally in Trenton.

A MESSAGE FROM CAROL GEARY, THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD Volunteers Are Key to Success

Dear Friends,

I want to start the new fiscal year by thanking everyone who has so generously assisted The Arc. During our annual meeting we recognized and honored a few of our volunteers. But we could not begin to thank all of you who have contributed your precious time, talents, and resources.

The Arc is critically dependent on those who give of themselves to help others. This is true financially as well as operationally. Without the support of our volunteers, we would simply be unable to provide all of the advocacy and services that are essential to achieving The Arc's mission.



As a volunteer, I can vouch for getting back much more than I give. Volunteering has given me the opportunity to model important values for my children, to stay in touch with nonprofits, and to build knowledge and skills that my paid profession might not require. Most important are the friendships that I have developed and cherish dearly.

To all active volunteers, we say, "thank you." To those wishing to become active, we look forward to identifying the best opportunity for you.

Warmest Regards,

Carol Geary

Mission of the Arc of Somerset

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

*Families includes family members, as well as friends, caregivers, guardians, advocates, etc.

THE ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President.....Carol Geary
- 1st VP.....Edana Desatnick
- 2nd VP.....Laura Famularo
- Treasurer.....Jim Freeman
- Secretary.....Evelyn Morris
- Member at Large.....Fred Patterson

THE ARC BOARD MEMBERS

- Executive Director.....Lou Baldino
- Assoc. Exec. Director.....Mary Burke
- Brian Bosenberg
- William Mackay
- Tom Brooks
- Majella Matyas
- Susan Colodney
- Thomas Mistele
- Carol Fanning
- Christa O'Connor
- Ron Fulop
- Brian O'Malley
- Paul Howells
- Scott Ritter
- Member at Large.....Fran Maher

STAFF DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

- Childhood Services.....Amy Perrine
- Development.....Bonnie Sovinee
- Employment Services.....Dawn Malavenda
- Finance.....John Everhart
- Human Resources.....Jeanne Radich
- IT.....William Scheib
- PACT.....Jeanne Guarnieri
- Quality Assurance.....Sandy Berkowitz
- Residential Services.....Nance Bowers
- Director of Safety, Fleet, and Maintenance.....Frank Minnella
- Support Services.....Susan Brady

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CELEBRATING THE ARC'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IN CHILDHOOD SERVICES,

Funds and Brochures Become Available

- While similar state programs are closing due to exorbitant costs, the Early Intervention Program at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center has achieved a small surplus.
- Somerset County awarded Camp Jotoni a \$27,000 community development block grant to help replace the pool liner.



A \$27,000 award makes a big splash at Camp Jotoni.

- Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals, the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center bought new therapeutic equipment, including a rocking horse that is designed to teach children about motion and balance.
- New brochures are available for Camp Jotoni as well as Childhood Services and its programs: the Early Intervention Program, Developmental Daycare, Preschool Disabled, Private Preschool, and PACT (Parents and Children Together).



This Ortho-McNeil grant really rocks.

PACT Participants Appreciate Necessities, Gifts

- Through Lowe's new "Adopt a Family" program, employees donated funds for winter coats and other necessities for family members participating in PACT.
- Through "Pick an Angel," a long-standing project funded by the AT&T Aviation Division, employees donated holiday gifts to PACT participants.

Taking Families Out To the Ballgame

Rather than attend the annual picnic at the usual place, The Arc administration building in Manville, Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals treated PACT families to a private luxury box at The Somerset Patriots Commerce Bank Baseball Stadium, where they could enjoy watching the Patriots play. For some, it was their first trip to a baseball stadium.



Watching in style, participants had their choice of refreshments, including ice cream and pretzels.

Additionally, The Somerset Patriots donated extra tickets for workers at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center. One consumer caught a fly ball and had it autographed by the mascot Sparkee. She left the stadium feeling ecstatic.

IN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES,

Walkathon Tops Last Year's Record; Donations and Memberships Rise

- The Arc's May 15th Walkathon attracted 125 volunteers who trekked 1.2 miles and raised more than \$10,000, a 20 percent increase from last year.



The ArcWalk raised more than \$10,000.

