

## The Arc of Essex County's 65th Anniversary Gala is a Huge Success

On Friday, November 1, nearly 250 supporters and friends of The Arc of Essex County honored its 65 years of growth and achievements with a gala at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, NJ.

The evening's theme of Remember... Reach... Achieve... asked guests to reflect on The Arc's evolution over the past 65 years. In addition to honoring the agency's history of achievement, from one program in 1948 to 44 programs and services in 2013, the agency also recognized and thanked four individuals and organizations that each played important roles in its success. The Arc awarded its Corporate Partner Award to PSE&G for the decades of leadership its executives provided as members of the agency's Board of Directors. The Public Partner Award was presented to County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and The County of Essex for their support of numerous programs and services

including providing funds for the purchase and renovation of new residential programs. The Candle Lighters was presented with the Community Partner Award for its efforts to raise money for unfunded programs operated by The Arc of Essex County. The Lifetime Achievement Award, was granted to Lee Bergman, for years of service to the agency and to individuals with I/DD and their families.

The Gala began with a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, carving station, and several hot and cold dishes.

The evening continued with dancing and live music performed by the Jason Craig Band. No one went home hungry after a four-course dinner served during the brief awards ceremony.

A silent auction was held throughout the evening to benefit The Candle Lighters. Ten items were available for bidding, including a diamond cluster cocktail ring, valued at



*The Arc of Essex County presented its Corporate Partner Award to PSE&G and its Public Partner Award to The County of Essex and County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. during its 65th Anniversary Gala on Nov. 1 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. From left to right are Art Guida, Director-External Affairs at PSE&G; Bradford Huntington, Vice President and Treasurer of Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated; Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr.; Bruce Bird, Ph.D., President of The Arc of Essex County; and Linda C. Lucas, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Essex County.*

\$2,500.00; Outer Banks Adventure in Duck, NC, valued at \$2,000.00; and a Foursome at Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell, NJ, valued at \$600.00. An additional fundraiser for the evening was the very popular wine-pull where, for \$20.00, participants randomly selected a wine cork that corresponded with a bottle of wine or spirit valued at \$20.00 or more.

Further contributors to our success included the Gala's guests and sponsors, companies and individuals who submitted ads for the Commemorative Ad Journal, and those who made monetary donations and contributed items for the event's silent auction. The Gala's Grand sponsor and one of the honorees: PSE&G; Major sponsor: Connell Foley, LLP; Platinum sponsor: Bird Pharma

*(Continued on Page 2)*



*The Arc of Essex County presented its Community Partner Award to The Candle Lighters. From left to right, The Arc of Essex County CEO Linda Lucas, Candle Lighters Co-Presidents Trish Boylan and Eileen Hahn and The Arc of Essex County Board President Bruce Bird, Ph.D.*



*The Arc of Essex County presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Lee Bergman. Pictured, Lee and her husband Arthur Bergman.*

Consulting, LLC; Gold sponsors: Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Gallagher Bollinger, Sax Macy Fromm & Co, and ShopRite; Silver sponsors: EdPowerment and Leshner, Franchino & Company, LLP; Bronze sponsors: Fox Rothschild, LLP and Joseph P. Mack.

Continual dedication from our supporters have played a significant role in our agency's progression and success, and provided us with a reason to celebrate. Without generous donations, from numerous sources, this Gala would not have been possible.

Thank you to all who attended and supported our Gala. We look forward to another 65 years of growth and achievement for The Arc and the individuals we serve.

## West Orange Group Home Celebrates with an Open House

### Two more Residential Programs Set to Open in 2014

On November 25, Adult Residential Services welcomed the neighbors and local leaders to its newest Group Home on Terrace Avenue in West Orange for an Open House.

The home's three residents and Arc staff were on hand to greet people from nearby homes, as well as officials from New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities and The County of Essex, including County Executive Joe DiVincenzo. The single-family-home, which opened in June, is home to three men and a fourth resident is anticipated to move in soon. The Arc of Essex County received \$503,000 in federal HOME funds from The County of Essex to fund the purchase and renovation of the property.

In early 2014, The Arc anticipates opening another group home in Livingston. This single-family-home will also accommodate up to four residents and was purchased and renovated thanks to a \$400,000 grant from the Livingston Township Municipal Trust Fund and a \$303,838 HOME loan from The County of Essex.

Also in West Orange, The Arc purchased a condominium in August that will be home to two individuals once renovations are completed later this year. The renovations include: kitchen upgrade with new appliances, HVAC repairs and upgrades, painting and the installation of a fire suppressions system. This purchase and renovations were funded with \$254,900 in HOME funds from The County of Essex.



