



Guardian

Fall 2010
Volume 62 No. 4

A publication of The ARC of Essex County, a non-profit agency serving persons with developmental disabilities and their families since 1948.

Annual Meeting Recognition Awards

The ARC of Essex County held its annual meeting on June 14, 2010 at which time awards were presented to individuals, organizations and businesses that have been supportive of The ARC in the course of the year. Below are the seven honorees of 2010.

Naomi and Janet Berger are sisters who epitomize the spirit of volunteerism. They volunteer at Stepping Stones and the Golf Tournament, but their particular emphasis has been as chairpersons of the Bloomingdale's Shopping Event. They organize, motivate and cheer everyone on, determined that each year will be more successful than the last. Their commitment helps bring in over \$9,000 each year.

F.N. Brown Elementary School in Verona has donated toys for the holidays to The ARC of Essex for several years. This year they donated an especially generous amount of new, wrapped presents to be given to the children at Shapiro Center and the Home Assistance Program. Each gift had a code on the wrapping to let us know if the present was for a boy or girl and the approximate age range. Thank you to **Maggie Lambert** and **Regina Nagy** for coordinating this effort and to the families of the F.N. Brown Elementary School for their generous donations.

Brunswick Zone in Belleville has, over a 20 year period, provided a supportive recreational bowling experience to hundreds of children and adults with developmental disabilities. The entire staff helps to make each bowler feel comfortable and appreciated. They teach bowling techniques and are always friendly. In addition, they provide discounts on a regular basis. Manager **Mike Debenetto** and Snack Bar Manager **Diane Garrity**, were recognized for their contributions for making this such a successful program.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. Essex County Executive was instrumental in The ARC



Jim Siclari accepts his award from Linda Lucas, Tim Ganning and Robert Laurino.



Linda Lucas and Robert Laurino congratulate Joseph N. DeVincenzo, Jr. on his award.



Award recipients Maggie Lambert and Regina Nagy from F.N. Brown Elementary School receive their award from Sue Brand and Robert Laurino.

of Essex County being awarded a forgivable loan from the HOME Program for \$1.3 million. These funds were used to purchase a new building in Maplewood with eight condominiums which serve 16 people with developmental disabilities. This project happened because of the support from the Essex Division of Housing and Community Development.

Bradford Huntington is the Treasurer of The ARC Essex Foundation and a member of the Golf Committee. Thanks to his foresight in approaching our Corporate Golf Sponsors early, and his efforts to reach out on our behalf to these corporations, we had a very successful Golf Tournament last year in the midst of difficult economic times.

Jim Siclari, President of **Aces Landscaping** in Bloomfield, is the landscape and snow removal contractor for The ARC of Essex County. He has been understanding of our budget situation, and when this year's snowfalls had depleted our budget

for maintaining our properties, Jim generously cleared the snow from our residences and completed site cleanups and landscaping services with no charge. When we did not have the funds to complete certain services, Jim's response was, "Don't worry about it. I will do that for you." Not only was the work completed, but the final product was well done.

UNICO National Livingston Chapter for the past ten years raised money through a variety of fundraisers and donated \$5,750 to The ARC, designated to the Stepping Stones Program. This money has gone to service families in the Early Intervention Program, which is a non-funded program. It has made it possible to offer this cost free to families with babies from birth to two years of age.

We thank all of our wonderful honorees. You are longstanding friends of The ARC and we are grateful for your support.



Matt Ladolcetta from Livingston UNICO is congratulated by Judy Bellina, Linda Lucas and Robert Laurino.



Janet and Naomi Berger receive their award from Kristy Hartman and Robert Laurino.

ARC Holds Donor Event

On Wednesday evening, June 9th, The ARC of Essex County held a **Donor Appreciation** reception to thank donors for the generosity of their financial support of The ARC and its mission to serve individuals with developmental disabilities in and around Essex County.