- Other 2004 fundraising successes included: The Arc Angel's Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas, which raised \$250,000 in December; and the 5th annual Tea with Honey brunch and auction, which raised \$19,000 in February.
- Development Services sought and obtained more than \$14,450 in new funding grants.
- Matching the need for facility improvements, individuals and companies have donated \$30,000 worth of office furniture, carpeting, equipment, and printing services.
- The Arc's paid membership increased by 25 percent.
- Development Services assisted colleagues in creating PowerPoint presentations for funding requests.

Public Relations Materials Are Improved

- Development Services developed a new marketing strategy, logo, and slogan.
- For employees, Developmental Services designed and published a newsletter named ArcTicles.
- The membership newsletter, Herald, available in print and on The Arc website, has been developed to replace The Challenge.
- Development Services created new brochures for OTC-Contract Services, Childhood Services, and Camp Jotoni.
- Newly designed PowerPoint presentations highlighted the 2003 and 2004 annual meetings, as well as grant proposals for United Way funds.
- A new, interactive Arc website will be completed and able to accept online donations by autumn.



IN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES,

Obtaining a Van and a Bigger, Busier OTC

- The United Way of Somerset County provided funding for a new van, which enables Employment Services to meet increased demands for transportation.
- Renovations at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center (OTC) have been completed. The Center now has five rooms and a reception area, as well as a cafeteria that is twice its former size.
- At the Branchburg OTC, order-fulfillment contracts coming from companies and organizations have dramatically increased.

Group Homes Receive Residents, Funds



- Three more consumers have moved into the new two-story Rocky Hill Group Home in Montgomery. Residential Services intends to fill the last two vacancies by year-end.
- Somerset County awarded the Cedar Grove Group Home a \$49,000 community development block grant for modifications that will make it more accessible.

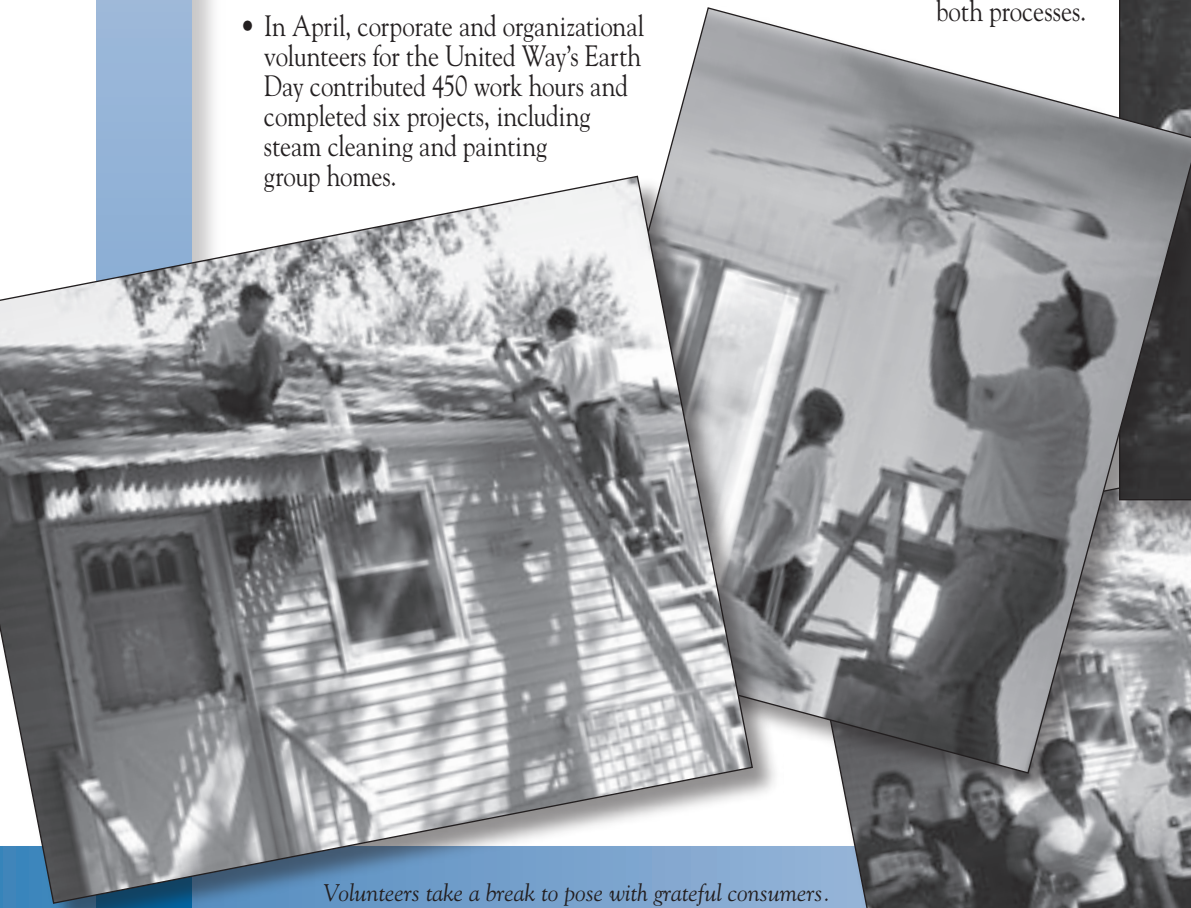
The Rocky Hill Group Home.

