The Arc of Somerset County

HERALD

Celebrating Over 45 Years of Service

A Message From The Executive Director



This year has been a year of change for The Arc of Somerset County and the entire disability community.

As we manage the ongoing transition to fee for service (Medicaid billing) we are also managing the change that goes with a change of administration.

This year, the disability rights community has endured ongoing Congressional attacks that could have jeopardized the health and well-being of individuals with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities. And now, thanks to the enormous revenue losses that will be created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we must prepare to protect critical programs like Medicaid — which will likely be on the chopping block in 2018. The bill has passed in both chambers, and was signed into law by the President. This bill will not change the resolve of The Arc's network. Join our fight in 2018 as we continue to remain active in our opposition to attacks on the basic rights and health of people with disabilities and their families.

The major points of advocacy include:
• Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, Medicare and civil rights laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are lifelines for people with I/DD and their families, providing benefits, supports, and civil rights protections

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The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Coordinates Spring Cleaning and Sprucing from Local Volunteers

Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program at the Rutgers School of Health Partners with The Arc of Somerset County Adult Services Department



Two students from the Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program (BTG-CHIP) at the Rutgers School of Public Health have partnered with The Arc of Somerset County Adult Services Department.

The Bridging the Gaps Program provides health-related services to communities in New Jersey while also training future health professionals. The program at Rutgers includes students from the graduate medical, pharmacy, public health and health professions schools, as well as Rowan University medical students. Students participating in Bridging the Gaps work in interdisciplinary teams for seven weeks over the summer in a community-based organization.

The purpose of Bridging the Gaps is to provide the students with an opportunity to:
* Serve the community while at the same time learn from the community;
* Work in an inter-professional health team and learn about other health professions;
* Gain exposure to the environment, culture and role of community organizations; and
* Develop professional judgment and contacts.

This internship is set up for students to develop skills that are important for our future healthcare providers. By the end of the internship, they understand community factors that impact health as well as the importance of meaningful communication and inter-professional collaboration in responding to healthcare concerns.

Placement sites include community-based organizations around New Jersey. Students are supported and supervised by a Community Preceptor from their community organization as well as an Academic Preceptor from their respective school.

The duo's 1st project focused on improving the engagement in exercise and increasing the level of participation of the individuals served at the Branchburg Employment Program, as well as revising the routine/structure of the Branchburg Wellness Program's daily exercise class.

"Partnerships such as this, when focused on the wellness and activity of the individuals we support represent an important part of educating the larger healthcare field about the lives and abilities of the people within our service. They provide new interactions for the men and women we support", states Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County.



The Arc of Somerset County is looking forward to the project ideas for the reminder of the summer and truly thanks the Rutgers School of Health for this partnership that will benefit our adult community.

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
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Tom Applegate
Donna Pasek
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Associate Executive Director
.....Chris Corvino

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Camp Jotoni.....Josh Burke
Early Childhood Services.....Jill Glassman
Clinical Services.....Sharon McClellan
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Maintenance and Safety.....Jason Scheib
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The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Celebrates National School Choice Week



National School Choice Week (NSCW) was founded in 2011 to promote the concept of all forms of school choice.

The week of events is scheduled the last week of January each year and consists of independently organized events, both large and small, in schools, state capitols, and other public meetings featuring the movement's signature yellow scarves. As an organization it does not promote one form of educational choice over another, but rather contends that parents should have and make choices in the best interest of their children.

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families completed 3 NSCW activities:
1) A Parent/Family Thank You Appreciation Breakfast
2) Pajama - Campout activity with a tent, books and NSCW scarves included
3) Manville Library Presentation for children and families complete with literacy information, library card applications, free book and gift give-always to all who participated.

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families has been involved with NSCW for several years and plans to continue for the years to come.

"The goal always is to remind parents/families that we know they have a choice on where to send their children for daycare/preschool and they choose JDCCF - we want to let them know through the celebration week of our appreciation for them choosing JDCCF and entrusting their children to us" states Jill Glassman, Early Childhood Services.

"Another goal is to continue to show our partnership with families to address the needs of their child's development, safety and overall care and to show our support for each family who attends here" states Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County.

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that help make community living possible.

- In 2018, The Arc calls on all advocates to join us in reaching out to the President and Congress to educate them on the importance of these lifelines and to urge them to preserve - not cut -- these essential programs and civil rights laws.
- These federal programs provide the key to community living and inclusion for people with I/DD across the nation. Now more than ever, we must join together as a collective movement to ensure that our lifeline programs and civil rights are protected.

Along with The Arc of US and The Arc of NJ, The Arc of Somerset County will continue to work with our local, county and State legislators to continue the advocacy efforts to preserve Medicaid and the vital supports and services for the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities we support.