*County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr. celebrated the opening of The Arc of Essex County's newest group home with Arc CEO Linda Lucas and residents (left to right) Pete O'Brien, John Over and Mario Fernandez.*

## A Royal Evening of Feasting and Tournament



On Sunday, September 29, ten of our Recreation Program participants traveled back to an era of knights, kings, queens, and jousting at Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, NJ. One of the participants, Donna Falchetto, was granted the royal title of "Queen of the Knight" by the jousting tournament's victorious knight. Pictured in the bottom row, left to right are Dale Crews, Evette Laws, and Jennifer Hamdan; middle row, left to right are a Medieval Times staff member, Luisa Cruz, Kim Hosking, Donna Falchetto, and Recreation Program supervisor Marion Haig; top row, left to right are Recreation Program staff member Carmen Edgehill, John Graff, Henry Polite, Lori Tesei, and John Mongiello.



## Fall Fun Down on the Farm



Participants in our annual pumpkin picking trip to Fairfield Farms were: (left to right) Ian Crawley, John Mongiello, Luisa Cruz, Lori Tesei, Donna Falchetto, Henry Polite, Stacy Houston, and Dale Crews.

As the van pulled up to Fairfield Farms, the eight men and women's eyes gleamed with excitement. Everyone was anxious to see what was ahead. To the left they saw a field of pumpkins, to the right was a petting zoo.

"Look at the pony." "I love animals." The aroma of sweet cider and apple pies filled the air as the group began to chat about what they wanted to do.

"I want to buy an apple pie." "Me too." The wind blowing through dried corn stalks added an appropriately eerie feeling to the pre-Halloween event that was one of several Group Respite programs run this fall by the Department of Children and Family Services. During this annual trip to the farm, participants could find their way through the corn maze, go on a hay ride and pick pumpkins.

"I'm giving this to my mom," said Stacy Houston. Henry Polite said "This one is for grandma." At the end of the day a few participants wanted to purchase some fresh apples and apple pies, so they went over to the stand to pick out the best they had. The day was wonderful, and a grand time was had by all.

## HAP Celebrates Christmas



Quiana Bryant tells Santa what she wants for Christmas during the Annual Home Assistance Program Christmas Party at the Livingston Knights of Columbus Hall. Thanks to all the Arc employees, program participants and Brad and Stephanie Hopton for their generous donations that made the party possible.

## The Travel Club's latest adventure took them to the Tennessee Smoky Mountains



The Travel Club saw a variety of exotic sea creatures during their stop at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies during their recent trip to Tennessee. Pictured are (left to right) back row - Companion Maureen Murray, Travelers Ahaziah Beatty, Ian Crawley, Henry Polite, Jillian Francesco, Alex El-Boghdedy, Gabrielle DeBlasio, Thomas Fresco, Companion Sue Knipper, Traveler Jeffrey Rice, Companion Catherine O'Connell, and Traveler Nancy Holden; front row - Travelers Carl Fresco, Donna Falchetto and Kellie Horan.

The group of 12 travelers and three companions, saw the sights in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tennessee, home to Dollywood and other attractions, during a week long trip from Nov. 17 to 22. The group included Jillian Francesco, Gabrielle DeBlasio, Kellie Horan, Thomas Fresco, Carl Fresco, Ahaziah Beatty, Ian Crawley, Jeffrey Rice, Alex El-Boghdedy, Donna Falchetto, Nancy Holden, Henry Polite, along with companions Maureen Murray, Catherine O'Connell, and Susan Knipper.

The trip was truly non-stop action as the group toured the area, saw several shows, and ended with a day in Dollywood. Christmas was the theme throughout the week with all the shows, and the lights were up in both Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg. The group really enjoyed the various shows that they attended, including the Country Tonite Show and the Lumberjack Feud Dinner Show. Because it was his birthday, Alex El-Boghdedy was invited to join in on the Lumberjack Feud and shot a giant slingshot. He, along with Nancy Holden and Tom Fresco, received a large souvenir circle of wood with "Lumberjack Feud" on it for participation and cheering loudly. After some of the shows we were able to meet the performers and get pictures or autographs.

Dollywood was a great way to spend our last day in the area. We saw several shows there, had dinner, and enjoyed the millions of Christmas lights that were illuminated each night. The theme park also provided many shopping opportunities, a favorite activity for the group.

