



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

The Guardian

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Stepping Stones

Month of Fun!

Stepping Stones kicked off their month of activities with the annual Valentine's Day party. Students passed out Valentine cards and enjoyed a special treat for lunch including heart-shaped waffles and an ice cream sundae station.

During the last week of February and beginning of March, Stepping Stones hosted members of The Arc of Essex County's staff and Stepping Stones family members for Read Across America. Visitors read Dr. Seuss books and family favorites to the students. The students enjoyed a very fitting lunch of "green eggs and ham," in honor of the Dr. Seuss book by the same name.

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.

Day Programs 2nd Annual

Valentine's Day Celebration

On Wednesday, February 14th, The Arc of Essex County's Adult Day Programs gathered at the Maplewood Women's Club to celebrate Valentine's Day. Love was in the air as the Day Programs partied in style with red and pink attire. Some of the gentlemen went as far as making their very own Valentine's Day themed bow ties, while the women made flower headbands. The attendees enjoyed

writing valentines to family and friends, making valentine's themed jewelry, a buffet meal for lunch, music, dancing, and a full candy bar!

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.



The Arc of Essex County to Host a Meet the Support Coordination Agencies Night March 22nd

As New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities continues to transition to the fee-for-service system, families will be asked to choose a support coordinator. Support coordinators will be critical to the success for you and your family member in accessing and maintaining services. Families must choose their support coordinator before they transition into the new system! Additionally, the graduating class of 2018 will need to identify a support coordinator before services can begin after graduation.

Join The Arc of Essex County for a "Meet the Support Coordination Agencies" event on Thursday, March 22nd to meet the agencies currently servicing Essex County. This event will take place at The Arc of Essex County's Main Office at 123 Naylon Avenue in Livingston from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

A light dinner will be served. There is no cost to attend and registration is required. For additional information and to RSVP, contact Candes Reid at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1247 or creid@arcessex.org by Monday, March 19.

Meet the Support Coordination Agencies Hosted by: The Arc of Essex County

Choose Your Support Coordinator Today!



As New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities continues to transition to the fee-for-service system, families will be asked to choose a support coordinator. Your support coordinator will be critical to the success for you and your family member in accessing and maintaining services. Families must choose their support coordinator before they transition into the new system! Additionally, the graduating class of 2018 will need to identify a support coordinator before services can begin after graduation.

Join us for a "Meet the Support Coordination Agencies" event to meet the agencies currently servicing Essex County to make the best choice for you and your family.

Thursday, March 22
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
The Arc of Essex County's Main Office
123 Naylon Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039

A light dinner will be served. For additional information and to RSVP, contact Candes Reid at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1247 or creid@arcessex.org.



Register Today for the 20th Annual Building Tomorrows Event

Registrations are pouring in as participants sign up for The Arc of Essex County's 20th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest! Featuring a USATF-Sanctioned 500 Point Grand Prix 5K Run, a Fundraising Walk around the reservoir, and an afternoon of interactive family fun, the 2018 Building Tomorrows event will raise money for The Arc of Essex County and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event will once again take place at the South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Orange. Join us at The Clipper Pavilion for our 20th Annual celebration on Saturday, April 28th and enjoy food, games, activities, and fun for the whole family!

Entry fees for the USATF-sanctioned 5K are \$20 for USATF members and \$30 for non-USATF members (early-bird rate with code "early" is \$25 prior to April 18). There is no minimum fee to participate in the Fundraising Walk. As our strength is powered by the commitment of individuals like you, individual walkers and teams are strongly encouraged to fundraise. Individuals who raise \$25 or more receive an event t-shirt and free fun fest admission. Admission to the Fun Fest is \$5 per person (children 5 years and under are free).

Why run or walk alone? Create a team with friends or coworkers. Enjoy a day out with your loved ones and support a great cause. Additional event details as well as online registration are available at www.runorwalk.org.

20th ANNIVERSARY!