Consumers Win Medals for Special Olympics and State Games

This spring, 60 consumers won medals for participating in the regional Special Olympics, and 40 won medals for participating in the New Jersey games. Congratulations!

Maintaining Facilities and Automating Administrative Work

- In October, corporate and organizational volunteers for the United Way's Day of Caring contributed 545 work hours and completed 14 projects, including rebuilding and painting a wheelchair ramp at Camp Jotoni.
- In April, corporate and organizational volunteers for the United Way's Earth Day contributed 450 work hours and completed six projects, including steam cleaning and painting group homes.
- Frank Minnella, Safety, Fleet, and Maintenance Director, automated The Arc's Safety Inspection and Work Order programs, streamlining both processes.



Volunteers take a break to pose with grateful consumers.

Strategizing Arc's Growth and Development

- Under the guidance of Board President Carol Geary and Committee Chairperson Edana Desatnick, board members and program directors developed a strategic plan for Arc operations beginning 2003-2004.



Carol Geary

- The Arc's new foundation received its own 501(c)(3) designation. This will allow The Arc to accept bequests and gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- A Rutgers University doctoral candidate based his thesis on The Arc and its management. The thesis includes recommendations for operational improvements.

Advocacy Leads to Funding Increase

Thanks to successful advocacy, legislators increased the state's cost-of-care budget for people with developmental disabilities

by 3.5 percent. An additional half percent was reallocated, raising the state's total funding increase to 4 percent.

KEEPING AN EYE ON PREVENTION

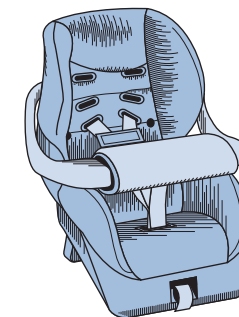
While Enjoying the Summer, Take Precautions

Fifty percent of the 350 causes of mental retardation are preventable. Three of those causes include head injuries, the effects of alcohol on expectant mothers, and lead poisoning.

- Remember that all children younger than 14 are legally required to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle.



- Avoid drinking alcohol if you are pregnant; it could cause mental retardation in your unborn child.
 - Avoid having lead pipes and lead paint in your home.
- For more information on prevention, visit The NJ Office of Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities website at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/OPMRDD/ofp.html/>.



Choosing a Child Safety Seat

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has rated child safety seats on their ease of

use. To help decide which child safety seat you should buy, please visit the NHTSA website at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CPS/CSSRating/>.

Sweltering Cars Can Kill Kids

Every year dozens of young children die from being left in sweltering cars during hot weather. Parents don't realize that the temperature inside a parked car can soar up to 30-40 degrees higher than outside temperatures. Seventy-five percent of this increase occurs in just five minutes!* Leaving the window open slightly does little to alleviate this suffocating surge in temperature. As the temperature rises, people begin

to develop heatstroke, dehydration, and possibly asphyxia. The younger the person, the faster the onset of distress.

