



HERALD

Celebrating 45 Years of Service

A Message From The Executive Director



As we head into a New Year, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with The Arc in 2017 for their efforts,

dedication and support.

The success of The Arc is built on the efforts of our employees and in this past year, we have enjoyed many successes. Among our accomplishments this year, was the expansion of many of our programs to include new program options (Music, Art & Computer classes) as well as an increase in the number of individuals served. Our employees continue to demonstrate great skill and dedication in their work to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children and adults that attend our programs.

Our Volunteer base continues to grow and this year we had 495 volunteers who dedicated 3500 volunteer hours. Volunteers are a vital resource to us and their impact cannot be underestimated. Our volunteers have provided for facility improvements, companionship for those we serve and leadership in the form of Board participation.

Our Donors have been steadfast in their support and generosity and we have been able to use the resources from individual and corporate donors and private grants to provide

See continued Message on page 2

In this issue...
Two New Hires at
The Arc of Somerset County

The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families Receives a Sensory Playground

The Arc of Somerset County's Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families (JDCCF) received an installation of a much anticipated outdoor sensory activity classroom on Saturday, October 21st thanks to a volunteer initiative by the Leadership Somerset Class of 2017.

Leadership Somerset is an adult community leadership program for people who live or work in Somerset County. Each year, participants are required to complete a class project that gives back to the community. The volunteer leadership team designed and installed the outdoor sensory activity classroom at the center's existing outdoor facility playground that includes a water and mud station, a sensory garden, and a music area made of utensils, pvc pipes and aluminum cans. The mission of The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families is to ensure every child's optimal growth and development with comprehensive, interdisciplinary programs that are designed to meet the physical, cognitive, social and emotional needs of children who have a diverse range of abilities and who may live at or below poverty level.

The outdoor classroom, which is composed of mostly up-cycled materials, was transformed into an affordable and sustainable full sensory curriculum that is required by the JDCCF's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). QRIS is a systematic approach to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. The volunteer group installed and completed the project with much help from local community supporters and in-kind such as Unity Bank, Somerville Lumber Company, Eagle Fence & Supply, Morris Brick & Stone Co., Redelico's Paint & Decorating Center, Lowes of Hillsborough, Post Ace Hardware of Somerville, Bellemead Coop, Huston Lumber of Oldwick, Somerset County Vo-Tech High School Carpentry Students, Somerset County 4H, Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services Handyman Project, Somerset County Park Commission, and Maggiano's of Bridgewater.

"We are thrilled to be chosen for this year's Leadership Somerset Class of 2017 program and it is a wonderful opportunity for the program to make a significant impact on the children that we serve. The outdoor classroom is such an amazing achievement for The Arc of Somerset County and the Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, stated Lauren Frary, Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County.

The celebration ribbon cutting ceremony of the new installment of the sensory took place on Wednesday, November 8th at 9:00am and was hosted by Unity Bank.



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
 TreasurerStefanie Irwin
 Secretary Jay Reyes

The Arc acknowledges members of the Board of Directors

The Arc Board Members:

Michael Stefani Tom Applegate
 Daryle Peterson Sharon Booker
 Donna Pasek

Executive Staff:

Executive Director Lauren Frary
 Associate Executive Director.... Chris Corvino

Department Directors:

Adult Services.....Karen Kowalski
 Camp Jotoni.....Josh Burke
 Early Childhood ServicesJill Glassman
 Clinical Services.....Sharon McClellan
 Finance.....Jonedel Pangan
 Foundation Development & PR.....
 Lisa Marie Arieno
 Human Resources.....Christina Faraone
 Information Technology.....Lance Floden
 Maintenance and Safety..... Jason Scheib
 Parents and Children Together
Jeanne Guarnieri



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Two New Hires in Executive and Management

Christopher Corvino, Associate Executive Director



We are happy to announce that Christopher Corvino has returned to the position of Associate Executive Director. In this position, Chris will work closely with the program departments to promote and deploy strategic goals, develop resources to sustain and promote service programs and provide a structure and process to ensure a high level quality for all individuals and their families. Chris has been employed with The Arc of Somerset County since April 2007 as the Director of Employment Services. In 2008, Chris was promoted to the Associate Executive Director position. During his time as the AED, Chris demonstrated excellent leadership and strategic skills and has used his knowledge and experience to the benefit of the service departments and the agency as a whole. For the past two years, Chris has used his energy and talents to develop and launch “The Achievement Center” at Raritan Valley Community College, which is a post secondary educational program for young adults with disabilities.

