



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

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Top Ten Tips for New Graduates

Congratulations on your loved one's upcoming graduation! This is an exciting time, filled with change in you and your loved one's life. Here are The Arc of Essex County's top 10 tips for the class of 2017:



1. Request and keep copies of all relevant school evaluations (psychological, speech, occupational, and/or physical therapy, etc.) and current year's IEP plan.
2. If you haven't yet secured Medicaid eligibility for your loved one, do so immediately. There are a variety of ways to do this. The easiest way is to ensure your loved one is enrolled to receive Social Security benefits, after the age of 18. Enrolling in Social Security will automatically trigger New Jersey Medicaid eligibility.
3. If you haven't yet [applied for Division of Developmental Disability \(DDD\) services](#), do so immediately. While the services won't be available until after your loved one's 21st birthday and the end of their educational entitlement, enrolling with DDD as soon as the age of 18 will ensure a seamless transition into adult services.
4. If you haven't yet completed New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT), do so immediately. A sample is available on the [DDD website here](#).
5. You should have already selected a support coordination agency and scheduled your initial NJISP meeting. If you haven't yet selected a support coordination agency, a full list is [available here](#). When you meet with your support coordinator for the first time, they will ask you questions about the type of services your graduate is looking for. If you haven't already, you may need to visit a variety of service providers to find the right fit of services for your loved one.
6. Once you have secured the service providers that you would like to utilize, be sure to include them in the planning and transition process.
7. Explore what the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has to offer.
8. Continue to find opportunities for greater independence for your loved one in the home or community that addresses skills such as learning how to set their morning alarm, making a small purchase independently, etc.
9. Begin to look for an adult primary care physician.
10. Celebrate this time in your loved one's life. They are transitioning into the adult world and many exciting opportunities are ahead of them.

For more information or to discuss our adult services in further detail, contact The Arc of Essex

Main Street Garden Club Hosts Mother's Day Plant Sale

Beginning in late April, members of The Arc of Essex County's Main Street Garden Club began preparing for a Mother's Day Plant Sale by learning how to garden, pot, and decorate flower arrangements. On Friday, May 12th, the club showed off their skills and hard work by selling the nearly 50 carefully cultivated and decorated plants, providing exceptional customer service, and learning how to make change.



The Main Street Garden Club is part of The Arc of Essex County's Supportive Work Opportunities Program and ARCompany adult day services. Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Day Services? Check out our Adult Day Services brochure, [available here](#), then reach out to The Arc of Essex County's Senior Director of Support Program Services, Melissa Soules, to learn how you can enroll - msoules@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.

Introducing The Over 21 Gap Fund

While a 21st birthday is a milestone in any young person's life, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities this is also a time of change. Often, high school graduation is on the horizon and caregivers are working to find the perfect fit as their loved ones transition from school to adult life. Amidst all of this excitement, some families are confronted with an immediate and unanticipated obstacle. This year's spring appeal introduces The Arc of Essex County's "Over 21 Gap Fund."



"The help I received from The Arc of Essex County kept me ahead of the game. I can't even begin to think about what would have happened if the services just ended," said Mary Allen. "Imani would not have accepted that. The continuity provided by The Arc, even though you didn't have to, was absolutely wonderful. Everything is working out better than I could have imagined."

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[Read this year's spring appeal to learn about The Arc of Essex County's "Over 21 Gap Fund".](#) Then, make a tax-deductible donation to so we can continue to meet this funding need for future recipients. Donations can be made online at www.arcessex.org/springappeal, via mail to 123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039, or via phone by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.

Stepping Stones Students Attend Elk's Friendship Festival at the Turtle Back Zoo

On Monday, May 1st students from the Stepping Stones School attended the Elk's Friendship Festival at Essex County's Turtle Back Zoo. In addition to looking at the animals and riding the Zoo's train and carousel, the students enjoyed games, a DJ, face painting,



rainbow loom friendship bracelets, and hot dogs, ice cream and cookies for lunch.

The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School is a Department of Education approved private school for students with disabilities serving children ages 3-10. Located in Roseland, NJ, the school is designed to meet the developmental and educational needs of children with cognitive impairments such as Down syndrome and other students with similar educational and developmental needs.

For more information, or to request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand, Director of Early Childhood and Education at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1271 or sbrand@arcessex.org.

Susan Wright Memorial Golf Outing Raises

\$40,000

The family of Susan "Sue" Wright, a parent and long-time volunteer of The Arc of Essex County hosted 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 raised \$40,000 for The Arc of Essex County and its Special Young Adults (SYA) day program.

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.

Nearly 65 golfers and over 100 friends, family, and members of The Arc of Essex County community participated in the Susan Wright Memorial Golf Outing, enjoying the beautiful course, delicious food, and activities and raffles. The Arc extends its sincerest gratitude to the Wright Family, the event volunteers, and all of the attendees who contributed so generously.

