



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

# The Guardian

November 2017 • Volume 68 No. 11



► [Donate Now](#)

## Month of Celebrations at Stepping Stones School

The students at The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School have had quite the month! On Friday, October 6th they attended the annual Fall Festival, celebrated Grandparents Day on Friday, October 20th, and dressed up in their best costumes for their Halloween parade on Tuesday, October 31st.



The annual Fall Festival provided the perfect opportunity to be outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. As always, the farm animals were a huge hit! Bunnies, chickens, and goats, oh my! Some students braved their way inside the pen to get closer to the animals and pet their soft feathers and fur. After, students completed a fall-themed obstacle course and participated in pony rides. Others enjoyed the mini pumpkin patch with their classmates. It was all smiles and laughter!

On Grandparents Day, loved ones funneled into the classrooms as they watched their little ones learn. They joined in during the ABC song, danced the morning away during music class, and ate cookies that the students made just for them.

Then, on Tuesday, October 31st, the Stepping Stones students were in for a special treat... a trunk or treat Halloween celebration! Students showed off their costumes while trunk or treating in the school parking lot. More than 10 families participated by decorating their trunks and passing out treats.

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 also serves other students with similar educational and developmental needs.

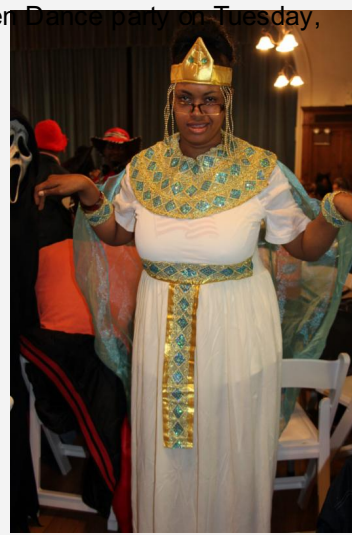
For more information, view the new Stepping Stones School website [here](#). To request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand, Director of Early Childhood and Education at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1271 or [sbrand@arcsex.org](mailto:sbrand@arcsex.org).

## Day Programs Halloween Bash

The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs celebrated with a Halloween Dance party on Tuesday, October 31st at the Maplewood Women's Club. The room was filled with some of the best costumes we've seen yet! Some popular ones included super heroes, timeless classics, and candy characters.

Throughout the party, Day Program attendees decorated their own Halloween candy craft bags with themed stickers. They also enjoyed music and dancing. Afterwards, they celebrated with a parade of costumes where they filled their personally crafted Halloween bags with treats. It was a spooktacular day of fun!

Do you have a loved one interested in attending 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](mailto:msoules@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.



## Group Home Residents to Contribute to Kean University Theatrical Production

This November, Kean University will debut an original production titled "*The Boys Next Door*" focusing on four men with developmental disabilities who live together in a group home and their social worker. Since August, The Arc of Essex County has been partnering with Kean University's Director of Theatre Conservatory, Holly Logue, Associate Professor of Special Education and former employee of The Arc of Essex County, Barbara Lee, and the cast and crew of the production to ensure an accurate portrayal of the characters.



The Kean University team, including a set designer, visited with residents of The Arc's Maplewood supportive living apartment program then invited residents of the Belleville group home to a rehearsal and opening night of the play. The Arc of Essex County wishes the team a rousing success with the play and was happy to be a part of the production process.

## Employees Honored at Annual Recognition Event

On Wednesday, October 11th, The Arc of Essex County honored the employees whose long-standing commitment and dedication have helped shape the agency into what it is today. The Arc held a special luncheon at The Manor in West Orange, NJ to recognize employees who celebrated 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, and 40 year anniversaries. CEO Linda Lucas, COO Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen, and Board President Brad Hopton presented certificates of achievements to the following employees:



40 Years:

- Judy Bellina

30 Years:

- Barbara Ashurst
- Mary Ann Burleigh
- Robert Murphy

25 Years:

- Nyla Willis

15 Years:

- Chiniha Baskerville
- Marc Bryant
- Leticia Cutliff
- Wallace Daniels, Jr.
- Kamalich Figueroa
- Kimberly Gaines
- Marion Haig
- Virginia Jakimowicz
- Garry Jeanty
- Vedette Joseph
- Valerie Shelly
- Mary Anne Zuegner

10 Years:

- Jiny Charles
- Scott Feingold
- Evelyn Gallik
- Shanelle Knight
- Patrice Lisante
- Crystal McNeal
- Pamala McNeal

5 Years:

- Nyisha Alshohatee
- Destiny Campbell
- Felicia Crawford
- Marie Edouard
- Natesha Forbes-Anderson
- Lamie Jimmeh
- Hanah Johnson
- Catherine Odih
- Asante Roberts
- Keyana Rogers
- Donna Ruberto
- Alexis Soled
- Gordon Springer
- Tracey Steele
- Esther Sterling
- Diana Tirado
- Chibugo Udechukwu
- Tina Williams

Thank you to all employees celebrating a milestone year with The Arc of Essex County.

