



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

# The Guardian

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## ***Stepping Stones School***

### **Welcomes Fall with Festivities**

The students at The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School welcomed fall with open arms! The annual Fall Festival, which took place on Friday, October 12th, provided the perfect opportunity to be outside and enjoy the brisk, beautiful weather.

As always, the farm animals were a huge hit as students pet the friendly bunnies, chickens, and goats. Some students even bravely put food in their hands and let the animals eat from it! A fall-themed obstacle course, pony rides, a mini pumpkin patch meant a day of smiles and laughter for the students and their families!



The fall festivities continued on Wednesday, October 31st as the Stepping Stones students got ready for a special event... a trunk or treat Halloween celebration! Students showed off their costumes while trunk or treating in the school parking lot. Families participated by decorating their trunks and passing out treats for the students.

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 visit the Stepping Stones website here. To request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand at (973) 535- 1181 ext. 1271 or [sbrand@arcessex.org](mailto:sbrand@arcessex.org). For more information about Stepping Stones School, visit [www.steppingstonesschoolnj.com](http://www.steppingstonesschoolnj.com).

## ***The Arc of Essex County's Melissa Soules Named***

**2018 Professional of the Year**

On Thursday, October 18th, The Arc of New Jersey hosted their annual Awards Celebration at The Imperia in Somerset, NJ. The event was extra special because The Arc of Essex County's very own Melissa Soules received the 2018 Professional of the Year award.

As stated in The Arc of New Jersey Awards Celebration speech:

"Melissa Soules began her career with The Arc of Essex County in 1999 as the Director of Recreation and has successfully progressed in various management roles with the chapter over her almost 20 year tenure. Currently the Senior Director, Supports Program, Melissa's role in the development of the procedures necessary for the organization to convert Day Habilitation and Respite services into the new Fee-for-Service model was the foundation for its success. Working directly with families, guardians, individuals with I/DD, and support coordination agencies to understand the new system, provide guidance on how best to navigate it, and to champion The Arc of Essex County, placed all of Melissa's wonderful skills on display.

From the beginning, Melissa has established long-term relationships with families, consumers, and professionals in the field. Through triumphs (successfully transitioning from one life change to another) to providing crisis support (crisis situations where family members have passed) to helping other colleagues looking for guidance, Melissa is always there to provide whatever is needed. Through Melissa's experience, kindness and compassion, families and professionals know that she will be the person who "returns their call" and provides the assistance needed with the situation at hand. Melissa's knowledge, commitment, engagement, and endless effort to infuse humor, warmth and care into her various roles at The Arc of Essex County, contributes to her success as a highly effective and respected professional in this field."

On behalf of The Arc of Essex County family, congratulations Melissa!



## ***Adult Recreation Program***

### **October Happenings**

Participants of The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Program had an October to remember! On Sunday, October 7th, members of the Adult Respite program spent the day at the Caldwell Street Fair. A fun time was had by all with rides, entertainment, live music, arts & crafts, merchandise, and delicious ethnic and regional foods. The participants also enjoyed painting pumpkins and a petting zoo at the fair. Later in the month, participants went to a pumpkin patch to pick out their favorite pumpkins and enjoy a hayride with their friends!

Amidst all of the fun fall festivities, The Arc of Essex County's World of Food Program took place on Friday, October 12th. This time, participants learned all about Italian cuisine. They made delicious pastas and mouthwatering meatball subs for everyone to enjoy! The World of Food program gathers participants to experience new adventures and cultures from around the world through food, games, and music along with reviewing healthy food choices and learning about how to read a menu, dining etiquette and other basic skills.

Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Services? Check out our Fall 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.



## ***Winter Coat Drive -***

### **Help Families in Need!**

Each year, throughout the month of November, The Arc of Essex County strives to improve the lives of low income children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their families by collecting new (tags included) winter coats. But we need your help! Please consider signing up to donate a new winter coat for a child or adult in need. To sign up, visit: <http://signup.com/go/gPpvcKM>. Contact Jennifer DeBarr with any questions at [jdebarr@arcessex.org](mailto:jdebarr@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292.



All of the collected items will go to The Arc of Essex County's Home Assistance Program (HAP) families. HAP provides services to low income families whose child and/or parent has an intellectual or development disability. The program provides support in the areas of transportation, community resources, housing, navigating school systems, recreation, and skill trainings. The overall goal of HAP is to assist parents and families in becoming more self-sufficient, both economically and personally, in order to maintain the family unit and attain independence.