Never leave anyone in a hot car, even for five minutes! If you see a child left alone in a car, look for the parents. If the parents cannot be found, call your local police or ambulance for help.

* Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia

THE ARC AWARDS CHERISHED CONTRIBUTORS

2003

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Edana Desatnick

- Member of The Arc's Strategic Planning Committee
- Advisor in organizational development
- Board member for numerous nonprofits including The Arc
- Advocate for her son and other people with developmental disabilities



Edana Desatnick receives award from Fred Patterson.

BILL SACKTER AWARD

Victor Yarnall

- An Ethicon employee for 14 years
- Special Olympics gold medalist
- Internationally competitive weightlifter
- A friend to fellow consumers



Victor and his wife with Lou Baldino.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AWARD

Paige-Whitney Babies Center Deborah and Harold Imperatore



Deborah Imperatore accepts the Community Organization Award.

- Founded a community volunteer group that assists nonprofits
- Donates diapers and baby products to PACT participants
- Provides qualified parents with academic scholarships
- Holds seminars on pivotal subjects such as health, nutrition, safety, discipline, stress, anger management, family planning, and sleep and eating habits



EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Courier News Howard Fowler, Single Copy Circulation Manager

- Trains consumers to be successful sales representatives
- Provides consumers with opportunities to sell newspapers on delivery routes and at special events
- Takes personal interest in consumers, acknowledging their birthdays and treating them to dinner
- Provides non-monetary support such as flexibility and tickets to Patriot games through the Gannett Company.



Howard Fowler

THE ARC WALK'S TOP FUNDRAISER

Carol Fanning

- Received recognition at The NJ Arc's walkathon dinner in December
- Suggested that her friends send donations to The Arc, rather than give her birthday gifts
- Arc board member
- Personally raised \$750



Carol receives award from Lou.

2004

DISTINGUISHED ADVOCACY AWARD

Donald H. Bowers



Donald H. Bowers

- Retired as Ethicon's Director of Public Affairs and Community Relations in May
- An Arc advocate since 1983
- Benefactor of Arc Angel events
- Board member for numerous nonprofits

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Majella Matyas

- A member of The Arc Angel Committee since 1994
- The Arc Angel Chairperson since 2002
- Arc board member
- Gives generously of her time and resources



Majella and George Matyas

Photo courtesy of Debbie Weisman

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Carol Geary



Carol Geary with Lou.

- Three-term board president
- A tireless advocate
- A registered nurse experienced in the area of special needs
- An innovator in management development

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Jim O'Rourke

- Contract Manager for The Arc of Somerset
- Dramatically increased the number of work contracts at the Occupational Training Center
- Has improved the lives of hundreds of Arc consumers



Lou congratulates Jim O'Rourke.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD

Jeff Ianniello

- Created The Arc's first website
- Uses his own resources to design and update the website
- Volunteer Webmaster since 2000



Mary Burke and Jeff Ianniello

THE ARC WALK'S TOP FUNDRAISER

Charlotte Hayden

- Sold donor cards to area churches
- Arranged three consumer days to collect walkathon contributions
- Personally raised \$578



Charlotte Hayden with Bonnie Sovinee

THE ARC WALK'S TOP TEAM FUNDRAISER

Jerry Davis Team

- 23 team members distributed letters
- Designed posters and signs, and hung them in the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center
- Raised \$1,265



Posters with Jerry Davis team members decorated the school walls.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2003

Edana Desatnick Excels in Leadership and Advocacy



Edana Desatnick

Edana Desatnick is spearheading The Arc's new vision and strategic planning processes, along with Board President Carol Geary and Fellow Trustee Fran Maher. A faculty partner in the Results-Based Leadership consulting firm, Edana has broad experience in the consumer, healthcare and industrial products industries. Her distinguished career includes leadership roles

in organizational development at Merck, Honeywell, Nabisco Brands, and Pepsi.

Today, Edana divides her time between consulting and assisting the boards of various nonprofits, such as The Arc (the largest non-profit organization serving people with developmental disabilities), Matheny School and Hospital, and the Kairos Institute. Edana's leadership and advocacy are highly valued and deeply appreciated.