## *The Arc of Essex County Receives the 2017 Communicators Award*

On Monday, October 16th, The Arc of Essex County received the 2017 Communicators Award from The Arc of New Jersey. Recognized for our unique approach to rebranding print materials, and thinking creatively and competitively, The Arc of New Jersey commended The Arc of Essex County for our use of visual elements to outline agency accomplishments and share The Arc's mission and why it matters.



The needs of our children, adults, and families will always be at the forefront of our mission. As the

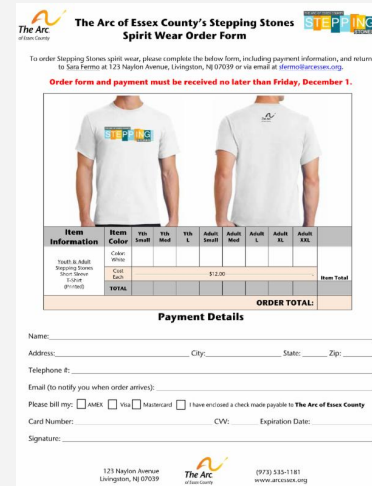


industry shifts from a contract based system with a predictable revenue stream to a fee-for-service model which creates funding uncertainties, The Arc of Essex County pledges to continue to think strategically, reinvest in our programs and properties, implement a robust quality improvement plan, and create new services all while demonstrating the value we bring to the community.

## Stepping Stones Spirit Wear in Time For the Winter Holidays

Did you or a loved one attend The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School? The Arc of Essex County is now offering Stepping Stones spirit wear. To order your spirit wear today, complete the order form and return it to Sara Fermo at [sfermo@arcessex.org](mailto:sfermo@arcessex.org).

To download the order form, [click here](#).



The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones Spirit Wear Order Form

To order Stepping Stones spirit wear, please complete the below form, including payment information, and return to Sara Fermo at 121 Naples Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039 or via email at [sfermo@arcessex.org](mailto:sfermo@arcessex.org).

**Order form and payment must be received no later than Friday, December 1.**

Item Information	Item Color	Yth	Yth	Yth	Adult	Adult	Adult	Adult	
		Small	Med	Large	Small	Med	Large	XL	Item Total
Head & Neck									
Body									
Cap									
Shirt									
T-SHIRT (PRINTED)									\$12.00
<b>TOTAL</b>									<b>Item Total</b>

**ORDER TOTAL:**

**Payment Details**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (to notify you when order arrives): \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill me:  AMEX  Visa  Mastercard  I have enclosed a check/money payable to The Arc of Essex County

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

121 Naples Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039

The Arc  
of Essex County

(973) 533-1181  
[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

## The Arc of Essex County Residential Corner - November Openings

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following November openings:



## Residential Corner

### Respite Group Home



Are you heading out of town for an upcoming business trip, wedding celebration, or planning a medical procedure that requires overnight or rehab recovery? Do you need coverage for your loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability? The Arc of Essex County's Respite Group Home can help. Accommodating up to 6 residents, the home is designed to provide a caring and supportive stay during planned or unplanned respite events. The home features:

- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large, 2-Story, Single Family, Colonial-style Home
- Designed to create a family-like setting in which consumers can feel comfortable until they transition into permanent housing or return home
- Staff is prepared to manage behavioral issues and additional supports based on the needs of the individual

**Beacon Group Home (1 Vacancy)**



- 1 Bedroom Available in 4-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Recently Renovated, Single Family, Ranch-Style Home
- Located on a quiet cul de sac in Livingston that backs up to a golf course. Shopping and dining nearby.
- Current roommates are males ranging in age from early 30's to late 50's. They enjoy spending time alone on their own pursuits such as movies, swimming at the local YMCA, and occasionally participate in community activities as a group.

### **Verona Supervised Apartments (1 Vacancy)**



- 1 Bedroom Available in a 3-Bedroom Supervised Apartment
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large 2 Family Home with Great Front Porch
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance of Verona's downtown shopping & restaurants and the beautiful Verona Park
- Current roommates are males ranging in age from early 20's to late 40's. They enjoy spending time pursuing their own interests such as reading, watching TV, being active, and socializing with friends, and occasionally participate in community activities as a group.