Saturday, April 28, 2018

**South Mountain
Recreation Complex
West Orange, NJ**



WWW.RUNORWALK.ORG

Camp Hope Accepting Applications for 2018 Season

The Arc of Essex County is currently accepting applications for the 2018 camp season which will run from July 2 - August 17, 2018. If you have not received your application in the mail, visit the [new Camp Hope website](#) to apply. Applications will be processed as they are received. For application questions, contact Laurie Best at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264 or lbest@arcessex.org.

Do you know of someone interested in working at Camp Hope this summer? The Arc of Essex County is seeking experienced candidates for the following positions:

- Certified Life Guards
- Counselors
- Camp Nurse
- Camp Manager

Staff hours are Monday through Friday from approximately 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Position requirements vary. To view job requirements and to apply, visit www.arccamphope.com/get-involved/. For employment questions, contact Laneesha Thompson at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256 or lthompson@arcessex.org.



SEEKING LIFEGUARDS, COUNSELORS & CAMP NURSE

The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope, a six-acre summer day camp located in East Hanover for children and adults with autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), is seeking experienced candidates for the following positions:

- Certified Life Guards
- Counselors
- Camp Nurse
- Camp Manager

The season will last from June 25 to August 17. Staff hours are Monday through Friday from approximately 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Lifeguard:
• Current lifeguard certification
Counselor:
• At least 16 years old
• Experience working with individuals with I/DD preferred but not required
• Associate's or Bachelor's degree in related field is a bonus
Camp Manager:
• Associate's/Bachelor's Degree in Special Education or related field preferred
• 2+ years experience working with individuals with I/DD
Nurse:
• CPR/First Aid for the Professional
*Great opportunity for LPN's, RN's, RMT's, Nursing Students, etc.
TO APPLY:
Visit www.arcessex.org/careers or contact Laneesha Thompson at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256 or lthompson@arcessex.org



The Arc of Essex County provides comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families ensuring a lifetime of achievement with dignity and full partnership in the community.

123 Naylon Avenue | Livingston, NJ 07039 | (973) 535-1181 | www.arcessex.org

SYA's Championship Pizza Party Feast

After collecting non-perishable food items for our Home Assistance Programs (HAP) this past November, SYA Day Program proved victorious collecting 85 items for the annual Food Drive. On Thursday, February 15th, SYA received their Pizza Party celebration for all of their hard work! Attendees and staff enjoyed delicious pizza from their local Nutley pizza parlor and chatted the afternoon away.

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.



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Photo Contest to Take Place in March

Get your cameras out and your photos ready - the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month photo contest returns this month! The Arc of Essex County is looking for photos of your loved ones that celebrate their unique personalities and demonstrate their enthusiasm to achieve. The ten best photos (finalists) will be posted on our Facebook Page where our fans can vote on their favorite shot.



Our grand prize winner will receive two tickets to The Arc of Essex County's 5th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange on Thursday, September 27th (valued at \$200). Second place winner will receive a \$50 American Express gift card and third place winner will receive a \$25 American Express gift card.

To Enter:

- **Step 1:** Take a digital photo of your family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker with an intellectual or developmental disability that celebrates their unique personality and demonstrates their enthusiasm to achieve
- **Step 2:** "Like" The Arc of Essex County's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/thearcofessexcounty
- **Step 3:** Click on the Photo Contest Tab in Facebook (on a desktop computer) or this [Woobox link](#) (for mobile devices) and follow the instructions to enter your photo. The Arc of Essex County will select the top 10 finalists and post them on its Facebook page where our fans can vote for their favorite photo.
- **Step 4:** Invite your friends to "Like" our page so they can vote your photo to the top! Voting will open on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 12:00 a.m. and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2018.

To view the official rules, [click here](#).

Join Us for The Arc of Essex County's Employment Open House on March 14th

Are you looking for a full or part time job where you can make a difference? Join The Arc of Essex County on Wednesday, March 14th to learn about employment opportunities working with individuals with Autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Openings include:

- Program Managers
- Shift Supervisors
- Consumer Support Specialist
- Adult Services Assistant Directors
- Direct Support Professionals: Program Aides, Technicians, & Counselors
- Respite Workers
- Seasonal Camp Counselors

Interested individuals should submit an employment application on The Arc of Essex County's

website (www.arcessex.org/careers) prior to attending. Candidates should bring multiple copies of their resume and be prepared to interview. For questions, call Laneesha Thompson at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256.

