



For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1948.

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The Arc Responds to House Passage of The American Health Care Act

Article originally published by The Arc of the United States on May 4, 2017.



The Arc released the following statement following the House of Representatives passage of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), with the addition of amendments that take the bill from bad to worse for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families:

"Members of the House of Representatives who supported the American Health Care Act voted against their constituents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We won't soon forget those who so willingly ignored the pleas of their constituents who rely on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid for comprehensive health care coverage and long term services and supports that enable them to live full lives in the community. We must call this what it is - an attack on the rights and lives of people with disabilities.

"The federal government will be walking away from a more than 50 year partnership with states when it comes to Medicaid. Deep cuts and radical restructuring will decimate the Medicaid program. With an over \$800 billion cut to Medicaid, states will face difficult choices about what people to cut from the program or what services to roll back. Optional services like home and community based services are likely to be cut. Lives will be lost when people are unable to access the health care and community supports they need.

"The plan that passed the House today is insufficient to keep people with disabilities insured or to support anyone with complex medical needs. If signed into law as currently written, this bill will result in people with disabilities and their family members losing health coverage in the private insurance market and in Medicaid. Coverage also becomes unaffordable as people with pre-existing conditions lose protections against higher premiums. Those lucky enough to retain their coverage will find that some of the services they need - Essential Health Benefits - are no longer available. And Medicaid funded long term supports and services, which help people live independently and be included in their communities, will be even scarcer as waiting lists for services will grow all across the country. Some may end up living in nursing homes and institutions because community services are no longer available.

"The American Health Care Act shows callous and dangerous disregard for the wellbeing of people

with disabilities and their families and erases decades of progress. Now we turn to the Senate, our last line of defense. We intend to work with Senators on both sides of the aisle to oppose this harmful legislation. We continue to encourage disability advocates across the country to reach out to their Senators to voice their concern about this bill," said Peter Berns, CEO, The Arc.

This week, The Arc released [another video](#) illustrating how Congress' proposed changes to the ACA and Medicaid would negatively impact Americans with disabilities and their families. The video features an interview with Toby, Lindsay, and Calvin from Fairfax, VA. Calvin has Bilateral Fronto-Parietal Polymicrogyria and Cerebral Palsy and relies on multiple insurance plans to cover his medical and therapeutic treatments.

[This video](#) is the second in a series of videos The Arc will be releasing in the coming weeks, sharing the personal stories of people with disabilities and their families, and the impact of the ACA and Medicaid on their lives. [The first video](#) featured nine people who rely on the ACA and/or Medicaid, and each one has a personal message for Members of Congress and the Trump Administration.

The Arc of Essex County Crowns March Madness

Basketball Tournament Champions

Beginning in early March and extending through early April, The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs were vying for the title of champion during the annual March Madness Basketball Tournament. Lasting nearly 6 weeks, teams from all of The Arc's Day Programs competed.

In the end, the team from Reach Community Resource Center (Reach CRC) was victorious. Coming in second was the team from Opportunity Zone (OZ), followed by the team from Special Young Adults (SYA). The friendly competition was an opportunity for Day Program participants to improve their basketball and teamwork skills, while demonstrating good sportsmanship on and off the courts. All teams and players were honored during an awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 18th.



Stepping Stones Celebrates

Arbor Day and Earth Day

Throughout the month of April students at the Stepping Stones School have been learning about plants, the environment, and how to protect our planet. In celebration of Earth Day they practiced the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - by sorting materials (paper, metal, glass and plastic) and brainstorming ways to help protect the Earth.



On Friday, April 28th, the transitional kindergarten class learned about the parts of a plant. After identifying all the parts of a flower and examining seeds, the students planted marigolds and wildflowers on school grounds.