Karen Kowalski, Director of Adult Services



The Arc of Somerset County welcomes registered occupational therapist, Karen Kowalski as the new Director of Adult Services. Karen served as Instructor and the inaugural Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the Rutgers Occupational Therapy Assistant Program for which she coordinated fieldwork experiences for students at locations that included The Arc of Somerset County – Branchburg ATC/OTC site. She maintains clinical practice at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (Somerset) on a per diem basis.

Having a passion and talent for music, Karen developed a specialty for adapted music access through her work within the Somerset County Park Commission – Therapeutic Recreation Program, private piano lessons, professional publications, presentations and most notably within The Arc of Somerset County, through the very successful development and implementation of the “Accessing Music Promoting Success” program at Branchburg ATC/OTC site. She received the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission Excellence in the Arts Award in 2017.

Karen graduated from Kean University with a Bachelor of Science - Occupational Therapy and University of Medicine and Dentistry with a Master of Public Health. She is an active member of American Occupational Therapy Association and New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association wherein she is Awards Committee Chair.

Message, continued from page 1

additional program options and tuition assistance to families with limited financial means. Our Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign has had a strong start and we will continue to look to the larger community to revitalize camp’s facilities.

Our Families have been in constant partnership with us and continue to be the cornerstone of our agency and the main thrust of our mission. Our families continue to expand and we have enjoyed working with grandparents, parents and siblings as we continue to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The New Year will be filled with challenges as the State of New Jersey actively transitions

into a fee for service (Medicaid Billing) funding model. However, like the challenges we have faced in the past, our mission and vision will remain in the foreground of our work and we will face each challenge with the understanding that opportunity will be the ultimate outcome.

I thank you all for the opportunity to be in partnership with you as we continue our journey. Together we will all achieve more!

Lauren Frary,
 Executive Director
 The Arc of Somerset County

Arc Celebrates the Fall and Holiday Season with Friends in Our Community

Each year, The Arc of Somerset County is thrilled to work with various local organizations, groups, and individuals to ensure that the holidays are a truly special time for those we serve. We would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions toward a festive season at The Arc:

- On Tuesday, October 24th the 5th Annual Monster Mash-Up was held at the VFW Hall in Manville hosted by the Clinical Services and Maintenance Department. Attendees were treated to pizza and snacks, a costume contest, dancing, photo booth with take home pictures, caricature drawings, souvenir Mash-Up bracelets, and a visit from Sparkee of the Somerset Patriots. Everyone had a ghoulishly good time! We'd like to thank for the following for helping us make the event a special time for everyone: Frank's Pizzeria of Manville, Manville VFW, Joe & Stella Mitzen, Caricatures with Hal, Herr's Chips, The Arc Foundation of Somerset County, Somerset Patriots, and The Arc staff who volunteered their time to help out!
- The Lion's Club of Warren Township for coordinating the Thanksgiving basket-drive for close to 100 Arc families and group homes. We are truly thankful for this drive that the Lion's conduct annually.
- The United Way of Northern New Jersey for including those served by The Arc of Somerset County in their annual "Gifts of the Season" program. This gift drive ensures that all members of the community receive at least one special present for the holidays. Santa came on the morning of December 19th to surprise the children at The Jerry Davis Center and to distribute these gifts to each child at the center.
- The Courier News for featuring three stories about The Arc of Somerset County individuals and their families in their 2017 Wish Book.
- Henkel Corporation's B-Now group celebrated the holidays for the fifth consecutive year with the residents at Commons Apartments by hosting a pizza party with arts & crafts, Christmas Caroling along with Santa stopping by bringing gifts for all on Thursday, December 8th.
- L'Oreal's Franklin Manufacturing Plant adopted two families; one from The Arc's In-Home Respite and Early Intervention Program on Wednesday, December 21st and gave presents to the children and gifts cards to local retailers to the families.
- Kiwanis of Somerset Hills visited the Warren Group Home on Thursday, December 8, bringing pizza, cupcakes to decorate, and a Christmas tree!
- Composecure for their generous donation of supplies for our adult group homes.
- Camp Jotoni Counselors visited 6 group homes bringing presents to the residents and spreading holiday cheer.
- Stonecrest Community Church visited the Cambridge Group Home residents on Sunday, December 10th, for a holiday social that included seasonal arts and crafts and the singing of holiday songs.
- June O'Neil and her family visited Commons Supervised Apartments for the 18th year in a row! The group decorated gingerbread men, made ornaments, played bingo and spread lots of holiday cheer.
- The Somerset County Advisory Council on Disability Issues visited the Union Avenue Supervised Apartments on December 19th bringing each resident a scarf, hat, gloves, and holiday wishes.
- The Arc's many generous donors that ensure that Arc consumers and families will continue to enjoy lives filled with growth, development, and achievement well beyond the holiday season.