REWARDING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



BE THE DIFFERENCE

The Arc of Essex County is the premier service provider for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as Autism and Down Syndrome, in Northern New Jersey. Join us for an employment open house and to learn about career opportunities.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH • 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
123 NAYLON AVE. LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039

FULL & PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Program Managers
- Shift Supervisors
- Consumer Support Specialist
- Adult Services Assistant Directors
- Direct Support Professionals: Program Aides, Technicians, & Counselors
- Respite Workers
- Seasonal Camp Counselors

• To view full job descriptions and to submit an application, visit <http://arcessex.org/careers/>

• Potential candidates must come with multiple copies of their resume and be prepared to interview

BENEFITS:

- Hands on experience helping individuals with disabilities in all aspects of their lives
- Flexible schedule with shifts throughout the day and overnight - work full-time, part-time, or per diem
- Competitive compensation package including paid time off, health, dental and vision insurance, life insurance, 401(k) with match, employee assistance program, and tuition reimbursement for eligible employees
- Full training programs including CPR certification (valid for 2 years) and New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities trainings

QUESTIONS?

Contact The Arc of Essex County's recruiter Laneesha Thompson at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256 or lthompson@arcessex.org

 The Arc of Essex County provides comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families ensuring a lifetime of achievement with dignity and full partnerships in the community.

We offer eligible employees a comprehensive benefits package including: Medical/Dental Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) with agency match, and paid time off.

The Arc of Essex County *Residential Corner -* March Openings

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



Residential Corner

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

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
(2 Vacancies - 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.

The Candle Lighters Raise More than \$50,000

During Annual Tricky Tray

The Candle Lighters, a 501c3 organization dedicated to raising money for the unfunded and under-funded programs of The Arc of Essex County, hosted their 24th Annual Tricky Tray at Mayfair Farms in West Orange on Sunday, February 25. With nearly 500 baskets and prizes up for grabs, the event was widely attended by seasoned Tricky Tray veterans and new attendees alike.



In total, The Candle Lighters welcomed more than 500 attendees to the event and raised more than \$50,000. Event proceeds will go toward unfunded and under-funded programs of The Arc of Essex County like Stepping Stones Early Intervention and Camp Hope. The Arc of Essex County would like to recognize the tremendous success and thank all of the attendees and The Candle Lighters for continued support of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc Remembers Former Board Member and State Senate President

Carmen Orechio

Carmen Orechio, 91 of Nutley, was a life-long advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. He was elected as the Mayor of Nutley, home of The Arc's Special Young Adults Day Program, in 1972 and served three terms. In 1973 he was elected to the state senate, climbing the ranks as Majority Leader in 1981 and Senate President in 1982. In addition to his legislative work, Senator Orechio served on The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors and Advisory Board for more than 25 years.



Senator Orechio was instrumental in the evolution of community housing for individuals with I/DD, championing legislation in 1978 that would ease restrictions on the establishment of group homes.

As a result of his efforts, The Arc of Essex County grew its housing opportunities from just one group home in 1976 to more than 25 group homes, supervised apartments, and supportive living properties today. The Arc of Essex County expresses its admiration of Senator Orechio and its appreciation and condolences to the Orechio family.

If you'd like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County, in Senator Orechio's memory, please visit www.arcessex.org/donate. Please note your donation is in memory of Senator Orechio - an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to his family members.

The Arc Remembers Mary Ellen Timko

Mary Ellen Timko attended The Arc of Essex County's Avenues Day Programs since March 2010. She enjoyed all arts and crafts projects, especially painting. She looked forward to socializing with her Day Program peers and practicing chair yoga.

If you'd like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County in Mary Ellen's memory, please visit www.arcessex.org/donate. Please note that your donation is in memory of Mary Ellen - an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to her family members.

Donate Now

The Arc of Essex County

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Stay Connected

