



Guardian

March 2010
Volume 62 No. 2

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

A Spectacular "Warm Your Heart" Tricky Tray

Friday evening, February 5th, was the fifteenth annual Tricky Tray sponsored by The Candle Lighters at The Hanover Manor. The Candle Lighters are a volunteer group of parents, friends, family and staff who work together to raise money to support non-funded programs of The ARC of Essex County. More than 400 people ventured out to support the cause despite the dire weather forecast of an impending snowstorm which never arrived that evening in our area. Once again, we continue to be "in the red" and the room was aglow with red and white balloons with most of the women in attendance wearing red. This year we had over 300 regular prizes and more



Lisa Negvesky with Mary McNany helping to set up for Tricky Tray.

than 80 large prizes for those attending to win. Once again this year we were fortunate to have two grand prizes, one being a pair of diamond stud earrings and the other a 50" Plasma High Definition TV donated by the family of Jack Foley.

There were also opportunities to win the off premise raffle of ShopRite gift cards worth \$200, \$300 and \$500, as well as a Fair Share on premise raffle with three cash prizes. Thank you Village Supermarkets for selling The Candle Lighters the ShopRite gift cards at half the cost so that we can augment our bottom line – a wonderful



Did I win?



Quiet! We're listening for the winning number to be called.



Which basket do you want to win?

help. Congratulations to our ShopRite winners: 1st prize, **Moya Gallagher**, 2nd place, **Leanne Campone** and 3rd place, **Pat Mrskey**. We offer sincere thanks and appreciation to all Candle Lighters and their friends and to all companies who contributed gift certificates and prizes.

Thanks to the hard working Tricky Tray committee the evening ran smoothly and without a hitch. We are forever grateful to the sister team of Kathleen Foley and Carol Negvesky who join forces each and every year to chair this labor intensive event and make it the financial success it is. There is no way this successful evening could have taken place without the hard work of **ALL** the committee members, donors and volunteers who put in hours of work. Once again, a special thank you to Fred and Anthony from The Lock Up on Eisenhower Parkway, who donated a unit to The Candle Lighters for storage of the wrapped baskets.



Last chance to get your Fair Share raffle ticket.

Thank you to all of our supporters who came to the Tricky Tray to support The Candle Lighters. The ARC of Essex County appreciates the work and effort of The Candle Lighters and everyone who contributed to this successful event.



A winner with her basket.



An array of prizes as far as the eye can see.



Candle Lighters Ginny Jakimowicz, Marnie McNany and Judy Bellina enjoy the evening.

Meet Our New Associate Executive Directors

Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen Associate Executive Director



Starting out as The ARC of Essex County social worker over 15 years ago, Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen's role with the agency has grown and evolved to her current role as Associate Executive Director. As an administrator for the past 12 years, Kathleen has overseen the various programs within the Department of Children, Family and Community Services (CFCS). Under her direction

the CFCS Department, which provides early intervention programs, a school, a camp, recreation programs and respite programs for consumers and families, has grown over 300%.

Under Kathleen's direction, using the expansion opportunities with the NJ Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), ARC of Essex provides respite services to over 800 families in Essex County, making it one of the largest providers of respite support services in the state. Other highlights of Kathleen's tenure include the success of The ARC of Essex's NJ Department of Health and Senior Services funded early intervention program transition from a grant model to a mandated fee for service model where over 170 families are being serviced and the continued success of The ARC of Essex County's Stepping Stones School, a State of NJ Department of Education licensed school for the disabled. Under her direction this school provides quality comprehensive education to children between the ages of 3 and 10.

Kathleen currently holds the NJ State License of Clinical Social Worker; she graduated from New York University with a Masters in Social Work and from Montclair State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Kathleen is married and has two sons.

Barbara Calderone Associate Executive Director



Barbara Calderone began her career at The ARC of Essex County in 1981. Prior to that she had earned her BA degree in Special Education from Kean College along with certification as teacher of the handicapped. After teaching in an elementary school setting she chose to accept a job as a Group Home Manager for The ARC of Essex County at the Newark Group Home. This was the first residential program operated by ARC and served ten individuals.

Through promotions, Barbara served as Department Director of Residential Services for over 23 years. During this time, she planned for, developed and implemented the housing and staffing supports needed for over 127 individuals with developmental disabilities. These 127 individuals are supported through over 20 group homes, supervised apartments and supportive living settings. In addition, during Barbara's tenure, she also oversaw the Adult Services Day programs for over five years.