The event was hosted by TD Bank in Livingston, which also provided the refreshments for the evening. During the course of the evening, people had an opportunity to admire the artwork of children from the ARC Stepping Stones School and see videos of activities that the children participated in during the school year. A group of consumer self-advocates addressed the attendees and spoke about efforts being made to abolish the word “retarded” when referring to people with developmental disabilities. They have attended and addressed meetings at Rutgers and in Trenton where a move is underway to remove the word from state documents related to developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Linda Lucas, ARC Executive Director, Robert Laurino, ARC President and Stephen Falanga, ARCESsex Foundation President, expressed their appreciation to the donors for how important their contributions are to the programs and services that The ARC provides to those it serves. The evening provided an opportunity for donors, staff and consumers to socialize, and for donors to see and understand how their contributions impact programs and individuals.



Among the guests enjoying the delicious buffet are Richard and Dawn Bonelli.



Barbara Calderone, ARC Associate Executive Director and Dick and Eileen Stuart admire the Stepping Stones students' artwork.



Al Ianacone, ARC Associate Executive Director, Linda Lucas, ARC Executive Director and Catherine Bubet of TD Bank enjoy a moment of conversation.



Former ARC President, John O'Brien, escorts self-advocates Renee Pierce and George Walker off stage to enthusiastic audience applause.

Bruce Bird ARC of Essex County President

Bruce Bird assumed the Presidency of The ARC of Essex County succeeding Robert Laurino who completed his term of office in June 2010. Bruce comes to this position with a great deal of experience to offer. He is the first President in the history of The ARC of Essex County to “recycle” his presidency after serving in this capacity from 1998 – 2002. When Bruce’s term ended in 2002, he became involved at the state level with The Arc of New Jersey, eventually becoming its President. Although his term as our President ended in 2002, Bruce never lost his connection with us. He served on the ARC Essex Foundation Board and remained a member of The ARC of Essex County Board as well.

When Linda Lucas, ARC of Essex County Executive Director, explained that there was a need for Bruce’s services again as ARC of Essex County President, he agreed to accept the challenge. In discussing why he accepted this position, Bruce said that the difficult economic times we are undergoing as an agency dependent on government funding for the majority of our money, makes it more important than ever to be active on behalf of those with disabilities and to be a strong advocate for their needs. On a personal level, Bruce has a son with special needs, and he knows that his son’s future depends on making sure that The ARC of Essex County remains financially secure and maintains its position as a major voice for our consumers.

We are fortunate to have a person of Bruce’s caliber ready to take on the demands of being President of The ARC of Essex County. His leadership ability was recognized in October 2009 when he was honored by receiving the 22nd Annual Ann Klein Advocate Award in recognition of his long history of advocacy for those with developmental disabilities. Bruce has been a dedicated and involved supporter of The Arc mission on a local and state level, and is ready to again take on the role as President of The ARC of Essex County.

Volunteer and Staff Luncheon

Stepping Stones held its annual **Volunteer and Staff Appreciation and Recognition Luncheon** on June 2, 2010. This annual end of school year event is well attended by parents and families of the children of Stepping Stones. It is an opportunity to thank staff and volunteers for their many acts of kindness and giving of themselves throughout the school year. This year's luncheon was chaired by **Ellen Ames** and **Tracey Smeragliuolo** whose efforts made this a special event for all who attended. Thanks also go to the many parents who generously contributed to the luncheon.

Special recognition was given to the following volunteers for milestone anniversaries:

25 Years

Bobbie Byron

15 Years

Naomi Berger

10 Years

Bob Gebroe
Felice Greenberg
Patricia Jago
Lois Lascari

5 Years

Carol Boeckel
Marge Cecere

1 Year

Janet Graham
Jacki Granville
Lori Silverman
Nancy Stein



Judy Bellina, Coordinator Early Intervention and Volunteer Support, with 25 year volunteer Bobbi Byron.



Linda Lucas, ARC Executive Director, congratulates volunteer Naomi Berger.



Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen, ARC Associate Executive Director, congratulates 10 year volunteer Lois Lascari.



Sue Brand, Director of Children, Family and Community Services, with volunteer Pat Jago.



Sue Brand, Director of Children, Family and Community Services, and volunteer Lori Silverman.



Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen, ARC Associate Executive Director, with volunteer Nancy Stein.



Linda Lucas, ARC Executive Director, with volunteer Marge Cecere.

Consumer Activities



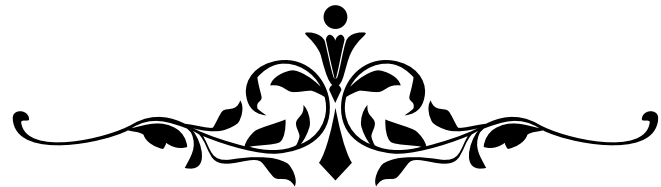
Consumers from Livingston CRC, Gloria Wilkes, David Hicks, Julia Randolph, Timothy Philbrook and Anthony Montgomery cool off in the summertime heat with water balloons.



Participants from SYA (Special Young Adults) at Yantacaw School where they enjoyed breakfast and dancing with the students.



Chris Vilecca relaxes in the shade after an exercise activity and lunch in the park.



Consumers Help at Event

On June 27th **The Fitzgerald's Lager Run** took place in Glen Ridge to benefit the Glen Ridge Community Fund. Three ARC of Essex County consumers, **Greg D'Arcey, John Schettine and George Walker**, did an outstanding job of giving out water to the approximately 800 runners. The day was extremely hot and humid, so the water was very much appreciated. Al Ianacone, ARC Associate Executive Director, picked up the consumers at the Claremont Group Home and transported them to the Run, where he manned the water hose and helped cool the runners by spraying them as they went by. The ARC receives funding from the Glen Ridge Community Fund for Camp Hope, Stepping Stones and social services. This was an opportunity for us to help an organization that helps us.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Riverfront Stadium in Newark was the setting on Sunday, June 13th for the baseball game between the Newark Bears and the Camden Sharks. Called **ARC at the Park**, this ARC sponsored event drew many consumers, families and ARC staff for an afternoon of fun. A group of consumer self-advocates manned a table with materials urging people not to use the words "retard" or "retarded" when referring to people with developmental disabilities. Many people stopped at the table to take material and to sign the pledge. When it was time for the game to begin, Herbert Glover, an ARC consumer, threw out the first pitch. During the afternoon, ARC t-shirts were thrown out to the crowd as giveaways. The weather, which was not promising, held out for most of the game before the rain came. Everyone had a good time, and there have been requests that we do it again next year.



Scott Feingold, Director Quality Assurance and Clinical Support Services, with his wife and twin daughters, are part of the crowd enjoying the game.



The Newark Bears mascot interacts with the players.

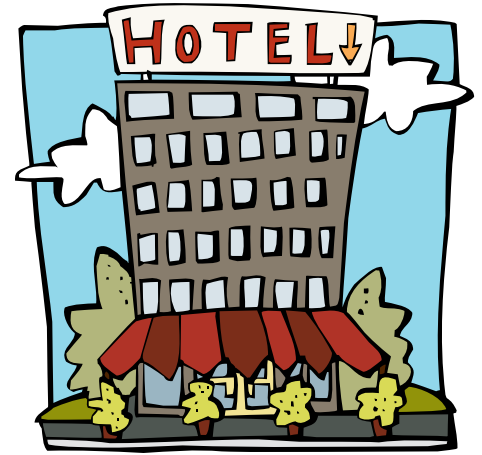
Wall of Puzzles



Glen Hall with some of his puzzle artwork.

