



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

# The Guardian

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## ***Stepping Stones Visits the Liberty Science Center***

### **and the Turtle Back Zoo**

The months of April and May were busy for the students of the Stepping Stones School. In addition to their Star Wars Day and Cinco de Mayo celebrations, the students also ventured to the Liberty Science Center and the Turtle Back Zoo to enhance their studies.



On Friday, April 20th, Stepping Stones' transitional kindergarten and primary classes visited the Liberty Science Center for the very first time to see the Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails Exhibit. While there, they also checked out the "I Explore" area where they played with light pegs, an air maze, and rice tables. The day was complete with a brown bag lunch in the cafeteria.

Then, on Monday, May 7th the school participated in the annual Elks Festival at the Turtle Back Zoo. The students had fun looking at the animals, going in the bird aviary, and riding the train and carousel. They enjoyed hot dogs and ice cream for lunch after receiving bracelets from a local Girl Scout troop and winning prizes by playing various games.

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](mailto:sbrand@arcessex.org).

## ***Adult Recreation Program Visits Hudson Valley's***

## Bear Mountain Inn

On Sunday, May 6th, members of The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation program visited the Hudson River Valley with a trip to the acclaimed Bear Mountain Inn. After enjoying Sunday brunch overlooking a panoramic view of the Hudson Valley, participants took a walk on the area trails and checked out the trailside museum and zoo. Before leaving, they made sure to make a stop at the indoor merry-go-round!



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](mailto:dking@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.

## Staff Recognized for Exceptional Care

The Arc of Essex County employs nearly 500 full-time staff who live our mission. Together they provide 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.



In our ongoing efforts to highlight the great care provided by our staff to the children, adults, and families in our services, we wanted to share one family's recent experience. Our appreciation to the Stuart family for sharing these kind words and our kudos to Dorress for her dedication to The Arc and those we serve.

"Laurie (our daughter) has been fortunate to reside at the Oakwood group home from the first day that it opened some 20 years ago.

In recent years, the strong leadership and high standards that Maria and Rachel set for the care of consumers has made a significant improvement in the lives of the residents at Oakwood. How fortunate that we are to have such an excellent leadership team.

The addition of Dorress Sprankle to the team has been a major positive for the residents. She provides excellent "hands on care" and "guidance" to each member of the Oakwood family. She takes great pride in how each consumer looks when they are going out into the community. Also, she responds effectively to the varying needs of each consumer in a loving and caring manner.

Dorress is an exceptional person and we hope that you will recognize her extraordinary efforts."

- Richard and Eileen Stuart

## A Day of Fun and Games -

### Annual Livingston Kiwanis Barry Ross/Arc Day Carnival

On Saturday, May 12th the Livingston Kiwanis held their

Annual Barry Ross/Arc Day Carnival – opening the event to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, free of charge. Named for Barry Ross – a long-time supporter of The Arc of Essex County – the event honors his legacy and civic endeavors.

The Arc of Essex County's group homes, Saturday respite programs, day program participants, Stepping Stones students, and their families took advantage of springlike weather to play carnival games; enjoy rides such as the Scrambler, Tilt-a-Whirl, and carousel; and feast on carnival favorites like hot dogs, hamburgers, and funnel cakes. In total, more than 300 individuals and their families attended the event.



On behalf of program participants and their families, The Arc of Essex County would like to extend their thanks to the Livingston Kiwanis for their long-standing support and the opportunity for program participants and their families to make lasting memories.

## ***The Arc Celebrates Cinco de Mayo***

All programs of The Arc of Essex County celebrated Mexican culture in anticipation of Cinco de Mayo in early May.

On Saturday, May 5th some of our Adult Recreation attendees participated in a Cinco de Mayo themed World of Food program. The World of Food program exposes attendees to new adventures and cultures from around the world through food, games, and music. Participants ordered-in an entrée of their choice and worked together to prepare an appetizer or dessert from that culture while learning about healthy food choices, how to read a menu, dining etiquette, and other basic skills.



Not to be outdone, the Bowling Club celebrated Cinco de Mayo in their own fashion on May 5th at Brunswick Olympic Bowl in Belleville. Attendees enjoyed the Cinco de Mayo themed décor and music while bowling with their friends, learning to keep score, and learning the importance of supporting and cheering on all players.

Finally, our SPARC Adult Saturday Respite program also celebrated on May 5th. Attendees gave each other festive manicures, created their own colorful sombreros, and played Cinco de Mayo themed bingo.

Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation and Respite 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@arcsex.org](mailto:dking@arcsex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.


