



## 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 43rd 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
- Supporting the choice of inclusion and integration in the education system and in all aspects of community living
- Increasing community awareness about individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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# HERALD

*celebrating More Than 40 Years of Service*

## The Jerry Davis Center Graduates 4 Children

On Friday, June 19th the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families graduated 4 students from their preschool classroom. These children will be attending kindergarten in their home districts this fall. Afterward, 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 the song "Chibirin Chibirin" sung in Spanish and "Five Green and Speckled Frogs" and "Months of the Year".



Graduate student, Dominick recited a poem to the audience and his classmates that reflected his time at The Jerry Davis Center and the friends he made as well as the many things he learned- in particular- a favorite of his which is reading! The students received their certificates, posed for pictures, and tossed their mortar board. Afterward, there was a family friendly celebration that included game and activity centers for child and parent involvement, and a picnic that included lemonade home made 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 Dominick, Cheyenne, Shane and Viktor, all the best in their future school endeavors.

## How Early Intervention Programs Led to Readiness for Kindergarten

In 2013, Michelle, was concerned about her son Dominick's oral and motor development as well as his inability to accept texture of foods and chewing. As a quiet child, Dominick was also struggling with certain social skills, such as sharing with other children and overall play interaction.

Dominick was evaluated for the Early Intervention (EI) Program at 18 months and was found to be eligible for services. The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families EI Program provided the occupational services that were recommended by the evaluation team. These weekly Early Intervention Services helped Dominick progress to age appropriate levels in all developmental areas by the time he graduated from the EI Program at the age of 3.

Michelle felt Dominick's socialization and play interaction with other children, as well as his eating habits would not have improved if it weren't for the Early Intervention Services he received from The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families.

"Dominick has grown to be a leader in his class and has developed empathy for students he sees may be struggling with socializing and physical play", stated Michelle "It is such an amazing accomplishment to see his progress to see him graduate and be so ready for Kindergarten"



## 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.....Tim McKeown  
Vice President ..... Debra Albanese  
Treasurer ..... Stefanie Irwin  
Secretary ..... Jay Reyes  
Immediate Past President..... Ron Slahetka

### *The Arc acknowledges members of the Board of Directors*

### The Arc Board Members:

Charley Huck Bill Mackay  
Michael Stefani

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:

Eric Mandelbaum

### Executive Staff:

Executive Director .....Lauren Panarella  
Associate Executive Director... Chris Corvino

### Department Directors:

Camp Jotoni.....Josh Burke  
Children & Family Services .....Jen Orlick  
Clinical Services.....Sharon McClellan  
Employment Services..... Gary Kummer  
Finance..... Jonedel Pangan  
Foundation Development & PR  
.....LisaMarie Arieno  
Human Resources .....Christina Faraone  
Information Technology ..... Lance Flooden  
Maintenance and Safety.....Jason Scheib  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
.....Jeanne Guarnieri  
Quality .....Lisa Intili  
Director of Residential Services .... Stella Ecep

### The Arc of Somerset County

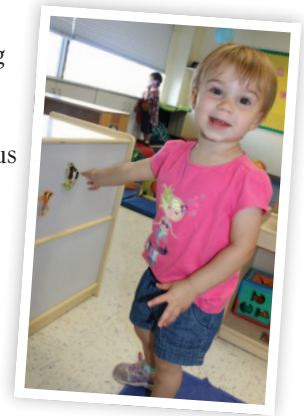
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www.thearcofsomerset.org

## Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families QRIS Updates

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families continues to participate in the pilot of the Quality Rating Improvement Scales; GrowNJ Kids, test program. This spring, the Center utilized funding from the \$10,000 grant and were able to purchase materials for the pre-school center and various assessment tools. These items have enhanced the pre-school curriculum and have helped Center Director, Jennifer Orlick develop a quality improvement plan based on the outcomes of several internal and environmental ratings and scoring on the pilot QRIS self-assessment scale.



“This was 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.



## Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Awarded Grant for “Veggie Friends” Spring Program



Stop & Shop awarded The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families a grant for \$1,000 this spring. The program was kicked off on April 22nd at the Stop & Shop in Raritan as the Assistant General Manager, Bill Gulden and store employee, Tammy Weber greeted the preschool children who took a field trip to the Raritan store to learn about the variety of and the colors of fruits and vegetables that the produce department offers.

