



Adult Services Presents The Buzz

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Theme: Celebrations!

Halo Award Winner: Burton Felice

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are"

*-J.P Morgan and
Chauncey Depew*



The Arc of Somerset County held its 2019 Arc Angel Gala on November 1st. It was a pleasure to be among consumers, family members and honorees including community partners The Far Hills Race Meeting Association. Special to all of us at The Arc however was our 2019 Halo Award recipient Burton Felice, who was honored as a 40 year resident, diligent employee, community fixture and friend. Honored by Executive Director Lauren Frary, our audience learned that Burton came to live in one of our first group homes in 1980. In the many decades since he has made great achievements in learning to live Independently in his apartment, to work

with Good Will and to fully embrace his community and the friends he has made along the way. Burton has established himself as a true community member and enjoys the people and friends that he sees in his everyday life. Burton is one of the original members and officers of The Arc's self advocacy group "Advocates for a Change" which he started in 1993. Burton continues to be active with this group today and provides leadership and guidance to his fellow advocates. While we congratulate all our 2019 honorees for their support, generosity and partnership through the years we would like to send special congratulations to Burton for his pioneering relationship with The Arc of Somerset County. Burton received a standing ovation while photos were taken and Lauren informed the audience of the 30+ year friendship they have shared. It was great fun to see everyone at the event and we hope to see you next year.

Upcoming Dates:

**1.25.20: MLK Day of
Service**

***Presidential Forum
for Adults with
Disabilities?***

**Monday Jan 13th
10:00am
Branchburg ATC**

Bill Sackter Award

Hello Everyone!

My name is Evelyn G. Ramundo and I live at Ardsley Group home in Hillsborough NJ. Recently, I was awarded the Bill Sackter Award- the highest award from the State and Local Self Advocacy level in New Jersey.

I received this award on Nov.21,2019 at the 70th Anniversary Gala for the Arc of New Jersey. I love helping people with I/DD on a statewide level for over a decade with state and local advocacy. My Family Chris & Jeff Logan have supported me through Self Advocacy for a decade. In my future I will be helping more advocates with I/DD.



Giving Back for the Holidays

Four individuals and one staff member from BBATC teamed up with Immaculate Conception Church for their annual gift wrapping for families at the Samaritan Housing Interim Program (SHIP). One family was selected from the SHIP program and this small group collaborated to wrap gifts to be given at the holidays. The team worked quickly and produced beautiful gift wrapping that will be a joy for this family to open.



Good Times with Trigger



“Page Turner Program”

Welcome New Hires: from July 2019 to September 2019

Jennifer Benaglio

Hannah Song

Sherri Isaacs

Andre Silver

Sara Rodgers

Gabriela Bonilla

Chukwuemeka Onukwugha

Frederick Aluka

Monica Amoo-Achampong

Bernice Boateng

Omobowale Asenuga

Ezra Goods

David Kalbach

Adama Turay

Ejatu Bah

Beata Gerberiova

Isatu Kanu

Selena Campopiano

Sahr Mbayo

Mary Ogechi

Ojuolape E. Ajayi



The Page Turners Reading Group has been meeting in Branchburg every Monday morning since March. The program is designed to introduce topics that have lead to further discussion and inquiry as well as provide exposure to written materials in a way that is approachable. Topics have included thunderstorms, dinosaur bones, astronauts and animals at the zoo.

The group also emphasizes social participation. After each reading, the group talks about what the reading was about. They also answer questions to work on recall and comprehension skills.

Individuals are encouraged to share their own interests in relation to the story or article being read. For example, when there was a reading that mentioned a train, someone in the group talked about the time she took a train into New York City. When the reading was about vegetables, the group named all the vegetables they could think of.

One of the standouts in the group has been Steve. When the group first started, his reading would be no louder than a mumble and not easy to hear. In the following weeks, he began to read louder so that everyone in the room could hear him. He also follows along with the reading and provides pronunciation help to others in the group if they get stuck on a word. Congratulations on this excellent work, Steve!

Decision Making Profile

The decision making profile creates a clear picture of how a person makes a decision and how they want to be supported in decision-making. It can help people to have choice and control in their lives. It describes how to provide information in a way that makes sense to that person.