This past October, Barbara was promoted to Executive Management in the position of Associate Executive Director. In her current role she supervises the Adult Services Day and Residential Departments, along with the agency's Transportation/Safety Services and Facility Maintenance Department.

Beyond Barbara's work at The ARC of Essex County, her greatest pride and achievement are her two children, Matt, 26 and Melissa, 21, both of whom continue to support and inspire her daily.

Welcome to New Board Members

The ARC of Essex County extends a welcome to several new Board members. Joining The ARC of Essex Board of Trustees are **Ms. Lorraine Coppola** who works for Prudential; **Harold Garwin, Esq.**, President and Executive Director of Community Health Law Project; **Theresa Roberts**, who works with various organizations to provide pet therapy; and **Maryanne Vindici**, a Special Education teacher in Chester. Theresa and Maryanne were both former employees with The ARC of Essex County.

The ARC Essex Foundation Board welcomes **Catherine Bubet**, Branch Manager for TD Bank in Livingston and **Edward Callahan, Jr. Esq.** of the law firm Clancy Callahan & Smith in Roseland.

The ARC is fortunate to have such a diverse and qualified group of individuals who are willing to serve as Board members and are committed to the goals and mission of The ARC.

Building Dedication

When Joseph Dimino, the former Executive Director of The ARC of Essex County, retired after almost 37 years of service, one of the honors he received was having the ARC's main office in Livingston named in his honor. At the February meeting of the ARC Essex Foundation Board, members had the opportunity to view the plaque and congratulate Joe on this special recognition.



Robert Laurino, ARC President; Joseph Dimino, former ARC Executive Director and Stephen Falanga, ARC Essex Foundation President, admire the dedication plaque at The ARC of Essex County's main building in Livingston.

Time to Run/Walk for ARC

Clear your head of the winter doldrums and join us on **Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Brookdale Park in Bloomfield for The ARC of Essex County's 12th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run/2 Mile Walk.** Whether you are an experienced runner or this will be your first time, you are welcome. If you would like something less strenuous, the walk segment is perfect. Adults, children, families, children in strollers and pets on leashes are all invited. You can participate on an individual level or you can form a team with your family, friends or co-workers. Spectators to cheer on our participants are needed as well. We have food, music, t-shirts for the participants, awards for the top three male and female runners in each age category, and a great atmosphere for all to enjoy.

This annual event has become one of our most popular, and is an opportunity for you to enjoy yourself as well as help The ARC of Essex County in its mission to serve people with developmental disabilities in and around the Essex County area. There are many ways to show your support: as a participant, a spectator, a sponsor or by pledging an amount to support a runner or walker. We hope to see many of our friends on **April 17, 2010 at Brookdale Park.**

Applications are available on our website www.arcessex.org or you can contact Kristy Hartman, Director of Fundraising and Communications at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1224 for more information or to request an application.

Holiday Cheer

The Verona Policeman's Benevolent Association Local 72, took part in its annual "Holiday Costume Trip" on Dec. 16. Members left their police uniforms at home for the day and instead dressed up as various cartoon and holiday characters. They boarded a bus and visited area schools; bringing big smiles, some holiday cheer, and lots of coloring books. Verona PBA members, left to right, Tom Matas as Frosty The Snowman, Robert Shafer as Elmo, Capt. Fred Distefano, James Barry as Santa Claus, Mike Traettino as Santa's Elf, Mike Cocucci, John Lecreux as Santa's Elf, Chief Douglas Huber, William DeZenzo, Joe Ballantyne as Winnie The Pooh.



A group photograph was taken during the PBA's second stop of the day at Stepping Stones in Livingston

Volunteers Paint at Belmont and Claremont Residences

Residents of the Belmont Group Home and Claremont Avenue Residence are enjoying their spruced up living quarters thanks to volunteers from **FedEx Ground.** Judy Bellina, who is in charge of recruiting volunteers, received a call from Diana Short, a recruiting specialist from FedEx Ground, stating she had 15-20 volunteers looking to spend a half day to help The ARC. A call was put in to Tim Ganning, the ARC's Property Maintenance Director, who prioritized the many needs of our programs, and found two homes that needed painting.

On January 13th, the volunteers arrived at both locations and busily went to work painting. All the prep work to make this day run smoothly was done in advance by Tim and his department. In a matter of a few hours the first floor at Claremont and the kitchen and laundry room at Belmont were sparkling with a new coat of paint.