Glen Hall's favorite activity is putting together jigsaw puzzles, the smaller the pieces, the better the challenge. He can put together a 100 piece puzzle in less than a half hour. 3-D puzzles present a challenge and tend to slow him down; however, he always manages to complete them. Glen attends Community Link Resource Center in Fairfield, and is the resident puzzle master. After the puzzle is completed, Glen likes to glue the puzzle and hang it up for all to view. He has completed so many

puzzles that the staff dedicated an entire wall for him to display his masterpieces. The puzzles have added to the décor of the center and have provided Community Link with a new Art Gallery. They are planning to invite other programs to visit and view the new works of art. The puzzles that Glen puts together are purchased with program supplies and also donations from the staff. Our next challenge for Glen will be a 3000 piece puzzle. Although this is a great activity for Glen, it is becoming expensive. Community Link will continue to provide puzzles for his enjoyment, but they welcome any donations of used puzzles (with all pieces intact) collecting dust at your home. Please contact Marion Haig at (973) 227-0338 if you can help.



Donate Hotel Rewards

The ARC needs your help.

Our weekend hotel respite program is experiencing some financial difficulties. Please consider donating your hotel reward points to The ARC. If you are able to help, please call Al Ianacone at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1239.

Maplewood Open House

An open house was held in June at our new facility in Maplewood, a condominium with eight apartments that is home to 16 individuals with developmental disabilities. The open house was attended by local political figures, ARC personnel, Board members and ARC consumers who will be living there. The project succeeded because of the support received from the Essex Division of Housing and Community Development. The consumers living there are delighted with their new housing arrangements.



Welcome to our new building in Maplewood.



Mila M. Jasey, Assemblywoman, Mayor Victor DeLuca of Maplewood, Shirley Allison, ARC consumer and Linda Lucas, ARC Executive Director admire Shirley Allison's new apartment.

Summer Fun

On July 26th a group from Crisis/Respite visited The Land of Make Believe in Hope, NJ. Staff and consumers enjoyed a train ride, feeding the animals, going on a variety of rides, and playing games. They even had an opportunity to talk with Santa way in advance of Christmas! Everyone had a good time and enjoyed their visit.



The group is ready for a day in The Land of Make Believe.



ARC staff members Chris Fillimon, Minerva Delgado, Ann Burleigh, Al Ianacone, Laurie Best and Sue Brand enjoy some time at Camp Hope.

Donation to Camp Hope

Camp Hope received a generous donation through the efforts of **Tom Prezioso**, the Conversion Integration Manager at ADP. Tom raised \$1400 and ADP matched this amount. Camp Hope received a total of \$2800 which was used to buy equipment, games and supplies. This gift greatly enhanced the summer experience of our campers. Thank you to Tom and ADP for adding to a summer of fun at Camp Hope.

This is a wonderful example of how the corporate matching gifts program can increase the value of an individual gift. If you are an ARC donor, you might want to inquire if your company has such a program.



This looks like a fun ride!

Camp Hope: Where the Fun Is!

On July 6, 2010, Camp Hope began its 54th summer providing a fun-filled day camp experience to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Each day campers are given opportunities to participate in activities such as swimming, sports, music, art, and nature. Our campers also are able to participate in special activities such as a talent show, carnival, a D.J. dance party, and car wash.

One of the most memorable events of the summer was a visit by the East Hanover Fire Department. While learning about fire safety, campers were able to check out fire equipment, sit on a fire truck, and visit with firefighters.

Each summer a dedicated staff of teens and adults joins the Camp Hope team and makes every day special by sharing their love for camping and working with our campers. We are very fortunate to have staff members who return year after year and continually give their time, energy, and enthusiasm to this program. We were thrilled to have Becky Ewert join us this year as our new Camp Manager. Becky began her involvement with Camp Hope as a 14 year old volunteer many years ago. Now in her 9th summer, Becky brings with her a wealth of knowledge of Camp Hope and a true joy of working with the campers and staff.

Plans for the 2011 season will begin soon. Our applications will be in the mail February 2011. If you have any questions regarding the Camp Hope Program, or would like to be on our mailing list, please call Laurie Best at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1264.



Aggie Kowal, a long time camper with Becky Ewert, Camp Hope Director.

