



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

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HAP Holiday Party a Community Celebration

The Arc of Essex County hosted a holiday celebration for members of the Home Assistance Program (HAP) on Wednesday, December 13th in Orange, New Jersey. The evening consisted of delicious food, ornament decorating, a visit from Santa, and festive cupcakes lovingly created by a local high school student.

This annual holiday party received tremendous community support to help make the holiday season bright for all the families. HAP families received toys from Rutgers Big Chill and Sax LLC, winter coats donated by the public, and holiday meal kits courtesy of Shop Rite of Livingston and The Arc's Day Programs food drive.



The HAP program provides services to low income families whose child and/or parent has an intellectual or developmental disability in the areas of transportation, community resources, housing, navigating school systems, recreation, and at times skill trainings. The goal is to maintain the family unit, attain independence, and assist parents and families in becoming more self-sufficient both economically and personally.

If you or a loved one is interested in joining the HAP program, please contact Laurie Best, Director of Children & Family Services, to see if you qualify. Laurie can be reached at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264 or lbest@arcessex.org.

SYA Wins Annual Day Programs Food Drive Competition

Throughout the months of November and December, The Arc of Essex County's adult Day Programs competed to see who could gather the most non-perishable food items for our Home Assistance Programs (HAP). This year, we had a new champion! SYA claimed victory by gathering 85 non-perishable food items that were distributed at the HAP Holiday Party. For their efforts, SYA attendees and staff will enjoy a pizza party.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the food drive competition! Our HAP programs are extremely grateful to have received such wonderful donations during the holiday season. Tune in this time next year to see who claims the title as 2018 champion.

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 or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.



Still Time to Contribute to the 2017 Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal campaign is in full swing and thanks to the generosity of our families and donors we have already surpassed last year's results and are blazing towards our ambitious \$25,000 goal! Will you help us raise the remaining \$3,434 by making a contribution today?



"When I connected with the staff from The Arc of Essex County everything just clicked. They were able to answer all of my questions and how they interacted with Doug just put my mind at ease." Pam Trolice, Doug's Sister.

Your support provides these types of happy endings. We are able to invest this much time in people because you make the choice to invest in us. [Read the full 2017 Annual Appeal](#) to see the full impact of your donations on families like Doug's. Then, make a gift to demonstrate your confidence in The Arc of Essex County and all we hope to achieve in 2018.

Donations can be made online at www.arcessex.org/annualappeal, via mail to 123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039, or via phone by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.

Students at Stepping *Stones* Get a Surprise Visit

On Thursday, December 14th, The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School held their annual holiday party. Students, their families, and staff members gathered in the school's gymnasium to await the highly anticipated arrival of Santa Claus. Everyone enjoyed holiday snacks, music, dancing, and mingling prior to the school's winter break.



As soon as Santa walked through the door, each student was filled with joy and excitement. Students and their families waited for their turn to sit with the big man and receive a gift. Gifts were generously donated by anonymous donors to add some extra magic to the day.

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, 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@arcessex.org.

West Essex UNICO Hosts Annual Holiday Party for Residents of The Arc

The West Essex UNICO hosted their annual holiday party at Notre Dame Church in North Caldwell on Sunday, December 10th for residents and Day Program attendees of The Arc of Essex County. The party featured an Italian meal from Forte's, singing, dancing, and of course a visit from Santa!



This annual holiday party is highly anticipated and enjoyed each year. The Arc of Essex County and the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities we serve are so appreciative of the support we receive from UNICO.

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@arcessex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270. For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#).

2017 Board Caroling Event Spreads Good Cheer

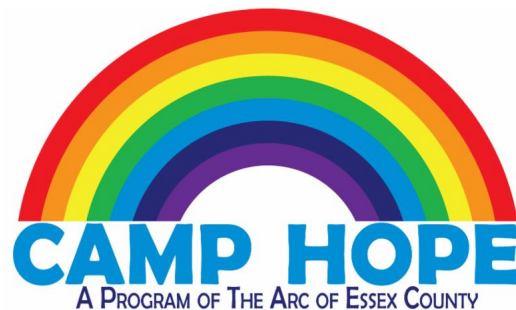
On Sunday, December 17th, more than 30 members of The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors, their families, and Executive Management spread holiday cheer by caroling with residents of The Arc's group homes. The group visited the Seven Oaks, Marmon, and Cedar Grove properties where residents from a total of nine group homes gathered to welcome the jolly crowd, enjoy homemade cookies, and join in on the festivities. The group homes look forward to participating in this cheerful tradition with some residents going as far as wearing matching holiday sweaters for the occasion.