EMPLOYERS OF THE YEAR 2003

The Courier News and Howard Fowler Train and Encourage Consumers

Howard Fowler, Manager of Single Copy Circulation at *The Courier News*, has been training consumers to be independent carriers since April 1997. He and the Gannett Company have provided consumers with opportunities to sell newspapers on ever-expanding delivery routes and at special events, such as baseball games. They take a personal interest in carriers, celebrating their birthdays and treating them to dinner.

Thanks to the relationship between *The Courier News* and The Somerset Patriots, Howard gives consumers tickets to Patriot games.

At Gannett's national conferences, Courier spokespeople encourage other professionals to hire people with developmental disabilities. It is a privilege to honor Howard and *The Courier News* as 2003's Employers of the Year.

BILL SACKTER AWARD 2003

Victor Yarnall Embraces Community Inclusion

Diagnosed with numerous disabilities, including childhood blindness and neurological and communication impairments, Victor Yarnall has demonstrated the power of persistence. The 34-year-old full-time lab technician has worked at Ethicon for 14 years. He has been married for four years and lives in his own Bedminster, NJ, residence with his wife and dog. He is also a prize-winning athlete and a caring friend to fellow consumers.

Victor rises at dawn and arrives at work between 5:30 and 7:00 a.m. He is conscientious about keeping Ethicon's lab clean and well maintained for colleagues. When Victor chooses to improve his performance, he brings home laboratory booklets to study. Colleagues consider Victor a role model for others who have developmental disabilities.

Energized by his challenges, Victor graduated at the top of

his class at the Midland School. His healthy lifestyle calls for exercising regularly and avoiding red meat, artificial additives, and fried foods. An avid weightlifter, Victor won a gold medal and three silver medals for the United States at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland in 2003. He has also won several national and local weightlifting competitions.

Victor cares about others with equal enthusiasm and grace. He has developed the rare gift of listening, and is patient and kind. Relying on a sense of humor and faith, Victor cheers up consumers who have become depressed. He telephones the sick and visits the hospitalized.

For rest and relaxation, Victor is a music and movie buff. He and his wife have vacationed in Mexico, Ireland, the Bahamas, and Scotland. They now look forward to seeing more of the United States, particularly the Grand Canyon. Not only does Victor serve as a model for informed choice and community inclusion, he is an inspiration to all of us who strive to be our best.



Victor and his wife with Lou Baldino.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 2003

Paige Whitney Babies Center Aids PACT Families

In 1992 Deborah and Harold Imperatore founded the nonprofit Paige Whitney Babies Center as a memorial to their daughter, Paige Whitney, who died from sudden infant death syndrome at age 2 months. Since then, the Center has donated nearly 6 million diapers and other basic necessities to disadvantaged families with babies up to 2½ years old! In addition to providing free baby products, the Center provides qualified parents with academic scholarships. This short- and long-term approach eases a parent's financial burden, while helping them prepare for a better future.

Besides offering a formal education, the Paige Whitney Babies Center provides parents with small group discussions led by

volunteer clinical social workers on pivotal subjects such as health, nutrition, safety, discipline, sleep and eating habits, stress and anger management, and family planning. Every parent is required to attend at least two seminars.

Some PACT (Parents and Children Together) consumers require assistance in supporting their families. To these parents, the Paige Whitney Babies Center is a valued resource. To staff members at complementary community organizations, the Center is a relief, given their limited resources.

Deborah and Harold Imperatore and all of the volunteers who make the Paige Whitney Babies Center possible have made our community a better place to live.

Fifth-Grade Students Befriend Jerry Davis Consumers

Larkin Dolan, a fifth-grade student from the Far Hills County Day School, delighted a daycare teacher at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center with a personal donation of \$45. The student had worked hard for the money and had intended to spend it on herself, but, instead, donated it to her new friends at Jerry Davis.



Larkin Dolan, a fifth-grade student from the Far Hills County Day School, with her Jerry Davis friends.

The country day school has been partnering with Jerry Davis since 1989, when The Arc's Jeanne Guarnieri visited Far Hills to speak about people with developmental disabilities.