Stepping Stones Graduation 2010



David Smeragliuolo Jr. receives a flower from teacher Shabana Khan during graduation.

Stepping Stones' graduation was held June 24, 2010 in the school's gym. It was a wonderful event that showcased all the hard work our students do throughout the school year. At the ceremony, students performed their favorite songs for their families and friends. The gym was decorated with student artwork and the annual picture slideshow was presented. A small party and refreshments were served following the ceremony. Graduating this year were students **Carmine Ambio, William DeBellonia, Jevaughn Dias, Cianti Flood, Jack Foley** and **Amir Mason**. Students "stepping-up" to the primary grade included **Grace Ames, Sean Barsa, Nicholas Blougouas, Braden Hopton, Ryan Langston,** and **Sam Stein**. Good luck to all our graduates! We at Stepping Stones would also like to thank everyone who made this ceremony and this past school year a successful one. We look forward to another amazing school year!

Stepping Stones Extended School Year 2010

The adventures continued this summer for the students of Stepping Stones. The themes for the extended school year program were luau and safari. Each week students learned something new about these topics.

On July 23rd we had our own Stepping Stones Luau! Everyone enjoyed playing limbo, a bean bag toss and received temporary tattoos. Chicken nuggets and French fries were served for lunch as well as some tropical fruit kebobs. With the help of our Occupational Therapist, Maria Goldstein, the children learned some fun dance moves and were eager to show them off! It was a great day and a lot of fun!

Silly Sunglasses and Hair Day were also fun events held this summer. Children and staff participated by wearing silly glasses and braiding, coloring and styling their hair in all types of wild ways. It was definitely a sight to be seen!

On July 28th Eyes of the Wild Wallaby Tales came to Stepping Stones. This program provided animals for the children to see and touch, as well as learn about their characteristics and where they live. Animals included a hedgehog, rat, dove, rabbit,



Braden Hopton waits his turn at the limbo.



Grace Ames and Nicholas Blougouas pose in their Hawaiian gear during the Stepping Stones Luau.

chinchilla, ferret and wallaby. Students then played a game and pretended to be ferrets as they crawled through tunnels to get a fish and race back to their awaiting classmates. It was an amazing day and everyone loved the animals.



Nicky Alvarez shows off his silly sunglasses.



Isaac Torres touches a dove during The Eyes of the Wild Wallaby Tales presentation.



Ryan Langston pets a ferret as the rest of the school and staff looks on.

Honor for Stepping Stones

In May, Stepping Stones was accepted as a NASET (National Association of Special Education Teachers) School of Excellence. This is the highest distinction that a private special education school can achieve, and is bestowed on those schools that meet rigorous professional criteria and have demonstrated truly exceptional dedication, commitment and achievement in the field of special education. Sue Wilson, the principal of Stepping Stones, applied for this award several months ago, and was notified in May that the school had met all criteria for membership.



Stepping Stones joins a select group of 41 NASET Schools of Excellence in the country, and is one of five in New Jersey. The school will receive a Certificate of Merit and is already featured on the NASET website with a link to the Stepping Stones website.

Congratulations to all the staff at Stepping Stones on this very special honor.

Friends Network Launched

The Arc of New Jersey has launched the **Friends Network** in an effort to inform persons about disability issues throughout the state. This new e-action network is for friends, professionals, concerned citizens and anyone else interested in disability issues. You can join by going to the website at: <http://www.arcnj.org>. Once on the website, click on join e-Action Network.

Consumer Award



Ahaziah Beatty, center, with ARC personnel, Maureen Murray, Rebecca Ewert, Dacia King-Sarkodie and Laurie Best. Ahaziah was chosen from 400 students to receive an award from West Lake School in Westfield for the improvement he has made in his life over the past number of years.