### **Maplewood Supervised Apartments (2 Vacancies)**



- 2 Bedrooms Available in a 2-Bedroom Supervised Apartment
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Condo-style Living in a 3rd Floor Unit with Elevator
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to Maplewood's downtown shopping & restaurants

- Neighbors are younger and enjoy socializing and participating in community events

**South Orange Supportive Living Apartment  
(1 Vacancy - Supports Program Waiver Eligible Only)**



- 1 Bedroom Available in a 2-Bedroom Supportive Living Apartment
- Minimal Community Living Support Needs; Access to an Emergency On-Call System for Added Safety 24 Hours a Day
- Apartment-Style Living in 5-Floor Building
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to South Orange's vibrant downtown
- Current roommate is a male in his 50's who is employed within the community, easy going, social, and close with his family

**Maplewood Supportive Living Apartment  
(1 Vacancy - Community Care Waiver Eligible Only)**



- 1 Bedroom Available in a 2-Bedroom Supportive Living Apartment
- Minimal Community Living Support Needs; Access to an Emergency On-Call System for Added Safety 24 Hours a Day
- Townhome-Style Community
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance of Maplewood's downtown shopping & restaurants
- Current roommate is a male in his late 50's who enjoys spending time in Montclair, watching movies, and socializing with friends

For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#). If you are interested in pursuing independent living at one of the above properties, please contact The Arc's Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at [rlorusso@arcessex.org](mailto:rlorusso@arcessex.org) or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

**Annual Coat Drive -  
Help Us Make a Difference This Winter!**

Each year, throughout the month of November, The Arc of Essex County seeks to improve the lives of low income children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their families by collecting new (tags included) winter coats. We





need your help! Please consider signing up to donate a new winter coat for a child or adult in need. To sign up, contact Jennifer DeBarr at [jdebarr@arcsex.org](mailto:jdebarr@arcsex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292.

All of the collected items will go to The Arc of Essex County's Home Assistance Program (HAP) families. HAP provides services to low income families whose child and/or parent has an intellectual or development disability. The program provides support in the areas of transportation, community resources, housing, navigating school systems, recreation, and skill trainings. The overall goal of HAP is to assist parents and families in becoming more self-sufficient, both economically and personally, in order to maintain the family unit and attain independence.

Donated items may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or shipped directly to The Arc of Essex County's Main Office at 123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039. Thank you in advance for helping us warm up the holiday season!

## Seven Oaks Group Home

### in Orange Receives Makeover

The Arc of Essex County's Seven Oaks group home recently received a face lift. Utilizing Division of Developmental Disabilities funding, The Arc revitalized exterior walkways to make the home more accessible friendly and redesigned the floorplan to increase the number of bedrooms from 3 to 4.

The residents now enjoy dining in their updated kitchen, watching TV and movies in their newly configured living room, and the ambiance of updated flooring and freshly painted walls throughout the house.

The Arc's property management team now turns its focus to The Hilltop Irvington Tax Credit Project as well as continued group home capital improvements. The Hilltop project will create six new supervised and supportive living apartments for The Arc of Essex County and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in early 2018.

If you or a loved one are interested in pursuing an independent living placement with The Arc of Essex County, please contact The Arc's Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at [rlorusso@arcsex.org](mailto:rlorusso@arcsex.org) or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270. For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#).



## Plenty of Ways to Give to The Arc This Holiday Season

Save the date! Giving Tuesday, an international day of giving, will take place on Tuesday, November 28th. Giving Tuesday is the perfect opportunity to pay it forward to your favorite non-profit - The Arc! Follow The Arc of Essex County on Facebook and Twitter for more information on how your Giving Tuesday donation will impact the lives of more than 1,500 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Essex County.

Looking for a creative way to give all year long? This holiday season, it's easier than ever to donate to The Arc through Amazon Smile! While you're scouring Amazon for the perfect gift, use The Arc's [custom link](#) and with the click of a button you can donate 0.5% of the price of all your eligible purchases to The Arc at no added cost to you!

Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1546173> for more information.

Support us when you  
shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you  
shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

amazon smile



*Out of the darkness into the light...*



THE **CANDLE**  
LIGHTERS

**Save the Date!**

Annual Tricky Tray  
Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Mayfair Farms, West Orange, NJ

*Details coming soon!*

► [Donate Now](#)

The Arc of Essex County

123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039  
(973) 535-1181  
[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

Stay Connected



**The Arc**  
of Essex County