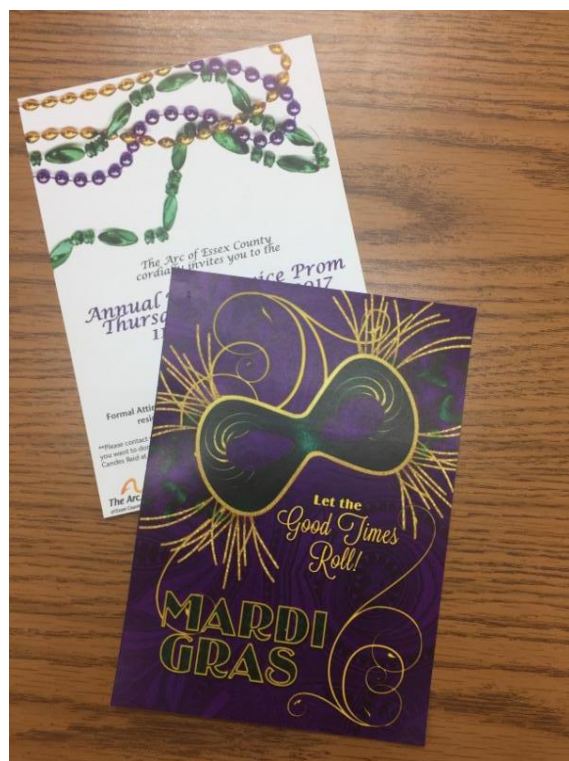


The Arc Seeks Gently Used Dresses for Annual Day Service Prom

It's that time of year, once again... prom season! Do you have old formal wear, lightly used dress shoes, and accessories taking up space in your closet? Want to clean out and complete a first-time-prom-goer's look?

The Arc of Essex County will let the good times roll at this year's Mardi Gras themed day service prom later this month. We are seeking donations of prom, cocktail, formal, and bridesmaid dresses as well as dress shoes and accessories to complete our day program participants' prom look.

Dresses can be dropped off until Wednesday, June 7 at The Arc's main office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ). All sizes accepted, plus-sizes needed. Call Candes Reid at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1247 or Maureen Murray at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1228 with questions.



New Playground Installed at Camp Hope

The revitalization of Camp Hope continues as the 2017 season quickly approaches. During the month of May, a brand new, accessible-friendly playground was installed with finishing touches to come and work began on a new splash pad aquatic feature.



Renovations to the pool pavilion and construction of a new outdoor activity pavilion are expected to be complete by early June. The renovations and upgrades are part of The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope Create Play initiative which celebrates the camp's 60th anniversary and revitalizes the grounds for the next 60 years.

For additional information and to contribute to the Create Play Capital Campaign, visit www.arcessex.org/createplay.

Annual Membership Meeting Scheduled for Monday, June 19th

Join The Arc of Essex County, for our Annual Membership Meeting and a free housing workshop on Monday, June 19th at 7 p.m presented by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute, and the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey (SHA). Speakers will discuss how to utilize SHA's recently published housing guide, *The Journey to Community Housing with Supports*, to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in New Jersey.

Individuals and families interested in residential placement options should attend this session. Space is limited; RSVPs will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register for the Annual Membership Meeting and free housing workshop, contact Ann Burleigh at aburleigh@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245 by Monday, June 12th. Respite care will be available to service recipients of The Arc of Essex County during this meeting; please note your respite care needs when you RSVP.

Annual Membership Meeting



The Journey to Community Housing with Supports

A Roadmap for Individuals and Their Families in New Jersey

Monday, June 19th

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

The Arc of Essex County's Main Office
123 Naylor Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039



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Attendees will learn:

- Various housing models available in New Jersey
- How innovative elements from the guide can be incorporated into affordable housing in a variety of residential settings
- How to utilize the resources available from multiple sources to fund housing and supportive services
- Challenges and clear opportunities associated with planning for independent living

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www.arcessex.org
(973) 535-1181



www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty
[@ArcOfEssexNJ](https://twitter.com/ArcOfEssexNJ)

Residential Garden Program Returns for 2017

On Friday, May 12th former staff member of The Arc of Essex County Al Ianacone and fellow master gardener Sue Langner reopened the residential gardens at The Arc's Claremont, Cedar Grove, and Bloomfield supervised apartments and group home. After a day of weeding and preparation, the duo planted tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, string beans, and herb saplings.

Ianacone and Langner will return in late-June and early-July to ensure the gardens are thriving and teach the residents and staff how to maintain a garden and enjoy the bounty of their efforts. They will close the gardens down in the fall when the cold weather seeps in.

The Arc of Essex County's residential garden program teaches residents how to plant, weed, harvest, cultivate, and prepare locally grown food. If you'd like to make a donation towards The Arc of Essex County's residential services, please [click here](#).



What will be your Legacy?

Take a moment right now and think about all the good you've done in your life.

What if you could continue that good work and leave a legacy to create positive change that will affect generations to come? Imagine all that could be accomplished if each of us remembered the countless individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families who are supported by The Arc of Essex County in our estate plan!

Planned Giving



Your planned gift today will ensure our movement continues to create a lasting impact and change.
Leave your legacy today.

For more information about planned giving options with The Arc please visit www.arcessex.org/plannedgiving. If you would like to talk to someone about how you can leave a legacy to The Arc of Essex County, please contact Heather Comstock, Senior Director of Development & Communication at hcomstock@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.



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.**

 **Donate Now**

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