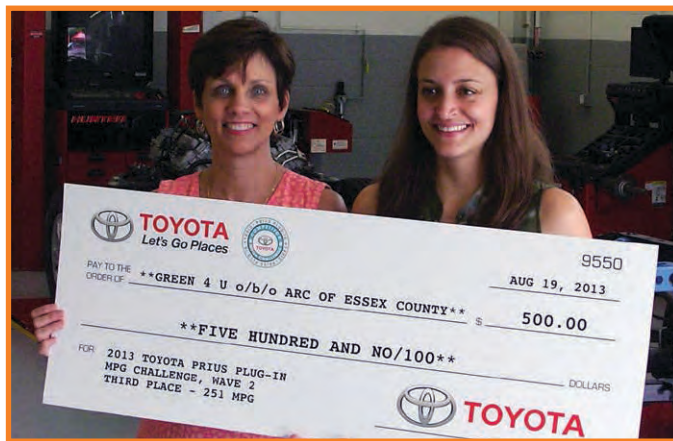
Throughout the week many of the travelers called home to report they were having a great time. In everyone's opinion, it was a very successful, enjoyable, and slightly exhausting trip.

## Toyota donates \$1,000 as part of its Prius Plug-In Hybrid Challenge

The Arc of Essex County received two donations from Toyota North America as part of its Prius Plug-In MPG Challenge.

The donations were the results of two, 3rd place finishes in the Challenge's 2nd and 4th rounds. In each round, several participants received a Toyota Prius Plug-In Hybrid car to drive for one month. At the end of 30 days, the top three drivers received a donation to the charity of their choice.

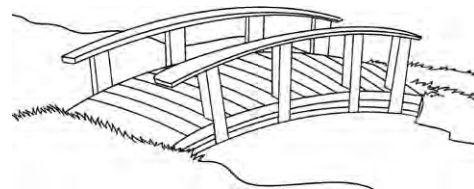
In round two, former Arc employee Leigh Garofalow selected The Arc of Essex County as the recipient of her \$500 3rd place prize. During October, Chief Development Officer Cindy Villarosa participated in round 4, posting a final MPGe of 697.



Third place winners, Cindy Villarosa and former Arc Employee Leigh Garofalow raised \$1,000 for the Arc by competing in the 2nd and 4th rounds of the Toyota Prius Plug-In Challenge.

## New program help's family "Bridge" the time between end of the day for their children and themselves

The Arc of Essex County launched its Bridges program in October 2013. This program is designed to provide after program/school support until 6:00pm for individuals 16 years and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's a valuable resource for families who need a support program that will "bridge" the time between the end of school or their family member's Adult Day program and the end of the work day.



The program currently operates Monday through Friday out of the Reach Community Resource Center in Caldwell. We are currently accepting new referrals for the program through the Adult Services Department. Individuals who are interested in the program can contact Lauren Wagenhoffer for more information at 973-535-1181x1279.

## SWOP wins its first Kickball Tournament Championship

Players from our Supportive Work Opportunity Program (SWOP) were crowned the 2013 Kickball Tournament Champions after besting the team from Arcompany during the season's final match held on August 16, 2013 in Branch Brook Park in Newark.

SWOP's win marks the first time Arcompany failed to secure the top spot since the tournament began in 2010. Each summer, our Adult Day Programs play each other once a week at Branch Brook Park. Carmen Edgehill, a staff from the REACH program has coordinated the event for the past four years. The four highest teams go to the playoffs and the winners face-off in the championship game. Teams from Community Link and REACH were the other playoff contenders.

All of the participants celebrated another successful season during the awards celebration held at Camp Hope on August 21, 2013. Kathleen Halligan, a certified lifeguard and a behaviorist for The Arc of Essex, volunteered to be a lifeguard for the event so the participants could enjoy Camp Hope's pool. DJ, Roderick Russell, a consumer at Community Link, provided the music entertainment. In between dances, the players enjoyed various snacks and desserts as well as pizza from Little Caesars.

We wrapped up the day with the awards presentations. Every player received an award for their participation in the games. Medals were handed out to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and the big trophy will be given to the winning program.



Opportunity Zone Technician Manno Barthelemy coaches Program Participant Holly George during a kickball game in Branch Brook Park in Newark. Players from each of our Adult Day Services locations faced off during the season that culminated with SWOP winning the championship on Aug. 16.



# The Arc of Essex County Recognizes Employees for Their Years of Service

On October 3, 2013, The Arc of Essex County recognized and thanked employees who reached the milestones of five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 35 years of service with the agency during a brunch reception at the Rock Spring Country Club in West Orange.



Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas (Left) and Board President Bruce Bird thank Ruth Skudera for her 35 years of service.



Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas (Left) and Board President Bruce Bird thank Theresa Weston (2nd from Left) and Cleo Owens (2nd from Right) for their 25 years of service.



(Left to Right) Karen M Knipper, Susan J Knipper, and Victoria A Douglas are thanked by Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas and Board President Bruce Bird for their 20 years of service.



Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas (Left) and Board President Bruce Bird thank (Left to Right) Carmen Edgehill, Missoule Myrtill, and Carol Randa for their 15 years of service to the agency. Not Pictured - Nicolas E Eugene



Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas (left) and Board President Bruce Bird thank Roselynn Paul for her 10 years of service. Not pictured- Victoria Arthur, La-Keesha M. Bankston, Trevor Bloise, Noreen Eason, Amy Evans



Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas and Board President Bruce Bird (2nd and 3rd from right) thank (Left to Right) Michele Powell-Alexander, Stacy Clay, Anthony Barnette, Hellen Nyamiaka-Jeter, Senequa West, Lisa Bellamy, Carolyn Jones-James, JoAnn M. Paganelli, Nicole Fiorilla, Rachel Morrisson, Rosaline Munroe, Cordelia V. Grant, Megan Beebe, Sue Brand, Michelle Bradley, Erika Cruz, and Jose Vega for their five years of service. Not Pictured - Kaziah Barbu, Alex Canas, Jennifer Cooke, Valencia A. Cox, Latasha Craig, Enrique Gonzalez, Keisha D Jones, Sharon A King, Judith Cola Legagneur, Kena S. Loyal, and Jamella Scott

# Tributes

Thank you for so many 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 Stephanie Milot at (973) 535 – 1181, Ext. 1227.

## Tributes from June 20, 2013 - Nov. 15, 2013

### Special Occasions:

**In honor of Lee Bergman's Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Maria Ronca

**In honor of Paul DiMicco and in memory of Pasqualina Leone**  
Rita DiMicco

**In honor of Kevin Kapner's birthday**  
Dorothy Goldberg

**In honor of Doug Weber**  
Leonard and Marina Krawitz

### In Memory Of:

**In memory of John Adams**  
Lee and Arthur Bergman  
Albert and Joan Ianacone  
Herb and Ellen Lev

**In memory of Rusty Bergman**  
The family of Joe Bergman

**In memory of Janet Blasi**  
Herb and Ellen Lev

**In memory of Robert Boczar**  
Walter and Doris Vierschilling  
Jeanne M. Wiegler

**In memory of James Conniff**  
Mary Catherine Lybeck  
Robert and Deborah Suta  
Richard and Lorraine Sansone  
Walter and Rosemary Stutz  
Lee and Arthur Bergman

**In memory of Susan De Vita**  
Herb and Ellen Lev

**In memory of Barbara Gundersen**  
Tom, Mag, and Thomas Sheridan

**In memory of Richard Michael Herman**  
Lee and Arthur Bergman

**In memory of Constance J. Laurino**  
Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen  
Mary Ann and Jack Daudt

**In memory of Jessie McCoy**  
Edna and Mark Jacobsen

**In memory of Rudy Raines**  
Betty and Joseph Glegg  
Karen and Murray Feinblatt  
Al and Joan Ianacone  
Sheila and Ken Lawrence  
Patti and Allen Lesser  
Marge and Steven Novak  
Christiansen and Lydia Tolentino  
Jacqueline Juster  
Patrick and Mary Bifaro  
Marguerite and Jack Dougherty  
Rita and Joe Messing  
Natalie Nappi  
Lee and Arthur Bergman  
Charles and Joslyn Walton  
Shelley Jacobs  
Bill, Angela, and Elsa Ling  
LaChish Rigg  
Herb and Ellen Lev  
Ronnie Barker  
Krista Diaso  
Gwendolyn White  
Bret Rubin and Lauren Lichtman  
Michele Zuckerman

Christine Cervelli, Alexia Jones,  
and Dominique Clarke  
Jeff and Donna Grundy  
Vivian Lanzot  
Amir Vonsover

**In memory of Etta Spater**  
Lee and Arthur Bergman

**In memory of Sally Spicer**  
Lee and Arthur Bergman

**In memory of Willie Torres**  
Michele Romano-Sanger

**In memory of Anthony Valvano**  
Margaret Intile  
Rose Cuccinello  
Al and Kathy Mangiarelli  
Robert and Noella Fried  
Eileen Sprague  
Karin Fernandez  
Terence McHugh  
John and Kathy Shanahan



## Guardian Angels

The Arc of Essex County has received funding from the following foundations from July, 2013 - November, 2013

If you know of any networking opportunities for funding, please contact Cynthia Villarosa at (973) 535-1181, ext. 1224.