Earlier this month, we were able to see our advocacy efforts pay off. The Direct Support Professional Coalition for a living wage was formed for the explicit purpose to promote a living wage for our Direct Support Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of families, community provider agencies, Direct Support Professionals and, most importantly, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). These members share a common belief that individuals with I/DD deserve to live rich and meaningful lives as fully integrated members of our communities. Toward that end, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), who play a critical role in meeting this objective, must be paid a living wage.

The coalition has been actively pursuing and advocating with and on the behalf of our DSPs and the work is starting to get some attention, as Governor Murphy signed a budget that included $20 million in increased funding for Direct Support Professionals!

We will continue to advocate on the issues that matter and have great impact for our citizens with disabilities and we hope that you will be part of that advocacy because **together, we can achieve more.**

Lauren Frary,
Executive Director
The Arc of Somerset County

JDCCF Hires New Lead-Teacher/Assistant Director



Jeanne May was recently hired as the Head-Teacher for The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF). Jeanne is a New Jersey certified special education teacher, proficient in assessing student needs and learning styles. Jeanne came to the JDCCF from an eight year career at the Bridgewater Raritan Regional School District with experience in both pre-school and substitute teaching for special services.

"Jeanne is highly skilled, well-rounded professionally and hands-on with an abundance of early childhood experience, she has already implemented so many ideas in her short time here. Our team is confident she is going to bring new innovative ideas and developmental, creative activities to the program, in each and every classroom and our program as a whole," states Jill Glassman, Director of Early Childhood Services at JDCCF.

The Arc of Somerset County welcomes Jeanne May to our Jerry Davis family and wishes her much success in the summer and fall school season. *"We are so pleased to welcome Jeanne to our critical and vibrant program. We look forward to learning and enhancements in our services in and beyond the classroom,"* states Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County.

Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign Update:



We are excited to share that we are now finalizing plans to break ground on the first cabin and with the support of our Board and staff, we are now increasing our efforts to secure the remaining philanthropic funds to complete the first phase of our Camp Capital Campaign.

We are also pleased to share with you that the family of the late Max Spann and long time Arc supporter, John Ridley have agreed to serve as our honorary chairs of the Campaign Committee. Under the leadership of the Board of Directors of The Arc, The Board of Trustees of The Arc Foundation of Somerset County and with the support and trust of Mr. Ridley and the Spann family, we are certain that we are positioned to complete this phase by reaching and exceeding our goal. The goal we are hoping to reach for this phase is $450k by September 2018.

New Event Notice!

Our very first "Clubs for Cabins" golf fundraiser event will take place on Monday, September 17th, at the Watchung Hills Golf Club, located in Watchung, New Jersey. Registration will open at 10:00am following lunch and shotgun start at noon. The event will include a cocktail and dinner reception in the early evening with a silent auction. We hope that as a member of our Arc family, you will consider participation or donating to this very important cause for Camp Jotoni's future.
Sponsorships are available and pre-registration is required before August 10th. For more information, please contact development@thearcofsomerset.org or call 908-658-3805. On behalf the Camp staff, The Arc Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Trustees, we want to thank you for your consideration and for standing with us in our effort to lay the foundation for Camp Jotoni's future.

Planned Giving Promises a strong future for The Arc of Somerset County's Camp Jotoni

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County received a $100,000 planned gift that was designated toward the capital campaign from the Estate of Robert DeDecker. The Arc Foundation is grateful for this designated gift and is humbled by the DeDecker Family's belief in our mission to expand the special services provided by Camp Jotoni now and in the future.

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County Receives Spring Cleaning and Sprucing from Local Volunteers

Since March 2018, The Arc of Somerset County has received over 250 hours of volunteer services from community and corporate partners. We welcome the new volunteers to our program and thank everyone for their loyalty each year for helping us fulfill the seasonal work which spruces up our programs and residential homes.



St. Joseph's Church of Hillsborough Youth Group participants did spring yard cleaning at the Respite Group Home on April 27th.

On May 4th, Turner Construction spent the day at Camp Jotoni repairing a bathhouse floor and cabin stairs, completing branch and leaf cleanup, repairing a fence, and cleaning cabins and bathhouses.



On May 12th, volunteers from L'Oreal Clark painted bedrooms and the garage door at the Mobus Group Home.

On June 2nd, staff from Citi Warren volunteered at the Annual Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run at Duke Island Park.





On June 6th, CompoSecure completed outdoor landscaping projects at Cedar Grove Group Home including assisting with the planting of the home's vegetable and herb garden.

On June 6th, Volunteers from Roselle Savings Bank created planters for The Arc Residential Programs with the program participants at Branchburg ATC.