GALA Review

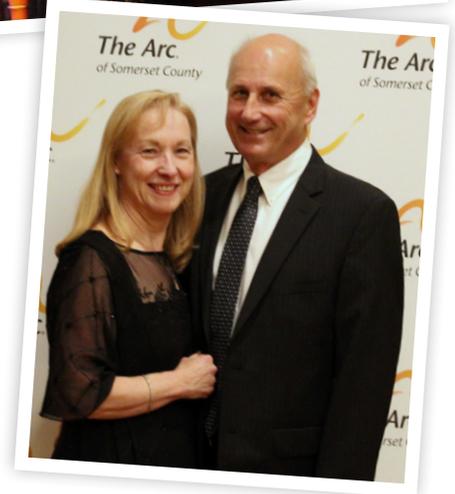
The Arc Foundation of Somerset County celebrated “45 Years of Service” at the annual Arc Angel Gala held at the Bridgewater Marriott on Friday, November 3rd. Each year, Arc Angel Gala awards members of the Somerset County community for their efforts on advocacy, social work and philanthropy surrounding the disability community.

The event honored Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli for his dedication to the many charities that serve special populations within the state of New Jersey, and John Ridley of Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLC who was the past President of The Arc of Somerset County as well as a volunteer for the Special Olympic and SHARE. The program also honored two members of the Somerset Community who recently passed away.

The late Max Spann was honored as a pioneer for his movement for the establishment of homes in the community for the developmentally disabled population. While serving on boards for the Arc of Somerset County, the Arc of Warren County, and the Arc of New Jersey, he was pivotal in the founding of summer camps for the developmentally disabled. The late Fred Patterson was also honored for serving as a leading advocate for those with developmental disabilities, on the local, state, and national level. Mr. Patterson was a retired executive of 30 years as Director of Corporate Relations for Johnson & Johnson and was a founding family member for The Arc of Somerset County. Fred served as President of The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc of Somerset County, and was Chairman of the Foundation of The Arc of the United States.

The event also honored Mary Bertoni, a student who attends Bernard’s High School and who is an avid volunteer at the Somerset Hills YMCA “Saturday’s In Motion”, a program that is the largest and longest running recreational program for children with autism and their families.

Special thanks to the event Media sponsors, AT&T, Bosenberg & Company Landscape Architecture for sponsoring the Arc of Somerset County’s agency video which was unveiled at the event, and Chairman Sponsors, Composecure and Vice Chairman Sponsors, Mrs. Roe Patterson and Mr. & Mrs. John Ridley.



Arc Grant Achievements in Qtr 3 & 4 2017:

We are proud to recognize the following grant achievements this fall
for The Arc of Somerset County

- Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund awarded \$3,000 toward Camp Jotoni Scholarships Program
- The MENTOR Network Charitable Foundation awarded \$5,000 toward JDCCF Tuition Subsidy Program
- Magyar Bank Charitable Foundation awarded \$1,000 toward JDCCF Tuition Subsidy Program
- Janssen awarded \$25,000 toward the JDCCF Tuition Subsidy Program
- Wells Fargo awarded Camp Jotoni \$1,000 toward the Capital Campaign for 2017



Arc of Somerset Donations in Qtr 3 & 4:

- NJ State Council Knights of Columbus Millstone Valley Council #11415 for the "Accessing Music Program"
- Brother International Corp. to The Arc Foundation of Somerset County for their "Casual Summer for a Cause" campaign
- Janssen Caring Crowd Campaign for Camp Jotoni's Nursing Station
- Lebanon Reformed Church
- Lebanon Reformed Church for their annual end of year donation to The Arc of Somerset County

Special Thanks to Our Major Gift Donors to The Camp Jotoni Capital Campaign:

Mrs. Kathryn Chapin

Mr. & Mrs. Michael DiBiasi

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Friedman

Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest

Nestle Health Science

Spooky Brook Ladies Golf League

Volunteers Brighten The Arc

Companies from local community shared their time, talent, and supplies during the summer and fall of 2017 to spruce up a few of the Arc group homes and Camp Jotoni.



