



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

The Guardian

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A Note from Linda Lucas, CEO of The Arc of Essex County

On behalf of The Arc of Essex County and the individuals and families we serve, I'd like to acknowledge and express my sincere appreciation for the tremendous dedication our employees displayed throughout the month of March. Thanks to the extraordinary effort of our staff, The Arc of Essex County was able to minimize the impact of the recent nor'easters and limit important service disruptions.



From the long hours worked by residential staff, many of whom were snowed in while on duty, to facility repairs performed by our maintenance department, and snow removal by the Day Programs team, services were able to resume quickly and safely. The families and individuals we serve are very grateful for their dedication and we are honored to have them as members of The Arc team.

Stepping Stones Celebrates *St. Patrick's Day* with The Deron School

On Friday, March 16th, students of The Deron School made a special visit to Stepping Stones to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The students participated in arts & crafts activities, games, and packaged festive cookies to send home to their families. They also enjoyed St. Patrick's Day inspired music and dance!



In preparation for their joint celebration, Stepping Stones students made individual Irish Soda breads. On Friday, Leprechaun Marvin stole their gold and returned with green bagels! The students enjoyed green bagels, green fruit, and cupcakes to celebrate St. Patrick's 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, 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.

Adult Recreation Participants

Broaden Their Horizons

The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Program participants enjoyed a fun-filled month of March with activities including games at Dave & Buster's, learning how to Line Dance, and exploring the Liberty Science Center. The Liberty Science Center was a crowd favorite with the highlight of the day involving the interactive, immersive exhibition based on one of the world's most popular sci-fi series - Star Trek: The Starfleet Academy Experience. Trekkies communicated in Klingon, viewed props and costumes, and participated in other interactive experiences. Our program participants also enjoyed a theater show and a light lunch.



Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Services? Check out our Spring 2018 Recreation Catalog, [available here](#), then reach out to The Arc of Essex County's Manager of Community Supports Services, Dacia King-Sarkodie, to learn how you can enroll - dking@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.

Voting Opens Monday, April 9th for the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Photo Contest



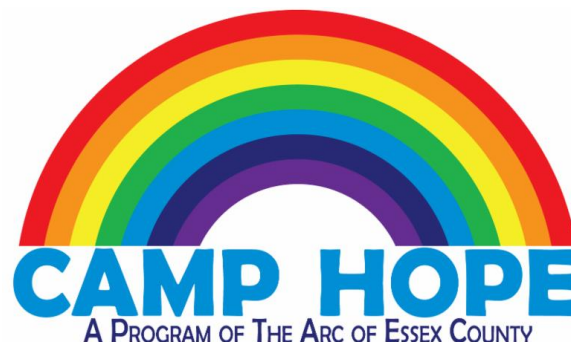
Throughout the month of March, friends and family of The Arc of Essex County submitted photos of their loved ones that celebrate their unique personalities and demonstrate their enthusiasm to achieve. The Arc's selection committee identified 10 finalists who will compete to win one of three prizes.

The top 10 finalists will be posted to Photo Contest Tab on The Arc of Essex County's Facebook Page and the Photo Contest Woobox page on Monday, April 9th. Winners will be decided by you! Be sure to visit The Arc's Facebook Page or [Woobox Photo Contest page](#) April 9 - 13th to vote on your favorite photos. Invite friends and family to vote as well! You can vote once per day.

Winners will be announced on Tuesday, April 17th. For additional information, the prizes that are at stake, and to view the official photo contest rules, [click here](#).

Camp Hope Update

The Arc of Essex County is currently accepting applications for the 2018 Camp Hope season which will run from July 2 - August 17, 2018. If you have not received your application in the mail, visit the [Camp Hope website](#) to download a printable copy. Applications will be processed as they are received. For questions and to find out availability for desired weeks of attendance, contact Laurie Best at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.



FUNDING ASSISTANCE:

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, which serves children and youth up to age 21, is currently accepting requests from families for financial assistance toward the 2018 summer camp

season. Completed applications for both Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition and One-to-One Aide Services for Summer Camp must be postmarked or received by PerformCare no later than Monday, April 30, 2018. For additional information and to download DCF's Financial Assistance Application, [click here](#).

Camp Hope is an approved service through the Supports Waiver for individuals over the age of 21. If your loved one is interested in attending Camp Hope this summer, contact your family member's Support Coordinator to have camp added to their service plan.

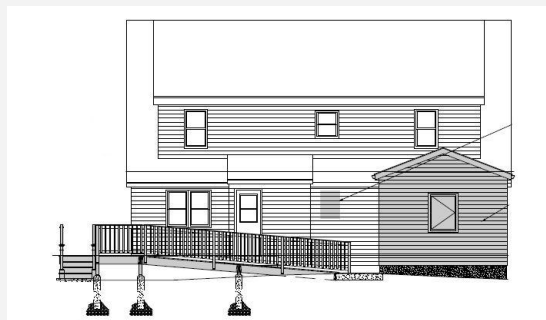
GRANT UPDATES:

The Arc of Essex County is busy preparing for the 2018 camp season and engaging the community to enhance the summer camp experience. In addition to the facility improvements introduced last summer, Catholic Human Services Foundation contributed an additional \$8,575 grant to enhance the splash pad with a spraying orb feature. Additionally, the United Way of Northern New Jersey and the Orange Orphan Society have contributed \$5,000 and \$7,500 respectively to provide financial assistance to families in need.

The Arc of Essex County thanks everyone who has contributed so generously to Camp Hope and looks forward to welcoming campers to the 2018 season on July 2.