Microsoft Donation

The ARC of Essex County recently received a contribution of software from **Microsoft** valued at \$38,250. The donation consisted of Office Professional and Office Pro Plus 2010, which upgraded our software. As a company, Microsoft has long recognized the importance of being engaged in supporting communities through technology, and we thank them for this gift. We also appreciate the efforts of **Graig Berkowitz**, ARC IT Director, for his help in obtaining this donation for us.



Informational Resources Available

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities has published an excellent new resource, *Being a Healthy Adult: How to Advocate for your Health and Health Care*, for young adults with developmental disabilities and their families and caregivers. Please visit the Boggs Center Publication Page on their website at <http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/>.

Find The ARC on Facebook

The ARC of Essex County is now on **Facebook**. If you are a Facebook user, we hope you will become our friend and also spread the word to those you know who will benefit from our information.

We will be using Facebook to highlight our programs and share relevant and important information, as well as to promote upcoming events. We hope you will visit our page often and provide helpful, positive comments. Remember, the more friends we have, the more successful this will be. See you on Facebook!

facebook

Upcoming Events

Ready, Set, Golf

All is ready for the **September 27, 2010 ARC Essex Foundation Golf Classic XXII** taking place at Rock Spring Club in West Orange. There are still openings for golfers or you can join us for cocktails and a lavish dinner buffet. Opportunities are also available for you, your business or organization to join us as a sponsor at levels from \$100 and up. For more information as to how you can be a part of this annual event to help The ARC, contact Kristy Hartman, Director of Fundraising & Communications at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1224 or visit www.arcessex.org.



ARC ESSEX FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC

Shop and Help The ARC

Love ^{WHERE YOU} Live

THE SHOPPING BENEFIT TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.

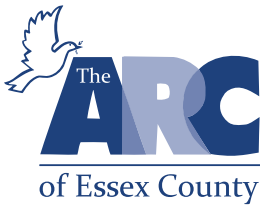
The four **Bloomingdale's** stores located in New Jersey (Bridgewater, Riverside Square, Short Hills and Willowbrook) are again holding a shopping benefit event. This year's event called **Love Where You Live: The Shopping Benefit to Support Your Community** will be held over a two day period on **October 20-21**. This means that there is double the amount of time for you to shop and also help The ARC. Ticket prices are still \$10 per ticket with all proceeds going to the charity. An additional \$5 is received by us for each ticket handed in at the door on October 21st and 22nd. A 15% discount is given on most purchases, and there are special events and demonstrations featured in the stores throughout the day. The ARC has always been among the top charities in numbers of tickets sold and number of people who attend. We are counting on our friends to help us continue this tradition. Tickets will be available in September. Contact Bernice Engel at (973) 535-1181, ext.1227 for more information. See you at Bloomingdale's.



Governor Christie Signs Bill

On August 16th, Governor Christie signed **S. 1982, the "R-Word"** bill into law. This bill eliminates terminology such as "mental retardation," "mentally retarded" and "feeble-minded" from all New Jersey statutes and regulations, replacing these terms with "intellectual disability" and "developmental disability." Present at the signing of the bill were several of the legislative sponsors, people from the advocacy community and several self-advocates. It was a momentous occasion for all who had worked so hard for passage of this bill. The bill was sponsored by many New Jersey legislators, including Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, who is an ARC of Essex County Board member.

Governor Christie signing S.1982, the "R-Word" bill into law.



TRIBUTES

Tributes are a beautiful way to acknowledge those you care for, and at the same time, help those in need. To purchase a tribute, please call Bernice Engel at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1227.

Tributes from May 17, 2010 - August 15, 2010

SPECIAL OCCASIONS:

In honor of Robert Laurino receiving the Ann Klein Award for 2010.

Randi & Stuart Applebaum

In honor of Mickey McNany, thank you for being a great director, leader and teacher.

Lynn Van Nosedall & Michael & Olivia Row

Special thanks to Bernadette Pilchman.

Mary McNany & Family

In honor of the 50th birthday of Jeff Schaub.