On Friday, June 22nd, volunteers from L'Oreal Franklin completed interior painting at the Respite Group Home and completed upgrades to some camper cabins at Camp Jotoni.



For more information about our corporate and community group volunteer projects for the fall 2018 season, please contact our foundation office at foundation@thearcofsomerset.org or call 908-658-3805.

BECCA's FRIENDS of St. Joseph's Parish Helps Raise Money for Camp Jotoni Camperships

The Becca's Friends Ministry is a monthly social events program for the adult special needs community of St. Joseph's and surrounding Hillsborough area.



The ministry was founded by the Laffoon Family in honor of their daughter Rebecca Laffoon who passed away in 2015. Rebecca was a long time participant at Camp Jotoni. Her family wanted her legacy to live on by creating an annual fund for camperships which help other special needs children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who wished to attend summer camp, but face financial barriers.

Each year, The Becca's Friends Ministry hosts a painting event in which the painted artwork the group creates is replicated onto note-cards that are sold to various communities in Somerset County New Jersey.

The funds raised are directed to Camp Jotoni's Camperships and since 2015 have helped over 10 campers attend summer camp each season. The Arc of Somerset County thanks the Becca's Friends Ministry for their wonderful work for this great cause!



Accessing Music Expands Further with Bernard's Ensemble Performance at Camplain Rd.

The Bernard's Ensemble is a local Somerset County group of young musicians from elementary school to high school who have a passion for music and desire to share within the local community. The Ensemble has made The Arc of Somerset County a local performance venue with frequent visits to our group homes and Camplain Road ATC, since early spring.

Chris Corvino states, *"We are always excited to see performances and performers interested in The Arc as an audience. Having opportunities to bring entertainment to the people we support enhances daily experiences, creates new conversation and most importantly, provides incentive for our growing community of performers and music makers within The Arc".*

Arc Foundation Grant Achievements In Quarter 3 & 4

Qualcomm awards $10,000 to Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign

Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund awards $3,000 toward Camp Jotoni Camperships

Roselle Savings Bank awards $1,000 to The Arc Foundation of Somerset County

Investors Foundation awards $2,500 for the JDCCF Student Tuition Assistance Program

Step Up for The Arc 5K and Walk Event Boast New Friends and Local Supporters June 2nd

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County hosted the annual "Step Up for The Arc" 5k and Walk event on Saturday, June 2nd, at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater.

Special thanks to the new friends who joined the 5K race as well as our loyal supporters of The Arc of Somerset County.



Thank You!

RACE SPONSORS:

Contract All, LLC

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The MAX Challenge of Somerset

GOLD MEDAL SPONSORS:

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Manville Pizza Pasta

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STEP UP FOR THE ARC TOP FUNDRAISERS

TOP TEAM DEPARTMENT:	Ilene Court Craftsman (Maintenance)
TOP ARC STAFF MEMBER:	Roy Lawrence
TOP CORPORATE GROUP:	Cerminara Architect
TOP FAMILY TEAM:	Mandelbaum Family

The Arc of Somerset County Hosts Annual Meeting on June 21st at New Venue- Somerville Elks Lodge #1068

The Arc of Somerset County hosted the 2018 Annual Meeting on, Thursday June 21st, at the Somerville Elks Lodge # 1068 in Bridgewater, NJ. The event was held to celebrate the past year's successes and to honor the local community supporters who make a huge impact in the services we provide to those who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Somerset County.



2018 Awards and Recognition

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Arooga's Grille House & Sports Bar

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Felicia Demel, Clinical Services

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR - EMPLOYMENT

Cindy Dorsey, Branchburg Adult Training Center

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR-RESIDENTIAL

Sha-Kia Leftwich, Stevens Lane Group Home

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Leadership Somerset, Class of 2017

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Bonnie Heuvelman, Camp Jotoni

VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

Turner Construction

EXCELLENCE IN PHILANTHROPY

CompoSecure

The Arc
of Somerset County
For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

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The Arc of Somerset County is a
501(c)(3) organization.

Achieve with us.

Save the Date!

Camp Jotoni's First Annual "Clubs for Cabins" Golf Outing

Camp Jotoni's First Annual "Clubs for Cabins" Golf Outing is Monday, September 17th, at the Watchung Hills Golf Club. Check in at 10:00am, lunch and scramble shotgun start at 12:00pm. Cocktails/Dinner/Awards 5:00pm-7:00pm. For additional information, please contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-658-3805 or e-mail: lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is October!

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.

The Arc Angel Ruby Reception & Casino Night is November 2nd!

Join us for the 2018 Arc Angel Ruby Reception & Casino Night Fundraiser on Friday, November 2nd, at the Bridgewater Marriott. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For additional information, please contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-658-3805 or e-mail: lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org