We thank our volunteers from FedEx Ground for doing such a phenomenal job! Volunteers build better tomorrows for all those we serve.



Jacqueline Zsoldos, Lellie Lezott, Michael Henn, Rupal Parekh and Tiffany Woolston of FedEx Ground are all set to paint.



Dear Friend of The ARC,

It is time to renew your membership. Or, if you are not already a member, please join The ARC of Essex county today! **Why join The ARC of Essex County?** Because your membership will help provide the best possible advocacy in our community for children and adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

You will become a member of a growing network of informed parents, families, friends, neighbors, and community leaders committed to advancing public policy issues that benefit all families of Essex County, particularly those with loved ones who have intellectual and development disabilities. Your membership support will also help us educate parents about how to recognize and find services for intellectual disabilities early, and provide effective strategies for preventing developmental disabilities altogether.

Elected officials listen to their constituents. Join The ARC of Essex County and let your voice be heard as we champion the rights of all community residents.

Sincerely,

Linda C. Lucas
Executive Director

123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, New Jersey 07039 • (973) 535-1181 • www.arcessex.org

Application for Membership

New Member Renewing Member

Name _____ Date _____

Organization name(if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

Individual Membership - \$25/year

Payment by Cash Check/Money Order Visa/MC

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Please make checks payable to The ARC of Essex County

ARC membership dues are tax deductible.

Members of The ARC of Essex County are also members of The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc of the United States.

Send this form with your dues payment to:

The ARC of Essex County
123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039

For more information please contact
Kristy Hartman, Director of Fundraising and Communications
(973) 535-1181, Ext. 1224

The Candle Lighters Proposed Slate Of Officers 2010

President.....Kathleen Foley Recording Secretary.....Carol Negvesky
 1st Vice President.....Peggy Falanga Treasurer.....Lisa Negvesky
 2nd Vice President.....Jennifer Enderlin Blougouras Immediate Past President.....Marnie McNany
 Corresponding Secretary.....Stephanie Hopton

Your Help is Needed

The Arc of New Jersey needs people to help advocate for publicly funded services to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families. If you are interested in periodically sending an email or letter about a timely topic, please consider joining their Family Advocacy Program and respond to the form below.

The Arc of New Jersey's Family Advocacy Program Registration Form



**Family
Advocacy
Program**

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address (required) _____

- I am a:
- Parent
 - Grandparent
 - Sibling
 - Other family member/guardian
 - Concerned citizen

I am: A member of The Arc - Local chapter name: _____

Not a member of The Arc

Please sign below that you have read and understand this agreement.

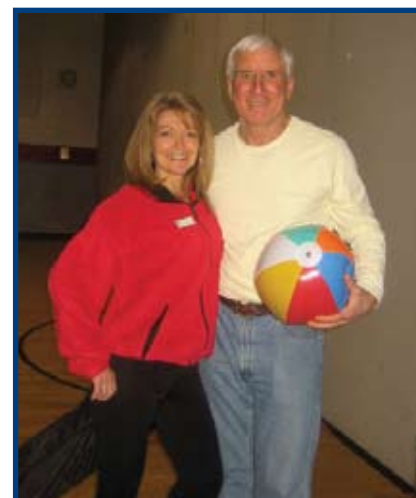
I understand that The Arc of NJ's Family Advocacy Program's mission is to advocate for statewide and national changes to public policy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. I understand that the primary goal of the program is not to advocate for the immediate needs of my individual family member. I also understand that I must be a member of The Arc, must be a family member of an individual with a developmental disability, must have access to email, and will be expected to respond to Action Alerts in a timely fashion.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Return to:
 The Arc of New Jersey Family Advocacy Program
 985 Livingston Avenue
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902
 Fax: (732) 214-1834

West Essex YMCA Supports ARC Essex



Cheryl Francione of the YMCA and Bob Gebroe, ARC volunteer, get ready to work out with the program.

For the past 11 years, the **West Essex Metro YMCA of the Oranges** located in Livingston, has opened their doors to The Arc of Essex County to use space to engage in organized physical activities. Cheryl Francione, Health Enhancement Director at the Y, hosts ARC participants every Tuesday. She shares that she loves the program and has made connections with many of our consumers. Recently, Bob Gebroe, a long time ARC of Essex volunteer, has teamed up with Cheryl on Tuesdays. As Cheryl says, "We are a dynamic duo." This program allows participants to engage in physical activity, learn new skills, develop friendships with participants from other centers and learn teamwork. The ARC of Essex is extremely grateful to the YMCA for their continued support of our work.

