



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

The Guardian

May 2018 • Volume 69 No. 5

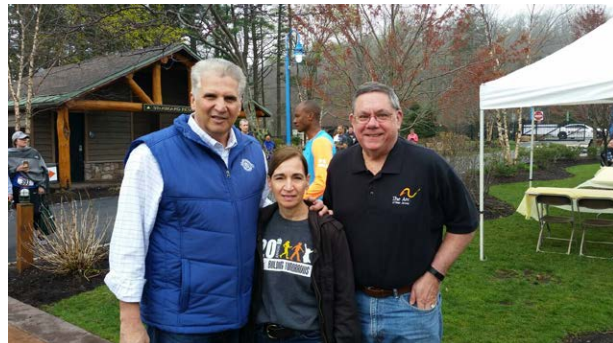


➔ **Donate Now**

The Arc of Essex County's 20th Annual Building Tomorrows Event

Raises More than \$60K

Article originally published on Livingston Patch on April 30, 2018.



The Arc of Essex County, a 501c3 organization dedicated to helping children and adults with intellectual and development disabilities (I/DD) such as Down syndrome and Autism, crowned Birger Ohlsson, 49, of Mt. Vernon, N.J. and Elena Rozkho, 44, of Morristown, N.J. the victors of the 20th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run while raising more than \$60,000 to support the agency's programs and services. Ohlsson, the overall victor and men's division winner finished with a time of 18:16, while Rozkho finished 2nd overall and first in the women's division with a time of 18:40.

The USA Track and Field sanctioned 5K-race held on Saturday, April 28 in Essex County's South Mountain Recreation Complex attracted a broad field of competitors. More than 700 participated in the 5K Run, Family Fundraising Walk, and Fun Fest. The Building Tomorrows event is part of The Arc of New Jersey's annual Step Up for The Arc statewide initiative of walkathons held locally by every county chapter. The Arc of Essex County is the state's largest provider of services and supports to the I/DD community with a wide variety of programs that serve individuals from birth through their senior years.

Finishing on Ohlsson's heels in the men's division were Jeffrey Lawson, 47, of Jersey City, N.J. with a time of 18:56 and David Leiken, 36, of Morris Plains, N.J. with a time of 19:00.

In the women's division, Desirae Piccoli, 33, of Cedar Grove, N.J. placed second with a time of 23:04 and Samantha Erin, 25, of Oak Ridge, N.J. placed third with a time of 23:42.

In addition to the USATF-sanctioned 5K Run...

To continue reading, [click here](#).

Children's Saturday Respite Program Enjoys

WBGO Concert at Montclair Art Museum

On Saturday, April 7th, The Arc of Essex County's Children's Saturday Respite program enjoyed a Blues, Swing & Civil Rights concert at the Montclair Art Museum compliments of WBGO's Kids Jazz Concert Series. Featuring vocalist Michael Mwenso, nearly 40 children and 14 staff chaperones enjoyed a musical exploration of how America found freedom. Throughout the day, the group adapted familiar songs and participated in an improvisation group.

Do you have a child between the ages of 5 and 21 interested in participating in The Arc's Children's Saturday Respite program? Contact Director of Children and Family Services Laurie Best at lb主@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264 to learn about the program and how to enroll.



Day Programs Compete in Annual

Fitness Run/Walk

On Wednesday, April 18th The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs competed in their annual fitness run and walk in Orange Park. The sounds of pep talks, team spirit, and encouraging cheers could be heard throughout the park as Day Program attendees competed in three categories: Slow Walkers, Fast Walkers, and Runners.



Congratulations to the following winners in their respective categories:

Slow Walkers

- **Gold** – Lamont Anderson, Arcompany
- **Silver** – William Jackson, Arcompany
- **Bronze** – Damarius Seabron, Supportive Work Opportunities Program (SWOP)

Fast Walkers

- **Gold** – Darshon Johnson, Arcompany
- **Silver** – Antoine Davis, SWOP
- **Bronze** – Tyler Sanchez, Bridges

Runners

- **Gold** – Steven Smith, SWOP
- **Silver** – Marcia Murray, SWOP
- **Bronze** – Tina Williams, Arcompany

In addition to the annual Fit Walk, the Day Programs also competed for the title of Top Fundraising Team. Finishing in first was the West Caldwell Hub, followed by Special Young Adults and the Main Street Hub. Collectively, the Day Programs raised nearly \$1,000 for The Arc of

Essex County.

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.

New Jersey State Golf Association

Youth Foundation Selects Camp Hope as Benefactor

NJSGA



Recognizing the impact sports have on all children and adults, the New Jersey State Golf Association (NJSGA) Youth Foundation has selected The Arc of Essex County as the recipient of a three-year grant.

Annual funding from the NJSGA Youth Foundation will enable The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope to hire an adaptive sports specialist to craft and implement a sports program each summer that engages campers of all abilities in varied sports activities. Additional one-time funding will be used to purchase equipment needed to successfully implement the new program, providing a base of equipment around which the adaptive recreation director would be able to structure the programs. One-time funding will elevate the camping experience for our attendees and includes:

- Tent Structure for Added Shade
- Multipurpose Net for Volleyball
- Six Hole Portable Mini Golf Course
- Portable 8ft Soccer Nets
- Portable Multipurpose Backstops
- Portable Bowling Lanes

Do you have a loved one interested in attending Camp Hope? 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 inquire about availability for desired weeks of attendance, contact Laurie Best at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.