Donated items may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or shipped directly to The Arc of Essex County's Main Office at 123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039. Thank you in advance for helping us warm up the holiday season!

## ***IEP Review Clinic on***

### **November 8th at Main Office**

Navigating through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process can seem overwhelming, but The Arc of Essex County has teamed up with The Arc of New Jersey's Family Institute to help. IEP reviews will be held at The Arc of Essex County's main office in Livingston, NJ on Monday, November 8th from 6:00pm-9:00pm. Families will have an opportunity to sit down with an attorney from Hinkle, Fingles, Prior, & Fischer to review their child's IEP, ask questions and discuss any concerns they may have about their school district. Space is limited and registration is REQUIRED to attend. Families will receive a free 30 minute IEP review.



For more information and to register under the November 8th session, [click here](#).

## ***Employees Honored at***

### **Annual Recognition Luncheon**

On Friday, October 5th, The Arc of Essex County honored the employees whose long-standing commitment and dedication have helped shape the agency into what it is today. The Arc held a special luncheon at McLoone's Boathouse in West Orange, NJ to recognize employees who celebrated 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 year anniversaries. Linda Lucas, CEO, Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen, COO, and Marnie McNany, Board President presented certificates of achievements to the following employees:





**25 Years:**

- Victoria Douglas
- Gordon Hill
- Karen Knipper
- Susan Knipper

**20 Years:**

- Carmen Edgehill
- Missoule Myrtill

**15 Years:**

- La-keesha Bankston
- Noreen Eason
- Amy Evans
- Sheronda Ryanes

**10 Years:**

- Megan Beebe
- Michelle Bradley
- Susan Brand
- Valencia Cox
- Erika Cruz
- Nicole Fiorilla
- Cordelia Grant
- Kaziah Grigsby-Barbu
- Keisha Jones
- Sharon King
- Kena Loyal
- Rachel Morrieson
- Rosaline Munroe
- JoAnn Paganelli
- Jamela Scott
- Jose Vega
- Senequa West

**5 Years:**

- Janet Ballif
- Jeannie Bolanos
- Frank Cinque
- Leslie Esteves
- Lawrence Ettarh
- Marie Joseph
- Courtney Kane
- Erin Koropsak
- Felicia Minnigan
- Ibn Muhammad
- Eunice Musamali
- Lawrence Obinna
- Joseph Paris
- Carline Salnave
- Najwa Simpson
- Marilyn Wigfall
- Mojisola Yekeen

Congratulations to all employees celebrating a milestone year with The Arc of Essex County.

## Make an Impact on

### #GivingTuesday

On Tuesday, November 27th, people around the world will be giving back to charities, volunteering, and making a difference in the lives of people in need. On this international day of giving, pay it forward to your favorite non-profit – The Arc! This year, Facebook has partnered with PayPal to match up to \$7 million in donations to eligible nonprofits like The Arc of Essex County.

Starting at 8:00am EST on Tuesday, November 27th, Facebook and PayPal will match donations up to \$250,000 to The Arc of Essex County and \$20,000 per donor until the \$7 million runs out.

Whether it be through the “Donate” button on our Facebook homepage or through your own fundraiser for The Arc of Essex County on Facebook, each donation will be matched! The Arc of Essex County will use your generous donation to improve the lives of the children and adults with Autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities that we serve.






Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty/> and be sure to donate on #GivingTuesday!









## New Arc Apparel in Time for the Holidays

Want to rock apparel from The Arc of Essex County all year round? New merchandise items, including winter beanie hats and zip-up hooded sweatshirts, are available in a variety of children and adult sizes. It's the perfect gift to give this holiday season!

For payment information and to download the order form, [click here](#).

Item Information	Item Color							
One Size Winter Beanie (Embroidered) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$10.00						Item Total
	TOTAL							
One Size Baseball Hat (Embroidered) 	Item Color							
	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$10.00						Item Total
	TOTAL							
Collapsible Umbrella (Printed) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$10.00						Item Total
	TOTAL							
Adult Size Grey Vintage Shirt (Printed) 	Item Color	Adult Small	Adult Med	Adult Lrg	Adult XL	Adult 2XL	Adult 3XL	
	Color: Grey							
	Cost Each	\$20.00						Item Total
	TOTAL							
Adult Size 	Item Color	Adult Small	Adult Med	Adult Lrg	Adult XL	Adult 2XL	Adult 3XL	
	Color: Grey							