## ***Annual Membership Meeting***

**Scheduled for Monday, June 18th**

Join The Arc of Essex County, for our Annual Membership Meeting and information session regarding "Financial Planning in the Fee-for-Service World" on Monday, June 18th at 7 p.m presented by Paul Prior, Esq. of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, P.C. Paul will discuss the importance of guardianship, ABLE accounts, trust, and estate planning.

Parents and guardians of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities should attend this session. Space is limited; RSVPs will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. To register for the Annual Membership Meeting and information session, [click here](#) or contact Ann Burleigh at [aburleigh@arcessex.org](mailto:aburleigh@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245 by Monday, June 11th.

Respite care will be available to service recipients of The Arc of Essex County during this meeting; please note your respite care needs when you RSVP.



**Financial Planning in the Fee-For-Service World**  
Annual Membership Meeting & Information Session  
**Monday, June 18th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
The Arc of Essex County's Main Office  
123 Naylor Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039

Join The Arc of Essex County and Paul Prior of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, P.C. on **Monday, June 18th** at 7 p.m. for our Annual Membership Meeting and information session focused on Financial Planning in the Fee-for-Service World. Parents and guardians of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities should attend this session.



Attendees will learn about:

- Guardianship
- ABLE Accounts
- Trusts
- Estate Planning

**Space is limited.** To register for the Annual Membership Meeting and information session, visit

**[www.arcessex.org/annualmeeting](http://www.arcessex.org/annualmeeting)**  
or contact Ann Burleigh (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245 by **Monday, June 11th**.

\*\*Respite care will be available to service recipients of The Arc of Essex County during this meeting and must be arranged in advance. Please note your respite care needs when you RSVP.

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

## Orange Orphan Society Awards Grant to

### Enhance Camp Hope's Splash Pad

The Orange Orphan Society recently awarded The Arc of Essex County a \$5,950 grant towards additional enhancements to Camp Hope's interactive splash pad aquatic feature. The funding, which will be combined with a previously awarded grant from Investor's Foundation, will enhance the splash pad with a sunflower sprayer, sure to be a hit with campers.



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.

## After-Work Respite Program Expands

Beginning on Tuesday, May 1st, The Arc of Essex County's After-Work Respite program officially began operating two nights a week. The program was formerly available exclusively on Thursday nights, but now includes a Tuesday night option for families looking for coverage beyond a typical Day Program schedule.

After-Work Respite offers participants a fun-filled evening with

their peers while socializing and engaging in a variety of activities such as arts & crafts, games, cooking, and trips into the community. Transportation to the program is provided by the attendee's Day Program provider. Transportation home is provided by The Arc of Essex County.



Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's After-Work Respite Program? 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](mailto:dking@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.

## ***The Arc Seeks Gently Used Dresses*** **for Annual Day Service Prom**

It's that time of year, once again... prom season! Do you have old formal wear, lightly used dress shoes, and accessories taking up space in your closet? Want to clean out and complete a first-time-prom-goer's look?

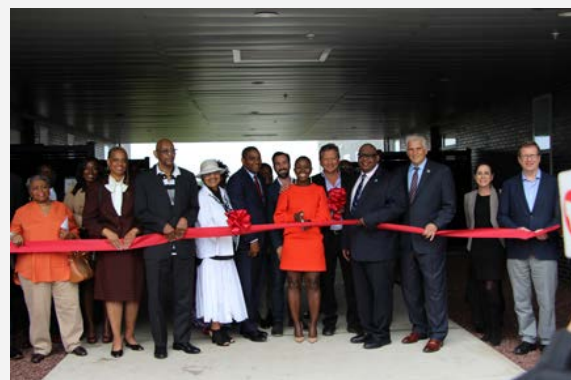
The Arc of Essex County will hula the afternoon away at this year's luau themed prom later this month. We are seeking donations of prom, cocktail, formal, and bridesmaid dresses to complete our day program participants' prom look.

Dresses can be dropped off until Wednesday, June 13th at The Arc's main office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ). All sizes accepted, plus-sizes needed. Call Candes Reid at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1247 or Maureen Murray at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1228 with questions.



## ***The Arc's Newest Residential Property –*** ***Park Place Apartments - Opens***

On Tuesday, May 22nd The Arc of Essex County alongside Mayor of Irvington, Tony Vauss, and Hilltop Partners Urban Renewal, LLC officially opened the Park Place Apartments program with a ribbon cutting ceremony. 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.

There are still a few spots available in this program. 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](mailto: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](#).

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## ***The Arc of Essex County Residential Corner -***

### **June Openings**

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following June 2018 openings:

#### **Only a Few Spots Remain! The Park Place Apartment 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

**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](mailto:rlorusso@arcessex.org) or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

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