This could be how they want you to structure your language, if they want written words, symbols or pictures or perhaps an audio format. On a page insert the following headings in 5 columns: How I like to get information, how to present choices to me, ways you can help me understand, when is the best time for me to make decisions and when is a bad time for me to make a decision.

A Gem of a Day at the Franklin Mineral Museum

Four individuals from BBATC joined the Immaculata High School (IHS) Campus Ministry Program, under the direction of Rich Grieshaber, on a beautiful trip to the Franklin Mineral Museum in Sparta. During the trip, the group spoke with excitement regarding the pretty changing leaves. The group joined up with volunteers from the IHS Campus Ministry to have hands-on experiences with gems and stones including excavating their own personal stone and an opportunity to walk underground through a mine.

A highlight was when the lights were turned out and everyone was impressed to see the colors of the gems change in the dark! The group and the volunteers enjoyed time together outside having lunch and getting to know each other.

Cheers to this partnership with Immaculata's Campus Ministry and more exciting adventures in the future!



Please contact:
Karen Z. Kowalski
or
Kathleen Shimmel

Looking for a fun
opportunity? Be a
guest contributor for
"The Buzz"



Hillsborough Library hosts “Name That Tune” event

Lisa Cassaly from the Hillsborough Library, hosted a “Name That Tune” event at the Jill Court and Camplain Road day programs to rave reviews! Individuals were separated into two teams with a team captain. It was amazing to learn how many people are such music enthusiasts - it was hard to stump anyone with a song!

Looking forward to more fun events with the Hillsborough Library!



Apple Picking Fun with BBATC



The Arc's Got Talent Show 2019

Becca's Friends of St. Joseph's Parish in Hillsborough opened their doors to the second annual "The Arc's Got Talent" show in November to a standing room only audience. Talents included singing, a guitar and harp collaboration, dancing, small music groups, poetry reading and the introduction of the BBATC Hip Hop Group. Individuals from The Arc in addition to Becca's Friends participated in a variety of acts indicating the outstanding ongoing community collaboration between both agencies. In the true spirit of a talent show, four judges (Doretha, Cliff, Amy and Jill) provided feedback after each performance in addition to a certificate and record as a memory of this event. Thank you to Becca's Friends, staff members who coached individuals with their performances, community musicians Justin Brown, Tommy Strazza, Patty Turse and John Fitzpatrick of The Coffeehouse Project, hip hop instructor Tom McKie, Victor Webb (em-cee) and of course all of our outstanding performers!

Look for the talent show video on the Arc website to relive every single moment!



Halloween Monster Mash-Up



Creating beautiful holiday planters with “In Yer Hands” adapted gardening



Jill Court Halloween Jamboree

Victoria Crawford, Manager of Jill Court Day Habilitation Program collaborated with Kean Level I Occupational Therapy students, Joseph Vitullo, OTS and Karissa Brand, OTS to plan a spectacular Halloween Jamboree that provided a variety of engaging activities for individuals to enjoy. Activities included a photo booth with fall backdrop, sensory experiences that involved reaching into containers filled with “gross” feeling items (orbees beads) to locate bugs in order to match on cards, Halloween themed art and craft activities, gross motor challenges throwing bean bags into target areas on the floor and through a suspended hoop as well as spooky treats such as pudding that was designed to look like a mummy! A special thank you to Joseph and Karissa for the outstanding collaboration with Victoria, Jill Court staff and individuals served at Jill Court this fall. As a result of this fieldwork, the students were able to relate additional information about individuals served to staff members regarding interests and abilities as well as provide guidance towards many engaging activities that individuals can participate in at a variety of ability levels.