To expand the students' horizons, school administrators started sending fifth-grade students to Jerry Davis on Thursday mornings. The students began to help with projects, read to the children, and model positive behavior.

School administrators also launched two annual events for Jerry Davis consumers. The first is a holiday party hosted by students in the country day school gymnasium. The second is a party at Jerry Davis to celebrate the end of the school year.

At the former, the students treat Jerry Davis consumers to holiday music and handcrafted gifts. At the latter, students present the Jerry Davis staff with a donation, along with a log listing all of the chores they performed to earn that money.

The students' generosity of spirit makes their donations – not to mention their Jerry Davis friends – feel like a million dollars.



Amy Perrine, Director of Childhood Services, accepts a donation from generous students of the Far Hills Country Day School.

Jim O'Rourke Increases Work Contracts for Employment Services

Although Jim O'Rourke joined The Arc as recently as October, his outreach efforts have sent ripples of enthusiasm throughout the business community. Jim meets with representatives of large and small companies to promote the high-quality work offered by consumers at the Branchburg Occupational Training Center (OTC). As Contract Manager, he has dramatically increased the OTC's number of order-fulfillment contracts, and improved the lives of hundreds of Arc consumers. Through his regular "Did You Know" column, Jim shares the OTC's ongoing success.

DID YOU KNOW... that during the past two months, seven of our regular customers have praised the quality of our work without prompting? Thank you to Britt Blomgren from Production, Trina Trent from Branchburg, Nancy Tarazona from Valley Park, and Mary Tilson from Gannett for

performing such high-quality work that it draws customer praise!

DID YOU KNOW... that The Arc has more than 200 adults who are available for work each day at four locations in Somerset County?

DID YOU KNOW... that we are always looking for additional projects for our adult centers?

DID YOU KNOW... that we are exploring ways to use our occupational training centers to sell products directly to state and local government?



Did you know... that The Arc has more than 200 adults who are available for work each day at four locations in Somerset County?

"Step Up for the Arc" Walkathon Is a Runaway Success

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful weekend we had for our second annual "Step Up for the Arc" walkathon. The residential consumers who attended had a marvelous time. The smiles on their faces were priceless. Your contribution helped us raise \$10,000 that will support the early childhood, residential, occupational and supportive service programs of The Arc of Somerset County. This was a 25 percent increase over the first annual walkathon, and it is just the beginning. Next year we hope to add a 5K run, and attract even more community participants. We'd like to see more teams, and welcome the friendly competitive spirit.



A lovely day for a walk in the woods.



Honorary Chair of the ArcWalk, David Livingston.

The Arc is grateful to Honorary Chair David Livingston, Superintendent of Schools for Somerset County, who joined the walkers. The ArcWalk's state-wide sponsors included: Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Free and Accepted Masons, and Masterfoods USA makers of M&M's Chocolate Candies. Local sponsors included Assemblyman Christopher "Kip" Bateman, Wal-Mart Store #2651 of Manville, Schering-Plough, District 12 of the Free and Ac-

cepted Masons, and Wegmans Food Market of Bridgewater. Start/Finish sponsor was Volvo of Bridgewater. Quarter-mile sponsors were Somerset Nissan, Fullerton Ford Auto Group, Main Street Bistro of Somerville, Bridgewater Limousine, Bridgewater Hilton Garden Inn, Senator Smith, Assemblyman Chivakula, and Assemblyman Egan of the 17th District, Collier Floor Connection, IZOD Men's Sportswear, and Applebee's of Bridgewater. Blue Ribbon sponsors were The

Somerset Hills Hotel, Copies Now/Sir Speedy of Bound Brook, and the Episcopal Church of Somerset. Event providers were Ben Auletta-DJ and Entertainer, Class-The Girls Next Door, The Somerset County Sheriff's Department, WMGQ/WCTC, Sparkee of the Somerset Patriots, Chips the Clown, Betty Somerville and the 4H Clowns, Girls Scout Troops 257 and 938, and Brownie Troop 299, Curves of Manville, Gift Emporium of Bridgewater, Dunkin Donuts of Manville, and Starbuck Coffee of Somerset. Community Supporters included The Learning Express and Lowe's of Hillsborough, What's in the Ice Box, TGIF at the Somerville Circle, Midtown Deli in Manville, VFW Post 2260, and Hair House International in Manville.