This annual tradition that began three years ago continues to grow in popularity. The Arc of Essex County is already looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2018.

New Camp Hope Website Coming Soon

The Arc of Essex County is in the process of increasing Camp Hope's web presence! Be on the lookout for a new Camp Hope website launching this January. The website will include detailed information about the summer day camp experience for prospective families and serve as a resource for returning campers.



Generous Donor Makes Dream Come True - Twice!

On Sunday, November 26th Felicia Raines, a devout Jets fan and participant in The Arc of Essex

County Day Programs, once again dressed up in her best Jets attire and attended her second ever Jets game at the Meadowlands thanks to the continued generosity of George Holland.

Last year, Mr. Holland reached out to The Arc of Essex County with two tickets and a parking pass asking if we knew of someone in our services interested in attending the game. Felicia, who was at her Day Program decked out in Jets gear hours earlier, and her mom, Jo-Ann Raines, excitedly accepted the tickets. Mr. Holland was so moved by the joy his donation brought to one of our consumers that he donated tickets to two games this year, and Felicia was more than willing to accept tickets to one.



"Felicia and I had a wonderful time, despite the fact that we were surrounded by Carolina Panthers fans!" said Ms. Raines. That didn't stop the mother-daughter duo from cheering on their beloved team.

Felicia, Jo-Ann, and The Arc of Essex County would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Mr. Holland for yet another generous donation.

Winter 2018 Adult Recreation Calendar

Now Available

Is your loved one interested in educational programs, community experiences, seasonally-themed events, and weekend group respite programs? If so, The Arc of Essex County's Winter 2018 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog is now available!



Check out the multitude of programs offered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 and up in our Winter 2018 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog. Openings are available in our Cherry Blossom Festival and Liberty Science Center trips, exercise & nutrition program, Valentine's Day Dance, and more.

The Winter 2018 Community Inclusion, Recreation, and Respite Catalog is available [here](#). A sign up form is available at the end of the catalog. For questions or to receive a hard copy of the recreational calendar, contact Dacia King-Sarkodie, Manager of Community Supports Services at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272 or dking@arcessex.org.

The Arc of Essex County Residential Corner -

January Openings

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



Coming Soon! The Hilltop Apartments Program



The Arc of Essex County is now accepting placement requests for our newest property - The Hilltop apartment program. Creating six supervised and supportive living apartments for The Arc of Essex County and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this newly constructed, apartment style living community is located in Irvington. Contact us if you are interested in openings.

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
 - Current roommate is a male in his late 50's who enjoys spending time in Montclair, watching movies, and socializing with friends
- 1 Bedroom Available in a 1-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

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 or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

Reserve Your Seat for the Candle Lighters Annual

Tricky Tray in February

The Candle Lighters' 24th Annual Tricky Tray will take place on Sunday, February 25th at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, NJ. This is always an exciting event with amazing baskets, fantastic grand prizes, and lots of fun raffles!

If you are interested in attending, be sure to [stay](#) tuned to The Candle Lighters website for online registration as the event is expected to once again sell out. All proceeds from the event will go towards The Candle Lighters' mission to support unfunded and underfunded programs of The Arc of Essex County like Stepping Stones Early Intervention and Camp Hope. Past prizes include:

- \$1,000 Amazon Gift Card
- \$1,000 Gift Card to Maialino Restaurant in The Grammercy Park Hotel with an overnight stay in New York City
- Four Disney Park Passes
- Designer Hand Bags

Cannot attend, but want to contribute? Consider purchasing a basket or prize for The Candle Lighters' Tricky Tray by visiting their [Amazon wish list](#).



 [Donate Now](#)

The Arc of Essex County

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