Henkel Holiday Party at Commons



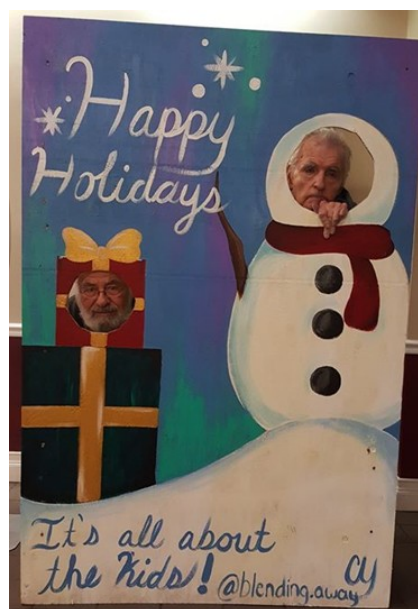
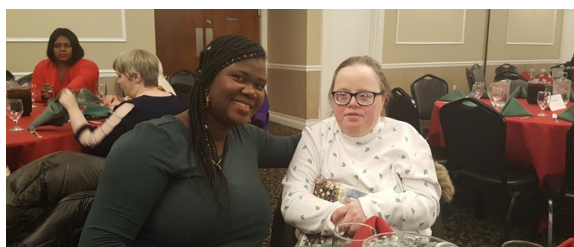
St. Joseph's Halloween Party with Becca's Friends



The Arc of Somerset County Holiday Party

Residents from Arc homes in addition to community members from surrounding residences enjoyed a wonderful holiday party as coordinated by Pam Michael-Rhesea. Everyone was treated to Evie saying grace prior to dinner, a delicious buffet of food and then of course dancing.

Thank you to the Self-Advocacy Group for selecting the menu - all yummy decisions!



Human Resource News

A Biometric Screening was held on Dec. 6th for all Arc employees to promote health & wellbeing.

Abdullah Bangura was recognized for “Going the extra mile” for maintaining high standards of safety while transporting consumers to day programs & back to their homes. His diligence, self-motivation and dedication to always go the extra mile are admirable and appreciated.

Out of the many deserving nominees for safety champion Stevens Lane group home was recognized for meeting the following criteria:

Submission of follow-up documentation within stated due date.

Documentation is thorough with specific short and long term action plans. Great job all!



Person Centered Thinking

Person centered planning rituals & routines. Rituals begin every day with our morning routines.

Identifying the pattern of waking up and getting ready for the day is critical for individuals served.

However, with people at your programs who may require assistance, that pattern of getting ready often changes with every change in staff. We first have to be aware of and respect what is important in their consumer routines of the day. We have to help create a routine that is meaningful to the person that we all know and all follow to provide comfort in maintenance and individual choice. For people who need assistance and support developing positive rituals must be a priority. For many people, these rituals will need to be developed with the assistance of staff and then supported by the staff at all levels.

Festival of the Trees

The Arc of Somerset County and Somerset County Therapeutic Recreation Department joined together to put on a wonderful performance at the Festival of the Trees at the Basking Ridge Environmental Education Center. Prior to the performance, the group practiced for three sessions at the Therapeutic Recreation Program during which they learned to play music using adapted hand chimes. The group put on a spirited performance of “Jingle Bells” and “The Dreidel Song” in addition to a joint performance with the evening Therapeutic Recreation program for “The Twelve Days of Christmas” which involved audience participation.

Looking forward to more collaborations with Therapeutic Recreation in 2020!



Walking With Program

The “Walking With Celebrities” program ended with two healthy and fun events. In October, a group of walkers had the opportunity to walk with members from the “Band of Brothers” including the Maintenance Department at Duke Island Park on a beautiful, crisp, fall day. In November, the weather became chilly which resulted in an indoor walking event during which time Chris Corvino and the entire Branchburg Day Program walked as the celebrities. The group completed sixteen laps around the interior of the program to a round of cheering and celebrating this healthy start to the day. Looking forward to continuing the walking program at Duke Island Park in the spring and the indoor walking program during the cold weather months to keep our spirits high with exercise.



Friendsgiving at Jill Court

Coordinated by Assistant Director of Residential Services, George Joseph, thirty-five residents participated in the “Friendsgiving” event at Jill Court in November. “Friendsgiving” is a time that friends get together to celebrate their friendship by sharing a meal together. This event started out with a rousing celebration of yoga and cross-fit exercise as sponsored by Kean Occupational Therapy Students through the direction of Kean Occupational Therapy student, Susanna Inglin, OTS. Following the exercise, the energized group enjoyed a feast of delicious foods that were specially prepared by each of the residences. Looking forward to the next two dates to include “Snowball and Bingo” event on January 4, 2020 and “Martin Luther King Day of Service” event on January 25, 2020.