The grant was used

to support the Developmental Daycare and Preschool “Veggies and Fruit Friends” program which helped bring nutrition education interactively to the students with curriculum activities such as ‘Veggie Market Stand Days’. In preparation for the market day event, the students purchased fresh veggies and fruit, cut them up and placed them into baggies to sell to staff at the Manville office.



## The Arc of Somerset County to Launch “The Achievement Center” at Raritan Valley Community College

The Arc of Somerset County is proud to announce a new partnership with Raritan Valley Community College and The Arc of Hunterdon County. “The Achievement Center” at Raritan Valley College is a three year post secondary educational program for students recently graduated from their high school program. The Center, which will pilot enrollment this Fall semester will offer advanced experience in preparation for greater or more sophisticated employment outcomes as well as exposure to accessible college courses in the liberal arts and integrated exposure to college life. Students will attend classes designed to create both a college education and career plan while gaining access to the social and interpersonal experience of a busy college campus. Physical education will be consistently offered throughout the program with the goal of fully integrating into at least one college sport or club activity. Students will have the chance to work with a peer mentor and join increasingly more integrated subject classes as the three year program progresses. As part of The Arc of Somerset County’s Employment Services Department, The Achievement Center will bring the assessments, job exploration and preparation activities typically associated with the job search process into an academic environment to allow students to develop their preferences and skills at a level that offers both more time and depth for those interested while work continues on supporting skills such as functional and educational reading and mathematics.



Courses and practice time for the advanced social environment of an independent college campus will allow students to develop the confidence and personal skills necessary for more naturally supported employment settings. Beyond work, The Achievement Center hopes to expand upon students’ capacity for lifelong learning and provide a supported space to continue education at an advanced level where typical school entitlements would otherwise end.



We are pleased to say that Raritan Valley Community College has been an eager partner both philosophically and logistically, pledging space and access to its many programs and facilities. The program is just another step towards the full inclusion of our students with disabilities into their community and academic institutions. “We applaud Raritan Valley Community College and our other partners in being both progressive and innovative in their commitment to serving a diverse college population” states Lauren Panarella Executive Director of The Arc of Somerset County.



Look for more announcements and enrollment information coming soon from both agencies!

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*Message, continued from page 1*

- Initiating collaborative efforts between and among other human service agencies
- Exploring 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 1800 Hours of Volunteer Service in 2015

Each spring and fall, corporate and civic volunteers seek projects that help make a difference in their communities. We are so proud to report that for the last year, our service volunteer hours totaled over 1,800 of project work that included renovations and repairs of our group homes, The

Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families and Camp Jotoni. Several local companies that supported our agency through volunteerism include Chubb, Citi, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Henkel, L'Oreal and Turner Construction.

Henkel and Citi volunteered at our companionship program at Branchburg Adult Training Center for a day of craft card making for our troops for both Valentine's Day and for hospitalized children for Easter.

Janssen helped with renovation and repair projects at Franklin, Respite, and Steinmetz group homes as well as playground clean-up at the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families.

Turner Construction joined us for spring clean up and planting at Mobus Group Home and Chubb as well as 250 employees from the L'Oreal Franklin Manufacturing Plant came back to Camp Jotoni for our spring renovation and clean up just in time for camp opening day.

The Arc of Somerset County is grateful for to these partners for their time and hard work and welcomes anyone who is interested in joining our volunteer team by calling our development office at 908-782-8544 extension 608 or by emailing [lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org](mailto:lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org)



## Arc Athletes Participate in Local, State and National Special Olympics

Every year many of the residents from The Arc of Somerset County participate in Special Olympic events throughout the year. The athletes have several different sports to choose from including bowling, lifting, basketball, swimming, softball, and track and field.

On May 2, almost 50 athletes from The Arc of Somerset County participated in the Track and Field County Games at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. The events included speed walking, relay races, wheel chair races, javelin throw and more. In addition to the events, there were free carnival games, temporary tattoos and other activities available for all.

Many of The Arc's athletes qualified at the County games to go to the State games, which were held Friday, June 12, through Sunday, June 14, at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. This year's Summer Games saw nearly 2,500 athletes from throughout the state compete in seven sports. Arc athletes and staff stayed in the dorms at the college for the weekend and had the opportunity to meet and socialize with athletes from all around the state.

Brian has been participating in Special Olympics events since the age of 6. Over the years he has participated in swimming, softball, bowling, and track and field. He has enjoyed the events and people he has met over the years. "The people who organize Special Olympics have become my family", stated Brian, "They are some of the nicest people I have met."