Home Assistance Holiday Party

On December 9, 2009, The ARC of Essex County's Home Assistance Program celebrated its annual holiday party. **The Knights of Columbus** in Livingston generously donated their hall for the party. Over 35 adults and 31 children attended the party.

The children enjoyed a visit from **Santa** (aka Associate Executive Director Al Ianacone). They loved having their picture taken with Santa and going over their wish lists with him. In addition, a face painter and a balloon artist provided enjoyable entertainment for the children. No party is complete without food, and a delicious turkey with all the trimmings was prepared and served by **Ms. Betty Strickland**.

The children and families of the Home Assistance Program received gifts that were donated by a number of sources. Toy drives were sponsored by **Investor's Savings Bank** in Livingston. **The Giving Tree program** was sponsored by **St. Anthony's Church** in Hawthorne. Donations were made by **Toys for Tots – US Marine Toy Drive** and **Investor's Savings Bank** in Livingston. Food drives were undertaken by **Gil**

St. Bernard's School in Gladstone and **The ARC of Essex County**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful event. It was a perfect way to celebrate the holiday season.



ARC staff members (on left) Susan Brand, Jayne Gaer and Linda Lucas and Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen (on right) with bank officials from Investors Savings Bank, Dottie Butler and Carmine Pannullo, who presented a \$500 check for the Home Assistance Holiday party. The ARC thanks Investors Savings Bank for their contribution towards this event.

Learning about Nutrition

Participants at Opportunity Zone, an ARC day program, had the opportunity to learn about nutrition and healthy eating by attending a program at Rutgers that met once a week for eight weeks. Through this program the consumers were taught basic nutritional information that can be applied to their everyday lives and lead to healthy eating practices.



Alvin Barnes and Sandra Arujo learn about nutrition with Rutgers instructor and Opportunity Zone staff member, Carmen Edgehill.



The Wadge family enjoys a visit with Santa.



Linda Fudge and Santa have a private chat.

Special Young Adults Enjoy Party

The Belleville restaurant, **Nanina's in the Park**, held a Christmas/New Year's luncheon for SYA (Special Young Adults) consumers and staff on January 6, 2010. Santa made an appearance, along with **DJ Mike Chieffo** who donated his time and all items for the party, which included blow up instruments, New Year's hats and assorted necklaces. All consumers who attended received gifts from Santa: a CD player, batteries and two CDs, along with three cases of Nanina's homemade gravy

to be used for the cooking program at SYA. A great time was had by all.



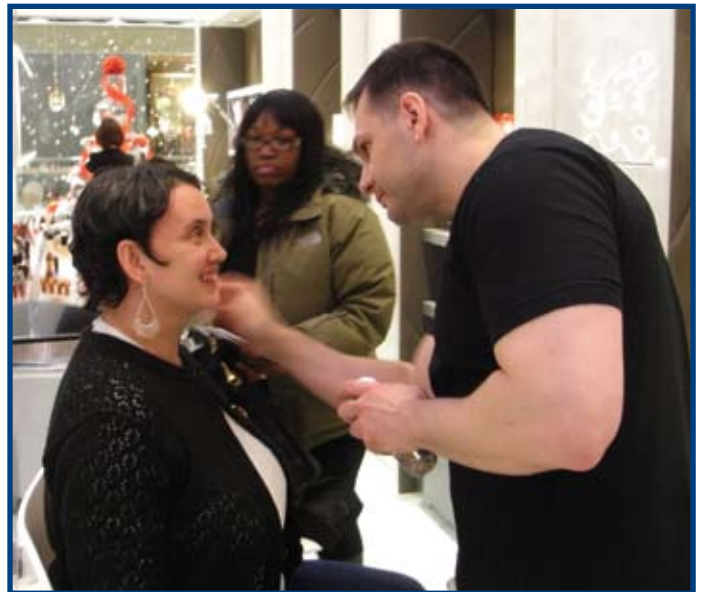
Enjoying the party with Santa are SYA consumers Billy Escott, Debbie Pecora, Carmela Azzinnari and Joe Ramaniello, with the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 30 from Nutley in the background.



Nanina's owners Vito and Barry, Anne Rotonda, SYA Program Manager, and Joey and Ann from Nanina's.

Have a Beautiful Day!