Exciting Group Home and Day Program Renovations in the Works

The Arc of Essex County's property management team has been working diligently on four new capital improvement projects.



The Washington group home is receiving an interior and exterior facelift. The renovations will provide greater accessibility in the home, such as in the bathroom and bedrooms, ramping for an accessible egress, and a new addition off of the back of the home creating more space. The Cedar Grove home is expecting similar renovations as well as a new fire sprinkler system. Finally, the Millburn group home will undergo interior revitalization for greater accessibility and a new fire sprinkler system. The anticipated completion dates for all three group home projects is mid-June.

Renovations at The Arc's West Caldwell Hub will focus mainly on the interior. The Arc of Essex County's property management team will reconfigure the entry way area and open up existing program space to make larger rooms. They also plan to install an alternate, primary entry door on the right side of the building into the program. The project will kick off later this spring.

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](#)

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.

20th Annual Building Tomorrows Event is

Less Than a Month Away!

The Arc of Essex County's largest grassroots event returns to the Clipper Pavilion in West Orange, NJ on Saturday, April 28th. The Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest features a USATF sanctioned 500 Point Grand Prix race and a fundraising walk on a flat, scenic course around a beautiful lake. Now that Spring has sprung, grab your family, friends, and coworkers to enjoy a delightful Saturday morning! Whether you like to run, walk, or simply experience fun activities with loved ones, come join us!

The 2018 Building Tomorrows event will feature the most robust Family Fun Fest to date. Activities

include:

20th ANNIVERSARY!



Saturday, April 28, 2018

South Mountain
Recreation Complex
West Orange, NJ



WWW.RUNORWALK.ORG

FUN FEST ACTIVITIES



Emcee & Music
Dancing DJ's
8:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

NJ Jackals Mascot Appearance
Jack the Jackal
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Jazz, Classic Rock, Funk, & Country
Six Sharp
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Face Painting
Miss Pattysweetcakes
Soccer Clinic & Giveaways with the
New York Red Bulls

Kids Cooking Station
Community Food Bank of NJ
Science Experiments, Slime, & Kid Catapults
L3 Academy

Arts & Crafts Projects
Lyric Performing Arts Center

Princess Appearances
Once Upon A Princess Parties

Lego Spin Art
Bricks 4 Kidz-Essex County

Zumba with
Jacquetta

Taekwon-Do Learning Station
Sensory Taekwon-Do
Victoria's Sand Art Treasures
Honoring Victoria Thompson

Haven't registered yet? Hurry! Early-bird run registration rates are in effect until April 18th. Register today using code "EARLY" to receive the reduced rate of \$25. USATF members pay \$20 with their 2018 USATF-NJ membership number. There is NO minimum fee to walk-individual walkers and teams are strongly encouraged to fundraise. All walkers who raise \$25 or more will receive an event t-shirt and FREE Fun Fest admission. Fun Fest admission is \$5.

For additional information, to register, or to make a donation, visit www.runorwalk.org.

Taking a Trip with a
Special Needs Traveler

1. Let reservation agents, gate agents, and flight attendants know that you or someone you are traveling with has special needs.
2. Book early to get seats you want. Seats in the front of the aircraft are quieter and you can exit sooner.
3. When booking, consider putting a child with special needs in the center seat if traveling with two adults or the window seat. Or, have one adult sit in front of the child in case the child kicks the seat.
4. Check in with the gate agent when you arrive.
5. Board last to lessen the time spent on the plane.
6. If you're traveling with another adult, have the other adult board first to set up a "nesting are" (iPad, blanket, snacks, etc.).
7. Bring something new and exciting to give to your child once they get on the plane.
8. For possible pressurization issues, have the child keep talking to you, swallow water, chew gum, or use a rubber oral sensory chewing tool while taking off and landing.
9. During takeoff and landing, the engines will be loud. For sensitivity to loud noises, use noise-canceling headphones or soft earplugs.
10. Call the TSA Cares help line (1-855-787-2227) 72 hours before traveling to ask for a passenger support specialist who can provide on-the-spot assistance during the security screening process.



For more information on traveling with disabilities and medical conditions, visit [tsa.gov/travel/special-procedures](https://www.tsa.gov/travel/special-procedures).

- Tribune News Service

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

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



Residential Corner

Now Accepting Placements! 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.

Tributes are a beautiful way to acknowledge those you care for, and at the same time, help those in need. To purchase a tribute, please call Ann Burleigh at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245 or visit The Arc of Essex County's website [here](#).

SPECIAL OCCASIONS:

In Honor of Doug Weber

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Krawitz

IN MEMORY OF:

Anita Bogus

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bergman

Thomas Kovach

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bergman

Ann Long

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bergman

John Nunzio

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald A. Benucci

Ms. Lynne Chiocca

Ms. Marie Duane

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Milano

Ms. Barbara Nolan

Mr. Charles Nunzio

Ms. Marie Schaefer

Mr. David Silverman

Rose Sanzari

Ms. Regina DeSimone

The Arc Remembers Antonio Barbalace

Antonio Barbalace joined The Arc of Essex County in 2002 when he enrolled in the Special Young Adults Day Program in Nutley. Throughout his 16 years with The Arc, he formed a great bond with his fellow Day Program attendees and staff with whom he would enthusiastically share photos of his family and friends as well as the Italian newspaper picked up daily from the local candy shop. Antonio loved community outings especially trips to the local Shop Rite, bowling alley, and the dollar store.

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

► **Donate Now**

The Arc of Essex County

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