- On July 17th, Turner Construction Interns built a giant Plinco Board for our Camp Jotoni Campers.
- On August 2nd, Henkel North America volunteers hosted a social night of games and crafts at Commons Apartments.
- On August 3rd, Nestle Health Sciences volunteered as camp counselor assistants at Camp Jotoni for the day.
- On August 3rd, UBS Financial Services Inc. painted one of our assisted living homes.
- Henkel North America volunteers helped stain the outdoor deck at Steinmetz Group Home in October.



- Janssen Pharmaceuticals volunteers came to Camp Jotoni to help winterize the cabins for the season in October.
- October 20th and 21st, Hillsborough Education Association volunteers helped stain the deck at our Respite Group Home and assisted with fall clean up.
- On November 22nd, Withum Smith & Brown volunteers came to the Mobus Group Home to paint several rooms.
- On November 22nd, Withum Smith & Brown volunteers came to the Camplain Road Adult Training Center to host a social craft day with our adults.



For additional information about scheduling a volunteer project for your organization, team or group, contact Laura Ziegler at 908-658-3805 or via email at lauraz@thearcofsomerset.org



New Computer Class at Branchburg Adult Training Center

The Arc of Somerset County is happy to announce the addition of Computer Classes to the day program curriculum at the Branchburg Adult Training Center (BBATC). Like the Music and Art programs, this curriculum based program will assist the agency in learning more about the interests of those we serve as well as build their skills.

The class is taught by Mary Scibell, a former Arc intern, who is a Master's Degree Librarian. Mary was a perfect fit to teach the class because of her experience teaching to learners of all types and levels at local libraries.

The curriculum-based class starts with the basics – describing the functions of the keys on the keyboard, teaching how to double-click a mouse, identifying items on a computer screen, etc. Once the participants are comfortable with these concepts, the participants learn how to surf the internet utilizing Google and all its functions.

Participants in this small group class are encouraged to search for ideas that interest them – such as a hobby or a place they would like to visit. This provides a new opportunity to learn more about the interests of those served, provide them with additional ways to express themselves, as well as learn a new skill. For example, when one participant was searching Hollywood, California as a place to visit, he just typed Hollywood in the search bar and Hollywood, Florida was listed as one of the results. A conversation then ensued about different geographic location with the same name.

“Our computer skills class at BBATC fulfills a long held desire to present basic computer use skills to our participants,” stated Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director. “A computer is a tool to communicate with others, search for items of interest and begin a conversation in a way that might as easily occur in conversation. In this way the computer skills classes follow our music and art programs as a continuing new way for consumers to express themselves and tell their personal stories.”

For more information about The Arc of Somerset County's Adult Training Center programs, please call 908-725-8544, ext. 606, or visit www.thearcofsomerset.org.



Planned Giving and Foundation Information

Did you know....

The Arc Foundation of Somerset County will work with you on planned giving deferred gifts for our agency?

*Planned Giving is a gift a person decides to give at some future date or at the time of their death. Donors make planned gifts to charities to help ensure that the programs and services of a favorite charity continue to benefit others. Consult your attorney or tax advisor if you wish to explore your options on planned giving with **The Arc Foundation of Somerset County** or contact Lisa Marie Arieno, Director of Foundation Development and Public Relations at 908-658-3805 or email: lisamariae@thearcofsomerset.org*



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

141 South Main Street
Manville, NJ 08835



**Somerset County
United Way**

Affiliated Agency

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

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What's Happening in 2018

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

President Ronald Reagan declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987, urging all Americans to join our fellow citizens with such disabilities for encouragement and the opportunity they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential. National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to promote respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to educate others on the spectrum about the abilities people with disabilities possess. The theme for 2018 is 'Together We Have No Limits'.

We hope you will join us this March as we celebrate the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information, please visit http://www.arcnj.org/news_events/dd_awareness/

Step Up For The Arc Walk & 5K Run

This year's event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater. This date will be confirmed in mid January. Visit our website for more information or to sign up as a runner or walker. T-shirt sponsorship opportunities are currently available.

Questions? Contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-658-3805 or via email at lisamariea@thearcofsomerset.org

Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Ceremony

The Arc will honor its volunteers, staff, consumers, supporters, and community partners in June. Our official date and location is to be announced at the end of January. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Lisa Marie Arieno at 908-658-3805 for additional information.