On Friday, December 4, 2009, a number of ARC consumers were treated to a special beauty and cosmetic experience. Called "Have a Beautiful Day!" the event was hosted by Lancome and was held at their store located at the Short Hills Mall. This complimentary holiday event was for people with disabilities or special needs and included a skin diagnosis, color analysis, makeup application and relaxing hand massage. In addition, each person received a framed photograph of her new makeup look. Everyone enjoyed the special attention, pampering and new look they received from the staff at Lancome. It was a wonderful way to start the December holiday season and we thank Lancome for providing this special experience.



Rachel Dworkin gets a new look at Lancome's "Have a Beautiful Day!"

Adult Social Hour Enjoyed By All

The ARC's Adult Social Hour started with a big bang last October and is still being enjoyed by all. This program is an evening of networking for adults with developmental disabilities. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the Livingston Public Library from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

Since the program began, the largest turnout was on February 2nd at the "Valentine Extravaganza." Some of the activities enjoyed by all were making valentine picture frames, butterfly cards and stickers and hearts. The favorite part of the night was the love song game where the participants had to guess the artist of a famous love song by listening to part of the lyrics. Everyone guessed who sang which song and hurried to finish to win a special prize. **Congratulations to Cedar Grove and West Caldwell group homes** for winning the game.

The next Adult Social sessions are scheduled from March through June. Future scheduled events include a Movie Night, May Madness and Summer Scrapping. Come and join us for



Jonathan Smith, Anthony Parzaille and Richard Samuels at work on a Valentine's project during the Adult Social Hour at the Livingston Public Library.

some evenings filled with fun and laughter.

If you would like more information about this program, please call Dacia King-Sarkodie at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1247 or by email at dking@arcessex.org.

Day of Service for Solomon Schechter Day School

Once again the students and staff of The ARC Essex Stepping Stones School welcomed back the students from **Solomon Schechter Day School**. As part of their annual day of caring, ten students from Solomon Schechter spent the morning working “hands on” with children in the classrooms at Stepping Stones.

Each student rotated classes so they could experience different age groups, teachers and students. They assisted the children during cognitive, handwriting and reading activities as well as snack. It was a very enlightening experience for the Solomon Schechter students as well as a terrific and fun day for the Stepping Stones children.



Solomon Schechter students **Neal Monka of Morris Plains** and **Daniel Listwa of East Brunswick** with Stepping Stones students **Amir Mason, Carmine Ambio and Jevaughn Dias**.



Braden Hopton and Grace Ames display their Groundhog crafts and Weekly Reader with Principal Sue Wilson.

February. These events included Crazy Hat Day, Super Friday, Winter Olympics and various Holidays.

Store bought or homemade the students and staff at Stepping Stones celebrated Crazy Hat day in style!

Ribbons were awarded to the students and staff with the most creative hats. Sharing first prize honors this year were students



Step IV students Amir Mason, Casey Burke and Carmine Ambio show off their Olympic Flags and medals.

Winter Events at Stepping Stones

It has been an exciting winter for the students of Stepping Stones! Students have been busy learning about the winter season and participating in special events throughout the months of January and

February. These events included Crazy Hat Day, Super Friday, Winter Olympics and various Holidays.

Store bought or homemade the students and staff at Stepping Stones celebrated Crazy Hat day in style!

Ribbons were awarded to the students and staff with the most creative hats. Sharing first prize honors this year were students

Isaac Torres, David Smeragliuolo and Cianti Flood. Staff winners included physical therapist Ruth Skudera, nurse Mirlande Philippe, teacher assistant Maria Donaleski and teacher Christine Bridge.

Super Friday was held Friday, February 5th to gear up for the Super Bowl. Students and staff



Isaac Torres, Cianti Flood and David Smeragliuolo show off their award winning hats.

showed their team spirit by wearing their favorite sports team’s jersey or apparel to school. Teams ranged from professional, college and high school sports. It was a great day had by all!

Students in Step IV have been learning about the Winter Olympics. They held their own Olympic games throughout the month of February.

Children participated in various activities such as tabletop curling, scooter luge, broom hockey and skiing/ice-skating on laminated paper. Each child received a medal at the conclusion of the events. The children had a great time participating and showing their Olympic spirit!

The preschool classes at Stepping Stones have been preparing for events such as Groundhog Day and Valentine’s Day. Children learned about our furry friend with the help of our Weekly Reader newsletter. Students decorated bags with hearts and glitter for Valentine’s Day. Children exchanged valentine cards with their friends and had special snacks to celebrate the day.