### FOUNDATION

Bloomfield Community Development  
Block Grant Program  
Bob's Discount Furniture  
Charitable Foundation  
Essex County Community Development  
Block Grant Program  
The Higgons Foundation, Inc.  
Irvington Community Development  
Block Grant Program  
Investors Foundation, Inc.  
Newark Community Development  
Block Grant Program  
Payless Shoes \$ Kids  
The TJX Foundation  
United Way of Northern NJ  
  
Edward W. and Stella C. Van Houten  
Memorial Fund  
Kids Jazz Concert Series (WBGO)

### PURPOSE

Social Services, Camp, and Recreation  
  
Furniture for Two New Group Homes  
  
Medicaid Eligibility Support Services  
  
Cedar Grove Group Home Nursing Medical Care Management  
Camperships for 12 Children from Irvington  
  
Bathroom Renovations for Seven Oaks Group Home  
Home Assistance Program Consultant  
  
Home Assistance Program  
Furniture for Livingston and West Orange Group Homes  
Camp Hope, North Jersey Parent Support Group, & Overnight  
Respite programs.  
Stepping Stones Early Intervention Program  
  
Saturday Respite Program Concert Tickets and Transportation



## Camp Hope Campers Reconnect at Reunion Dance



*Camp Hope Director Becky Ewert and Camper Tylor Matthews sit in a circle with other campers for a game during the first Camp Hope Reunion Dance held at Stepping Stones School on Nov. 15.*

With summer fading into memory, over a dozen Camp Hope campers and staff came together on Friday, November 15 at Stepping Stones School for our first Camp Hope reunion dance.

Matt Mazur of Turtle Dance Music provided live entertainment and led the group in several games. During the breaks in the entertainment, participants could enjoy light food and refreshments.

The event was organized by The Arc's Department of Children Services as a way to help campers reconnect with friends they made over the summer. The department hopes to hold more events in 2014, leading up to next summer's camp season.



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

**Donate your vehicle**  
**877-ARC-2270**

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

*Thank you for your support.*

## Community Link Celebrates the Holidays

Program Participants at our Community Link Community Resource Center and their families celebrated the holidays with a party on Dec. 20. Families joined their loved ones for games, food and music.



*Vincent Ferraro (center) with his father, Mario Ferraro and step mom, Edith Gonzales.*



*Joseph Manfra and his father Nicholas Manfra.*



*Carmen Dellapia and his mother Angela Dellapia.*

*Phillip Milici and his mom, Rose Ann Milici. Charles Milici, not pictured, also attended the party.*





# The Arc®

of Essex County

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## We've Got Mail!

Sign up for The Arc of Essex County's E-Mail Updates to receive our e-newsletters. When you sign up, you automatically will receive a digital subscription to the Guardian, helping The Arc of Essex County reduce its printing and postage costs. You will also receive our periodic e-newsletter, invitations to all of our events and alerts on important legislative and public policy initiatives that impact the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Signing up is easy and you can unsubscribe at any time. Just click the e-mail icon in the bottom left corner of our website, [www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org) or click the E-mail Alerts and Updates tab on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/thearcofessexcounty](http://www.facebook.com/thearcofessexcounty).

## SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, January 28, 2014**

### **Meet The Support Coordination Agency Evening**

Time & Location TBA Call Melissa Soules  
at 973-535-1181, ex. 1262

**Sunday, February 9, 2014**

### **Warm Your Heart Tricky Tray**

Mayfair Farm, West Orange, NJ

**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

### **16th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run/2-Mile Walk**

10 am Brookdale Park, Bloomfield, NJ



# The Arc®

of Essex County

123 Naylor Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039

[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

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Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen

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Minelly Cummings

Chief Financial Officer

Cynthia Villarosa

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Bill Bray

Director of Communications

Stephanie Milot

Community Resource Associate

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## Join Our Social Network

"Like" The Arc of Essex County on Facebook and get connected to our growing online community. Don't miss this great opportunity to hear, see and share your thoughts on what's going on in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

**Visit [www.facebook.com/thearcofessexcounty](http://www.facebook.com/thearcofessexcounty) and click the "Like" button today.**



Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to visit our Facebook Page, click the "Like" button to get our posts in your newsfeed.