The Arc of Essex County's 19th Annual Building Tomorrows

Event Raises More than \$77K

*Article originally published on Livingston Patch on
May 2, 2017.*

The Arc of Essex County, a 501c3 organization dedicated to helping children and adults with

intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) such as Down syndrome and Autism, crowned David Leiken, 34, of Morris Plains, N.J. and Larissa Hoffmann, 23, of Sussex, N.J. the victors of the 19th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run while raising more than \$77,000 to support the agency's programs and services. Leiken, the overall victor and men's division winner finished with a time of 19:37, while Hoffman finished 6th overall and first in the women's division with a time of 21:46.

The USA Track and Field sanctioned 5K-race held on Saturday, April 29 in Essex County's South Mountain Recreation Complex attracted a broad field of competitors. More than 700 participated in the 5K Run, Family Fundraising Walk, and Fun Fest. The Building Tomorrows event is part of The Arc of New Jersey's annual Step Up for The Arc statewide initiative of walkathons held locally by every county chapter. The Arc of Essex County is the state's largest provider of services and supports to the I/DD community with a wide variety of programs that serve individuals from birth through their senior years.

Finishing on Leiken's heels in the men's division were Timothy McCarthy, 37, of Nutley, N.J. with a time of 19:45 and Peter Cullen, 48, of Verona, N.J. with a time of 20:36.

In the women's division, Nicole Rong, 15, of Livingston, N.J. placed second with a time of 23:16 and Chloe Contarino, 28, of West Orange, N.J. placed third with a time of 24:20.

In addition to the USATF-sanctioned 5K Run, members of the community gathered to participate in a fundraising walk...

To continue reading, [click here](#).




Division of Developmental Disabilities Extends Deadline for Camp Funding Requests


The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), which serves adults 21 years of age and older, extended their financial assistance request deadline for the 2017 summer camp session to Friday, May 19, 2017. Financial aid requests must be submitted to the individual's case manager or support coordinator.

For additional information, click here to view the [2017 Family Support Camp Funding Assistance Guide](#).

The Arc of Essex County's 2017 Camp Hope season will run from July 5 - August 18, 2017. Limited spots remain and some weeks are already full. Submit your application today to lock in your attendance; the 2017 Camp Hope application is [available here](#). Applications will be processed as they are received. For questions about Camp Hope, contact Laurie Best at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.



New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities
www.nj.gov/humanservices/dd



2017 Family Support Camp Funding Assistance

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Family Support program may be able to provide limited funding assistance for individuals who plan to attend camp in 2017. As with all Division services, funding for camp is based on available resources. **The deadline to apply for camp funding assistance is Friday, May 19, 2017.**

Please note that the Division is transitioning to a Medicaid-based, fee-for-service system. For individuals not enrolled in the Supports Program or transitioned into fee-for-service, Family Support funding for the 2017 camp season (July-August) will continue to be processed as it has been in the past. **Please see Important Note for Individuals Enrolled in Fee-for-Service on page 2.**

Who is Eligible to Apply for Camp Funding Assistance?

- Individuals who are eligible to receive Division-funded services and are living in their own homes with uncompensated caregivers
- Individuals who receive an individual budget for Self Directed Day Services only and not enrolled in the Supports Program.

Which Camps Will Be Considered for Funding Assistance?*

- Division-contracted camps
- Camps on the Division's qualified provider list

How Much Camp Funding Assistance is Available?

- The Division will attempt to provide camp funding assistance to individuals for:
 - Qualified Camps: up to 6 nights of residential camp OR up to 10 days of day camp
 - Contracted Camps: up to 6 nights of residential camp OR up to 10 days of day camp
 - Caregivers are encouraged to arrange to cover camp funding first through: private funds; contacting local township recreation departments; contacting civic groups (e.g., Elks, Shriners, etc.); camp scholarship funds that may be available through organizations like United Way

Additional Information About Camp Funding Assistance

- The deadline for submitting requests for camp funding assistance from the Division of Developmental Disabilities is **Friday, May 19, 2017.**
- **Camp funding assistance from the Division is not guaranteed** and caregivers should always consider their ability to afford any and all registered camp dates.
 - The Division does not provide assistance with the following camp-related costs: registration fees, transportation, cost of trips taken during the camp stay
- Some camps require caregivers to remit full camp payment in advance, promising reimbursement to the caregiver once funding assistance payment is received from the Division.
 - Please note that the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is **not responsible** for any promised reimbursements from camps that require advance payment.
 - Caregivers can attempt to negotiate with camps and request that camps rely on the Division's payment system, but this negotiation is undertaken privately by the caregiver.