### Arc Grant Achievements

- **The Kiwanis International Foundation:** \$2,500 for The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families "Kids Night Out" program
- **Quality of Life Grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation:** \$2,690 for Camp Jotoni Accessibility Modifications
- **The Grainger Foundation Inc:** \$10,000 for Camp Jotoni Camp Renovations
- **Stop & Shop:** \$1,000 for The Jerry Davis Center's Veggie Friend Program

### Arc Donations

- **Fraternal Order of Eagles # 2137** Somerset Aerie donated \$5,000 to The Arc of Somerset County for the Quality Department to purchase new laptops and make physical improvements to the Training Room.
- **L'Oreal Franklin Manufacturing Plant** donated \$1,000 to Camp Jotoni for 2015 camperships
- **Mr. & Mrs. Ron Slahetka** donated \$10,000 toward Residential Services Programs
- **L'Oreal, The United Way of Northern NJ and Somerset County Community** for Adopt A Family and Holiday Wish Book Donations
- **Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Friedman** donated \$5,400 for a golf cart for Camp Jotoni
- **Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Roe Patterson** donated \$10,000 for The Arc of Somerset County Foundation
- **Roselle Savings Bank** donated \$1,000 for The Arc of Somerset County Foundation



## Over 500 Individuals Supported the Annual Step Up Arc Walk and 5K Run on June 6th

The Arc of Somerset County hosted their annual "Step Up for the Arc Walk and 5K Run" event on Saturday, June 6th at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater to over 500 runners, walkers and supporters who gathered on a beautiful day. New this year were various food and service vendors offering information, demonstrations and samples to the attendees, and continuous sounds from New Jersey DJ Services

Special thanks goes to The 12th Masonic District for hosting their annual picnic at the end of the race/walk. The event would not have been possible without the generous support from our sponsors:



### Thank You!

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP FUNDRAISERS:

Top Department

Maintenance, Safety and

Security Department

Top Program, Ardsley Group Home

Top Arc Staff Member,

Dena Tedesco

Top Community Member

Jennifer Minervino

Top Family

Mandelbaum Family

Top Corporate Community

Cerminara Architect

Thank you to everyone who made the 2015 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 County Hosts their 43rd Annual Meeting on June 9th at the Olde Mill Inn

The Arc of Somerset County hosted its 43rd Annual Meeting on June 9th at the Olde Mill Inn in Bernards Township to celebrate the past year's successes and to honor community business members and individuals who made those successes possible.

**Shred-it** accepted an award for The Arc of Somerset County's Employer of the Year.

**12th Masonic District of New Jersey** was honored as The Arc of Somerset County's Distinguished Community Service Award winner.

**Stop & Shop Raritan** accepted The Arc of Somerset County's Community Partner of the Year Award.

**Jennifer Minervino** accepted the Volunteer of the Year Award.

**Michele Reilly** of The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families received the Teacher of the Year award.

**Rich Aburam** of Old Stirling Group Home for Professional of The Year award.

**Abi Bockaire** of Respite Group Home and **Pedro Salazar** of Union Ave 1 Supervised Apartments received Direct Support Professionals of The Year Award from the Residential Services Department.

**George Gilkerdas** of Branchburg Adult Training Center and **Agar Williams** of Branchburg Occupational Training Center received Direct Support Professionals of The Year Award from the Employment Services Department.

During the Annual meeting, The Arc of Somerset County nominated and accepted the new President of the Board of Directors, Tim McKeown. Congratulations Tim. We are also pleased to announce the new 2016 slate of officers including

Debra Albanese, Vice President, Stephanie Irwin, Treasurer, Jay Reyes, Secretary, Ron Slahetka, Immediate Past President and Board Members Charles Huck, William Mackay, and Michael Stefani. Eric Mandelbaum was presented with a certificate of appreciation in honor of his retirement from The Board of Directors after 10 years of service. Eric will now be supporting the Board of Trustees of The Arc Foundation of Somerset County.

*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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United Way**  
Affiliated Agency

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501(c)(3) organization.

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## Save the Date

### ***Capital Campaign Kick Off for Camp Jotoni***

The Arc of Somerset County will host a “Bricks” Capital CAMPaign cocktail event at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster on Thursday, October 22nd from 6:30pm-8:30PM.

### ***Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Open House***

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Open House will be in September (date TBA in August) 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 2015-2016 school year.

### ***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 New Partnerships” will be held Friday, November 13th at our new venue, The Somerset Hills Hotel in Warren Township, New Jersey. 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](mailto:lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org)