Are you interested in participating in the New Jersey State Golf Association's annual golf outing? Stay tuned to The Guardian and The Arc of Essex County's social media channels for more details, including the date, time, and location and other related events.

Stepping Stones Students Participate in Papermill

Playhouse Theater for Everyone Program

Throughout the months of March and April, Stepping Stones students were engaged in the Papermill Playhouse's Theater for Everyone program. The six-week program teaches children of all abilities about the performing arts, self-expression, and arts appreciation.



The students' efforts were on display on Tuesday, April 10th during a sharing session with family

and friends. Highlights included talking about the circus and becoming clowns, where the kids painted the staff and each other with face paint. Other sessions involved singing and acting out popular children's books *Stone Soup*, *Abiyoyo*, and *Are you My Mother?*

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 Program Soaks Up Spring

at "Bloomfest" Cherry Blossom Festival

On Saturday, April 8th, members of The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation program took in the sights at Branch Brook Park's annual cherry blossom festival, "Bloomfest". The day was complete with beautiful sunny skies, Japanese cultural demonstrations, interactive activities, live music, a crafter's marketplace, food and more.



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.

The Arc of Essex County Receives \$1,600 Grant from Primepoint Assist Leader Program with NJ Devils

Primepoint, in collaboration with the Prudential Center and the New Jersey Devils, pledge to donate \$25 for each Devils' assist during the 2017-2018 regular season, up to \$10,000. In total, the Devils closed the season with 387 assists. Instead of tallying the amount to \$9,675, Primepoint rounded up to \$10,000 to distribute among the six chapters of The Arc that Primepoint serves in New Jersey.



On Tuesday, April 24th, The Arc of Essex County's Senior Director of Development and Communication Heather Comstock joined Hugh Weber, President of the Prudential Center & New Jersey Devils, Alex Bothwell, Jr., CEO, CPP of Primepoint, LLC, Taylor Hall, NJ Devils Left Winger and this season's Assist Leader, and Celine Fortin, Associate Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey for a check presentation ceremony. Each chapter of The Arc received \$1,667 as a result of the Primepoint Assist Leader program. The Arc of Essex County thanks Primepoint for their ongoing support of our mission and all we aspire to accomplish.

Livingston Kiwanis Annual Barry Ross/Arc Day Karnival

Returns Saturday, May 12

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages and their families are invited to attend the annual Barry Ross/Livingston Kiwanis Arc Day Karnival honoring children and adults with special needs on Saturday, May 12th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join The Arc of Essex County and the Livingston Kiwanis for free rides, games, food, and prizes!

To RSVP, provide your name, phone number, and the number of children and adults planning to attend to Maria Meizoso by Monday, May 7 via email at mmeizoso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1227.

Livingston Kiwanis Arc Day Karnival



Saturday, May 12

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Livingston Kiwanis Karnival Grounds
On the corner of Northfield Ave. and Livingston Ave.
in Livingston, NJ

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are invited to attend the annual Barry Ross/Livingston Kiwanis Arc Day honoring children and adults with special needs. Join The Arc of Essex County and the Livingston Kiwanis for free rides, games, food, and prizes!

To RSVP, provide the below information to Maria Meizoso by **Monday, May 7** via email at mmeizoso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1227.

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____
of Adults: _____ # of Children: _____
Program Name (if applicable): _____
Email (in case of weather cancellation): _____



www.arcsex.org (973) 535-1181
[@TheArcOfEssexCounty](https://www.facebook.com/TheArcOfEssexCounty)

The Arc of Essex County Residential Corner -

May Openings

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

Now Accepting Placements! The Park Place Apartments Program



The Arc of Essex County is now accepting placement requests for our newest property – The Park Place apartments 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)



- 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)**



- 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)**



- 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.

More Than 1,200 Votes Cast in Annual Developmental

Disabilities Awareness Month Photo Contest

The Arc of Essex County celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March with a photo contest. Focused on celebrating the unique personalities and accomplishments of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Arc received an amazing selection of photos.

Ten finalists were selected and voting officially opened on Monday, April 9. After five days of voting, a victor emerged with nearly 600 votes –Mehdi and Olympia Cham Cham from Livingston with a photo of their daughter Sofia on a Fall apple picking adventure. Coming in second with just over 400 votes was Brenda McDonnell with a photo of her son Brian pumpkin picking. Rounding out the top three was Dawn Gaita with a photo of her son Erik embracing a new toy following a performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month photos contest and be sure to stay tuned to The Arc's social media channels for future contests.



New Camp Hope Merchandise

Available for Summer 2018

Want to rock apparel from Camp Hope this summer? New merchandise items including water bottles and cinch sacks, short and long sleeve t-shirts, and sweatshirts are available in a variety of children and adult sizes.

To view apparel options and to place your order today, [click here](#). For questions, contact Heather Comstock at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224 or via email at hcomstock@arcessex.org.



➔ **Donate Now**

Stay Connected!