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Livingston Kiwanis Annual Barry Ross/Arc Day Karnival

Returns Saturday, May 13

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages and their families are invited to

attend the annual Barry Ross/Livingston Kiwanis Arc Day Karnival honoring children and adults with special needs on Saturday, May 13th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join The Arc of Essex County and the Livingston Kiwanis for free rides, games, food, and prizes!

To RSVP, provide your name, phone number, and the number of children and adults planning to attend to Leslie Esteves by **this Monday, May 8** via email at lesteves@arcessex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1241.

Livingston Kiwanis Arc Day Karnival



**Saturday, May 13
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Livingston Kiwanis Karnival Grounds
On the corner of Northfield Ave. and Livingston Ave.
in Livingston, NJ

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are invited to attend the annual Barry Ross/Livingston Kiwanis Arc Day honoring children and adults with special needs. Join The Arc of Essex County and the Livingston Kiwanis for free rides, games, food, and prizes!

To RSVP, provide the below information to Leslie Esteves by **Monday, May 8** via email at lesteves@arcessex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1241.

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____
of Adults: _____ # of Children: _____
Program Name (if applicable): _____



www.arcessex.org
(973) 535-1181



[@TheArcOfEssexCounty](https://www.facebook.com/TheArcOfEssexCounty)

More Than 2,300 Votes Cast in The Arc's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Photo Contest

The Arc of Essex County celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March with a photo contest. Focused on celebrating the unique personalities and accomplishments of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, more than 50 individuals submitted photos.

Ten finalists were selected and voting officially opened on Monday, April 11. After five days of voting, a victor emerged with nearly 1,000 votes -Peggy Romano from Livingston with a photo of her son Mikey enjoying his time in a ball pit. Coming in second with nearly 650 votes was Luana Dos Santos with an adorable photo of her son Rafael on the beach. Rounding out the top three was Paulina Sanchez with a photo of her daughter Martina playing at home.



Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month photos contest and be sure to stay tuned to The Arc's social media channels for future contests.

Lauren Wagenhoffer, Assistant Director of Adult Services, Honored as NJSSAN's Advisor of the Year

On Saturday, April 8, The Arc of Essex County's Assistant Director of Adult Services, Lauren Wagenhoffer, was honored as the New Jersey State-wide Self Advocacy Network's Advisor (NJSSAN) of the Year. The award was given out during the 12th Annual Spring Into Action Network Luncheon at The Imperia in Somerset.



This prestigious award is reserved for a Self-Advocacy Group Advisor who has demonstrated excellence in the areas of providing outstanding support to self-advocates, maintaining a commitment to the tenets and principles of the self-advocacy movement, as well as supporting group members to conceptualize and attain their respective goals.

Throughout her tenure with The Arc of Essex County, Lauren has continually worked to improve the quality of life for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through support, person-centered planning, and raising awareness about issues of importance to group members. The Arc of

Day Programs Compete in Annual Fitness Run/Walk

On Wednesday, May 3rd The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs competed in their annual fitness run and walk in Orange Park. The sounds of pep talks, team spirit, and encouraging cheers could be heard throughout the park as Day Program attendees competed in three categories: Slow Walkers, Fast Walkers, and Runners.