Students Ryan Langston, William DeBellonia and Nick Blougouras show off their team spirit on Super Friday.

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 fan 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 fans we have, the more successful this will be. See you on Facebook!

Trip to Winter Wonderland

On December 9, 2009, Crisis Respite Group home took a trip to Madison Square Garden in New York City to see Cirque Du Soleil "Wintuk". The show is a winter adventure that takes everyone by storm about a boy's quest for snow.

The consumers as well as the staff had a great time. Everyone was excited to see the acrobatics, dazzling ice giants and listen to memorable songs. The highlight of the show was the snow falling over the audience leaving everyone white with snow.

A special thanks to "Santa" for coming and adding the special touch to the holiday by asking all the consumers what they wanted and how they had behaved throughout the year, and then presenting them with a gift and taking a picture with them.



Joseph Dimino receiving an ArCompany get well gift basket from Melissa Soules, Director, Adult Services/Day Programs.

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.

Holiday Baskets by ARCompany

The participants at ARCompany are currently working on Easter baskets and Mother's Day baskets. ARCompany features all occasion gift baskets for every holiday and all baskets are made by the consumers. ARCompany worked hard for Valentine's Day, making candy boxes filled with chocolate, hand painted photo block picture frames and Valentine's Day grams to be sent to that special someone by the participants here. Many orders were received from people wanting to wish someone a Happy Valentine's Day. The participants created the grams and hand delivered them right before Valentine's Day to all the recipients, putting a smile on everyone's face.

If you would like to place an order, please call (973) 674-2278 or email arcomgr@arcsex.org.



Felicia Raines and Keith Alleyne with an Easter basket from ARCompany.



Valentine's Day chocolate filled candy boxes.



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
November 14, 2009 - February 19, 2010*

SPECIAL OCCASIONS:

In honor of Randi & Stuart Applebaum's 40th anniversary.

Lee & Arthur Bergman

Congratulations to Barbara & Steve Ashurst on the birth of their grandson, Luke Edmond Potti.

Lee & Arthur Bergman

In honor of Jackie Juster's special birthday.

Lee & Arthur Bergman

In honor of Kerri Kazak Lowe's birthday.

Sandra & Arthur Lowe

In honor of Brenda McDonnell.

Elaine & Robert Robertazzi

Congratulations to Eileen & Richard Stuart on the birth of their granddaughter, Suzanna Ruth.

Anne & Marvin Elmowitz

SPEEDY RECOVERY:

Joseph Dimino

Judy Elbaum

Ellen & Herb Lev

IN MEMORY OF:

Rusty Bergman

Dianne Franzese

Peter Chase

Albert Ianacone

Thomas Fasulo

Judy Bellina

Caterina Feola

Patricia & Kevin Casey

Maureen Neurouter

Peggy Piccoli

Frances Rose Ferraro

Marie Christini

Rosa & Pasquale Locantore

Pacific & Lawrence Scarpa

Brian Gottlieb

Lee & Arthur Bergman

Patricia McMahon

Sarah McMahon & Matthew

Cannizzo

Michael Oberst

Lee & Arthur Bergman

Morgan Schneider

Barbara Calderone

Virginia West

Judy Bellina



Employee News

Welcome to the following new employees who have recently joined The ARC of Essex County: **Arlene Baptiste** – Counselor; **Grace Brown** – Technician; **Kori Buro** – Asst. Director Fundraising & Communications; **Adrienne Campbell** – Accounting Manager; **Andrew Casallas** – Technician; **Nakita Conley** – Overnight Aide; **Bendu Durham** – Counselor; **Sharonda Gaskins** – Substitute Program Aide; **Elias Jones** – Employment Counselor; **Ludwig Manga-Williams** – Substitute Adult Services; **Andrea Mangione** – Teacher Assistant; **Tracia McDonald** – Administrative Asst.; **Marie Michel** – Overnight Aide; **Brittany Miller** – Counselor; **Gertrude Mogoli** and **Ben Morumbwa** – Overnight Aides; **Walter Mudanya** – Asst. Program Manager; **Carol Myers** – Program Manager; **Tosan Nanna-Omegbemi** and **Emmanuela Noel** – Counselors; **Vincent Norberg** – Maintenance Technician; **Steven Quinones** – Overnight Aide; **Takiya Richards** – Counselor; **Angela Rouse** – Teacher Asst.; **Fatimo Sowemimo** – Counselor and **Tarah Winfield** – Overnight Aide.