Betsy & Mark Bergman

IN MEMORY OF:

Josephine Cancro

Judy Bellina
Lee & Arthur Bergman
Bruce Bird
Dawn Bonelli
Ann Burleigh
Barbara Calderone
Lorraine Coppola
Minerva Delgado
Bernice Engel
Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen
Albert Ianacone

Jacqueline Juster
Ellen & Herb Lev
Maureen Murray
Phina Romano
The Arc of New Jersey
Cindy Walsh Villarosa
Anitra Wilson

Ruth Deutel

Jacqueline Juster

Riccardo Lopez

Jacqueline Juster

Rebecca Larsen

Maryann, Jack & Ryan Daudt

Nancy Marchese

Lee & Arthur Bergman

Loretta Pagano

Georgianna Gialanella

Helen Porto

Georgianna Gialanella

Nick Sena, Sr.

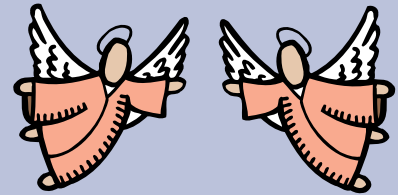
Janet Perlmutter

Andrew Struss

Lee & Arthur Bergman

Gertrude Yam

Marilyn & Ralph Neibart



“GUARDIAN ANGELS”

The ARC of Essex County has received funding from the following foundations from May 2010 - July 2010.

If you know of any networking opportunities for funding, please contact Al Ianacone at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1239.

FOUNDATION: Lowe’s of Union, NJ
PURPOSE: Gift Card for Arcompany Storefront Improvements

FOUNDATION: Wachovia Community Partner Program Grant
PURPOSE: Camp

FOUNDATION: Build-A-Bear Foundation
PURPOSE: Camperships

FOUNDATION: Turrell Fund
PURPOSE: Camp Hope and Recreation Services

FOUNDATION: Formosa Plastics Corp., USA
PURPOSE: In-Kind Equipment for Stepping Stones

FOUNDATION: Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey
PURPOSE: Health Monitoring Services Nurse for Avenues

Employee News



Welcome to the following new employees who have recently joined The ARC of Essex County: **Aleshaw Barratt** – Weekend Aide; **Dianne Bonner** – Admin. Assistant; **Tiffany Bynum** – Program Aide; **Samantha Choice** – Counselor; **Cindy Desmangles** – Consumer Support Specialist; **Michael Fiorentino** – Dept. Director; **Jessica Gordon-Howard** – Program Aide; **Lydia Holmes** – Counselor; **Neville Isaac** – Floating Tech; **Nicole Leach** – Counselor; **Deanna Lear** – Consumer Support Specialist; **Liana Lewis** – Benefits Manager; **Terri Mente** – Independent Living Specialist; **Noel Michaels, Al-Lessah Veney** and **Ebonee Warren** - Program Aides.

Congratulations to all!

Renee Pierce, Advocate

When **Renee Pierce** was approached to testify at a Senate Hearing, her first reaction was to ask what she should wear. She did not want to talk about her speech or to practice, as she prefers not to rehearse and feels she does better when she talks from her heart. Renee is the President of The Speakers, a self-advocacy group at Arcompany and a lifelong advocate for herself and others. She serves on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Statewide Self Advocacy Network and is also a member of the New Jersey Self Advocacy Project, Council 2.



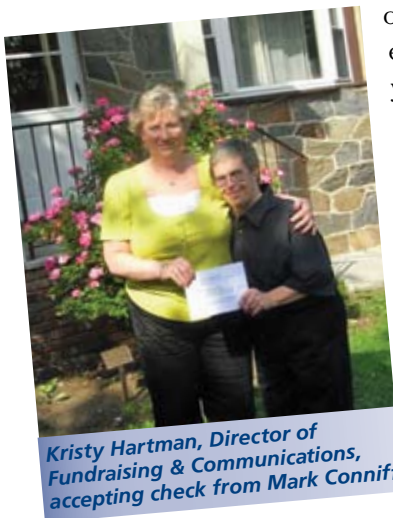
ARC of Essex County. At the ARC Run in April, our Donor Appreciation event in June and the Newark Bears game in June, Renee and her group were there advocating for this cause and asking people to sign the pledge against use of the “R” word. She was asked to give a presentation at the Cheshire Home and was the keynote speaker at the Annual Founders Day at The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties, where she received a standing ovation.