Congratulations to the following winners in their respective categories:

Slow Walkers

- Gold - Elta Tunis, Supportive Work Opportunities Program (SWOP)
- Silver - Antoine Davis, SWOP
- Bronze - Hellen Brown, Avenues

Fast Walkers

- Gold - Steven Smith, SWOP
- Silver - Marcia Murray, SWOP
- Bronze - Allen Brown, SWOP

Runners

- Gold - Dwayne Byers, Bridges
- Silver - Sharief Vaughn, SWOP
- Bronze - Tina Williams, ARCompany



Only 10 Days Left Until the Susan Wright Memorial Golf Outing - Scheduled for May 15

The family of Susan "Sue" Wright, a parent and long-time volunteer of The Arc of Essex County will host a golf outing in her memory in on Monday, May 15th at the Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring. Featuring a full day of golf, lunch, and dinner, the event will raise funds for The Arc of Essex County and its Special Young Adults (SYA) day program. Registration for the full day, dinner only, and sponsorships are available on the event website at www.susanwrightmemorial.com.

Sue and her family were first introduced to The Arc of Essex County more than 30 years ago when they enrolled in the Stepping Stones program with their son Billy. Sue would volunteer at Stepping Stones, and later SYA, when bringing Billy to and from program. She was instrumental in the success of The Arc's annual golf outing, running it for many years. The family hopes that funds raised from this golf outing will honor Sue's memory and serve as a thank you to The Arc and SYA for the happiness she found there and the love Billy continues to receive.

To register for the Susan Wright Memorial Golf outing on Monday, May 15th at the Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring, visit www.susanwrightmemorial.com.



May 15, 2017

Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring
90 Rock Spring Road, West Orange, NJ 07052

www.susanwrightmemorial.com

Proceeds will benefit The Arc of Essex County, with 25% going directly to their Special Young Adults day program

Event Schedule	Sponsorship Opportunities
10am Check-in with golfer door prizes and gift bags followed by putting contest	Sponsors will be honored with signage featuring business logo & name
1pm shot-gun start for 18-hole "shamble"	Cart Sponsor \$100
BBQ lunch including beer and wine service	Tee Sponsor \$150
Buffet dinner with 2 hour open bar	Driving Range Sponsor \$300
Hole-in-one prizes	Putting Green Sponsor \$300
50/50 raffle	Cocktail Sponsor \$750
Gift Baskets	Dinner Sponsor \$1000
Tickets for the day (\$395 single ticket, \$1500 foursome) or dinner only (\$100) are available.	Email: stwrightmemorial@gmail.com Phone: 973-610-3581

The Arc of New Jersey to Host 28th Annual Conference on Medical Care for People with I/DD - June 2nd

The Arc of New Jersey will host the 28th Annual Conference on Medical Care for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) on Friday, June 2nd at The Westin Princeton. This conference is for anyone concerned about ensuring the consistent provision of quality health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The target audience includes health and mental health professionals; administrative and direct care staff at I/DD service agencies; family members; social workers; HMO representatives; and employees of the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Children and Families, and Health.

A full conference brochure, detailing the learning objectives for Morning and Afternoon Workshops is now available on the event website. The morning keynote will feature Janet Shouse, BJ, Program Coordinator, the IDD Toolkit, at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center in Nashville, TN. Ms. Shouse will discuss how to work together to improve healthcare for adults with I/DD. The afternoon keynote, Deborah Klaszky, MSN APN-C, is a psychiatric advanced practice nurse who will discuss non-pharmacologic interventions for managing challenging behaviors. For additional information and to register, [click here](#).



Remembering Kathy Acox

Last month, The Arc of Essex County celebrated the life of long-time employee and beloved friend to many consumers, Kathy Acox. Kathy joined The Arc of Essex County as a consumer support specialist in 1995. During her tenure with The Arc, Kathy's insight, humor, knowledge, and empathy changed countless lives for the better.

Always ready to offer an innovative solution to a problem, Kathy earned the respect of consumers and staff alike with her hands on approach to challenges. Her love for those in our services was evident in everything she did from teaching consumers valuable life skills to simply enjoying their company with delight and laughter.

The Arc of Essex County offers its condolences to her family and friends during this difficult time.



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The Arc of Essex County

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