Congratulations to **Jeanette Cruz** on her promotion to Group Respite Supervisor.

Congratulations to all!



“GUARDIAN ANGELS”

The ARC of Essex County has received funding from the following foundations from November 2009 – January 2010.

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



FOUNDATION: Catholic Human Services Foundation

PURPOSE: 7 Lift Chairs for Adult Center, Avenues

FOUNDATION: CVS Caremark Charitable Trust, Inc.

PURPOSE: Stepping Stones Early Intervention Support

FOUNDATION: Lillian P. Schenck Charitable Trust Fund

PURPOSE: Camperships



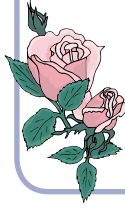
Matching Funds Program

Our employers count on us in many ways. They look to us to do our jobs and further the mission of the company or organization. They also look to us to represent them within the communities in which we live. Many corporations offer their thanks for their employees responsible representation when they make their own charitable gifts by providing an employee matching gift, which matches the contribution made by the employee.

If you work for a company and have made or are planning to make a contribution to The ARC this year, have you asked if your employer has a matching funds program? You might be able to grow your gift by just asking your employer (or spouse's employer) to match the gift you make. There is some paperwork involved, but most of that is between the non-profit and the corporation confirming that a gift has been received from the employee. Some companies (Verizon) even match hours spent as a volunteer with a financial gift. This is an employment benefit that is too often overlooked or unappreciated at the end of the year. Take advantage of this benefit – it is yours for the asking. Check with your company's HR Department to see if they offer a Matching Funds program.

In Memory of Peter Chase

The ARC was made aware of the death of Peter Chase who died on February 1, 2010. Although Peter was no longer connected to The ARC at the time of his death, he had been with The ARC as a resident in one of our early group homes and had also served as a Board member and a self-advocate. In his obituary, one of his relatives remarked that Peter's life had been full of wonderful experiences. We know that The ARC played a part in contributing to many of those experiences.



ARC Receives Check

Recently The ARC of Essex County received a check for \$8,550 from the Community Development Block Grant Program for special recreation services. We are very appreciative of the county for their wonderful support.



Anibal Ramos, Jr., Director Essex Dept. of Economic Development, Training and Employment, Linda Lucas, ARC Executive Director, Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive and Albert Ianacone, ARC Associate Executive Director.

Lift Chairs Purchased with Grant Money

Through a grant provided by the **Catholic Human Services Foundation**, seven lift chairs were purchased for use by our senior and physically challenged consumers. For this population, the simple act of independently rising from a chair is a struggle. These chairs have been placed in two programs, Avenues and Creative Visions, where they have made a positive difference for these consumers. Aside from their popularity with everyone wanting to sit in them, staff has observed that the consumers who use the chairs are excited when they can get out of the chair on their own or with minimal staff assistance. The purchase of these chairs would not have been possible without this grant from the Catholic Human Services Foundation, and our consumers would not have achieved the positive and beneficial results provided by this equipment.



Forrestine Mack relaxing in one of the newly purchased lift chairs.



123 Naylon Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039
Address Service Requested

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

www.arcessex.org



A United Way Member Agency

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, March 8, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 12, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Registration: 8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Awards: 11:15 a.m.

Monday, April 19, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Monday, May 10, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Monday, May 24, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Monday, June 14, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 27, 2010

ARC of Essex County Board Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

The Candle Lighters Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

ARC Essex Foundation Board Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

The ARC of Essex County

12th Annual Building Tomorrows Run

Brookdale Park, Bloomfield

Call Kristy Hartman (973) 535-1181, ext.1224

The Candle Lighters Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Candle Lighter Spring Event

VFW Hall, Cedar Grove

More information to follow.

ARC of Essex County Board Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

The Candle Lighters Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Annual ARC Essex Membership Meeting

ARC of Essex County Board Meeting/
ARC Essex Foundation Board Meeting

123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Golf Classic XXII

Rock Spring Club, West Orange

Contact Kristy Hartman (973) 535-1181, ext. 1224



123 Naylon Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039

www.arcessex.org

A United Way Member Agency

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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

Please provide us with your updated e-mail address. This will allow us to communicate quickly and efficiently when the need arises. Call Bernice Engel at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1227 or send it to her at bengel@arcessex.org.

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