Kathy Walsh, President of the The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties, sent Renee a thank you letter in which she wrote that everyone who attended commented on her poise, sensitivity and ability to connect with the audience.

Renee should be proud of her accomplishments, especially the passage of the legislation to eliminate the “R” word. Her testimony at the New Jersey Senate Hearing was inspirational and truly from the heart. Renee stands up for herself and others, and takes what she does seriously. As Kathy Walsh wrote in her letter to Renee, “your advocacy is an inspiration to us all.”

A Special Thank You

Mark Conniff, an ARC consumer who lives in the Marmon Group Home, is a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of our annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run/2Mile Walk. He has participated for many years as a walker with the strong support of his family. Not only does his family come out to cheer Mark on, but each year his father, **James Conniff**, sends a reminder to friends and family across the country encouraging them to support Mark as he walks for The Arc of Essex County. In addition, James Conniff matches the donations that are made in Mark’s name. As a result of this effort, we have been the beneficiary of between \$5,000 to \$6,000 each year for the past several years.



We thank Mark for his participation, his family and friends for their support and his father for his generosity. Each of you has made a difference in the lives of those who receive services from The Arc of Essex County.

Kristy Hartman, Director of Fundraising & Communications, accepting check from Mark Conniff.

How you can help...

VEHICLE DONATION

The ARC of Essex County will gratefully accept donations of your used cars, vans or trucks.

Vehicle donations made to a charitable non-profit organization are tax deductible.

Benefits:

- Free Towing
- Hassle free way to get rid of your unwanted vehicle
- Tax deductible
- Support the mission of The Arc of Essex County



Please remember to designate our chapter and we will receive 90% of the net proceeds from your vehicle donation.

It’s that easy!
Thank you for your support.



of Essex County

123 Naylon Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #336
West Caldwell
07006



SAVE THE DATE

Monday, September 13, 2010

6:30 p.m.

**ARC of Essex County Board Meeting
ARC Essex Foundation Board Meeting**

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Monday, September 20, 2010

7:30 p.m.

The Candle Lighters Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Monday, September 27, 2010

10:45 a.m. Registration

11:45 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

6:00 p.m. Cocktails/Dinner Buffet

Golf Classic XXII

Rock Spring Club, West Orange

Contact Kristy Hartman

(973) 535-1181, ext. 1224

Wednesday and Thursday

October, 20 -21, 2010

Bloomingdale's Shopping Event

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

7:30 p.m.

The Candle Lighters Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Monday, November 8, 2010

6:30 p.m.

ARC of Essex County Board Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

7:30 p.m.

The Candle Lighters Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Friday, February 4, 2011

5:30 p.m.

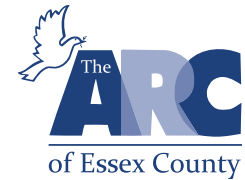
The Candle Lighters' Tricky Tray

Hanover Manor, East Hanover, NJ

Saturday, April 2, 2011

**The ARC of Essex County
13th Annual Building Tomorrows Run**

Brookdale Park, Bloomfield



123 Naylon Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039

www.arcessex.org

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Let's Go Green Together

The ARC of Essex County is trying to do our part to be environmentally conscious, and cut costs. Our publications are always posted on our website (www.arcessex.org). If you prefer to read the Guardian newsletter on line rather than receiving it by mail, please let us know by sending us an e-mail. Please include your full name, address and e-mail address. In the subject line, put "Going Green" and send this to bengel@arcessex.org. You will receive e-mail notification each time our current Guardian is available on-line.

Thank you for "going green" with us.

We Want to Keep You Informed

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