Participants were all smiles.

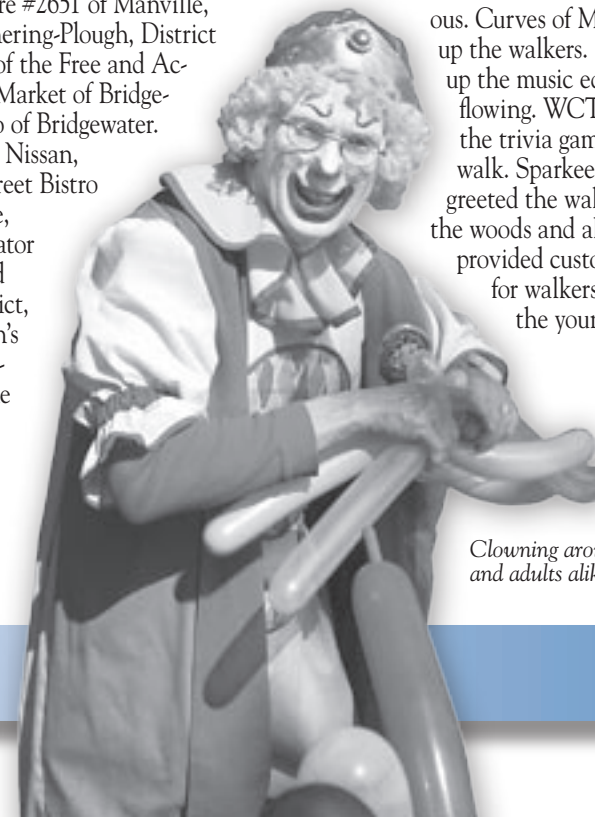
The sun cut through the early morning mist as volunteers gathered in the grove at Duke Island Park. Working in harmony and with a clear plan, they set up the food area, registration area, and refreshment distribution stations at the quarter-mile signs to hand out "freebies" and water along the walk route. The Park Rangers were extremely helpful and courte-



We can always count on the Masons.

ous. Curves of Manville sent a volunteer to warm up the walkers. Ben Auletta, DJ/Entertainer, set up the music equipment and kept the energy flowing. WCTC/WMGQ provided prizes for the trivia games with the audience before the walk. Sparkee, from the Somerset Patriots, greeted the walkers before they trekked through the woods and along the river. Chips the Clown provided custom-designed balloon headwear for walkers, and coloring opportunities for the younger crowd.

See ArcWalk on page 12.



Clowning around with balloons entertained kids and adults alike.



ArcWalk, continued from page 11

Volunteers from Bridgewater High School came to help out. Girl Scout Troops brought homemade cupcakes, cookies and congratulatory signs. Brownies joined in with congratulatory signs for the walkers and helped any way they could. Balloons were inflated and tied to the tents and signs. At least 125 people participated. After the walk, Class – The Girls Next Door arrived to deliver an energy-packed celebratory show.



A warm welcome at the finish line.

It was a true community event. We are thankful for friends like you who believe in our cause and are willing to “Step Up for the Arc.”

Warmest regards,

Bonnie C. Souinec

“Step Up for the Arc” Chair, Director of Development

Executive Director, continued from page 1

consisting of more than 500 social service agencies that rely on state funding. The coalition, including volunteers from The Arc, spent countless hours writing letters to the editor and speaking with elected and government officials about how a one-percent increase would adversely affect service recipients.

The volunteers made our message clear: to cover rising costs and maintain the quality of essential services, we would need a funding increase of 4 percent. Moved by the volunteers’ personal appeals, state officials agreed and found a way to increase funding by 3½ to 4 percent!

This incredible feat, which looked all but impossible a few months ago, is a shining example of the power of advocacy by dedicated and determined volunteers. I want to thank all of you who helped make this funding increase possible! We could not have done it without you.

Best Regards,

Louis M. Baldino

Executive Director



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

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



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United Way
Affiliated Agency
Affiliated Agency

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