Unisex ¾ Sleeve Baseball T-shirt (Embroidered) 	Color: Grey with Black Sleeves							
	Cost Each	\$17.00						<b>Item Total</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>							
	<b>Item Color</b>	<b>Adult Small</b>	<b>Adult Med</b>	<b>Adult Lrg</b>	<b>Adult XL</b>	<b>Adult 2XL</b>	<b>Adult 3XL</b>	
Adult Size Ladies Quarter Zip Pullover (Embroidered) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$35.00						<b>Item Total</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>							
	<b>Item Color</b>	<b>Adult Small</b>	<b>Adult Med</b>	<b>Adult Lrg</b>	<b>Adult XL</b>	<b>Adult 2XL</b>	<b>Adult 3XL</b>	
Adult Size T-shirt (Printed) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$10.00						<b>Item Total</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>							
	<b>Item Color</b>	<b>Adult Small</b>	<b>Adult Med</b>	<b>Adult Lrg</b>	<b>Adult XL</b>	<b>Adult 2XL</b>	<b>Adult 3XL</b>	
Adult Size Long Sleeve T-Shirt (Printed) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$16.00						<b>Item Total</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>							
	<b>Item Color</b>	<b>Adult Small</b>	<b>Adult Med</b>	<b>Adult Lrg</b>	<b>Adult XL</b>	<b>Adult 2XL</b>	<b>Adult 3XL</b>	
Adult Size Hooded Sweatshirt (Printed) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$25.00						<b>Item Total</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>							
	<b>Item Color</b>	<b>Adult Small</b>	<b>Adult Med</b>	<b>Adult Lrg</b>	<b>Adult XL</b>	<b>Adult 2XL</b>	<b>Adult 3XL</b>	
Adult Size Zip-Up Hooded Sweatshirt (Embroidered) 	Color: Black							
	Cost Each	\$30.00						<b>Item Total</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>							
	<b>Item Color</b>	<b>Adult Small</b>	<b>Adult Med</b>	<b>Adult Lrg</b>	<b>Adult XL</b>	<b>Adult 2XL</b>	<b>Adult 3XL</b>	
<b>Order Total:</b>								

## Susan Wright Memorial Golf

### Outing a Success

The family of Susan "Sue" Wright, a parent and long-time volunteer of The Arc of Essex County hosted the 2nd annual golf outing in her memory on Monday, October 15th at the Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring. Friends, family, and supporters of The Arc of Essex County enjoyed a day of golf with lunch, dinner, raffles, and a tricky tray!

Sue and her family were first introduced to The Arc of Essex County more than 30 years ago when they enrolled in the Stepping Stones program with their son Billy. Sue would volunteer at Stepping Stones, and later SYA, when bringing Billy to and from program. She was instrumental in the success of The Arc's annual golf outing, running it for many years.

The Arc extends its sincerest gratitude to the Wright Family, the event volunteers, and all of the attendees who contributed so generously.



## Thank You Pierce Family

The Arc of Essex County would like to thank Board member Lorraine Coppola's sister and brother-in-law, Diane and Christopher Pierce for their generous \$16,000 in-kind vehicle donation. Their 2011 Dodge Caravan will be instrumental to The Arc in transporting our consumers with mobility needs. The van is equipped with a turning seat for easy accessibility and will surely be put to good use.

Rather than selling or trading in your used car, truck, SUV, motorcycle, RV, or boat on a trailer, consider donating it through The Arc of Essex County's vehicle donation program. There are two ways in which to give:

### Cash Donation

Proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle will fund innovative and essential programs for children and adults living with developmental disabilities. Donors can rest assured that vehicle donations to The Arc of Essex County will directly aid in these efforts. We work hard to maximize the proceeds of every car donation. Car donation is not only free and easy, but is also tax deductible (please see your tax accountant for further information). Towing is free of charge. To donate today, please call (877) 272-2270.

### Add to Our Fleet

If you have a gently used handicap accessible vehicle that you think might be a great addition to our fleet, you can contact Heather Comstock at (973) 535-1181 x1224.

The car donation program is an excellent way to support the largest service provider for children and adults living with developmental disabilities in Essex County.



## Winter Break Child Care Dates Announced





# Winter Break Child Care

December 26, 27, and 28th  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Stepping Stones School**  
**19 Harrison Ave., Roseland, NJ 07068**



Children ages 5-21 with developmental disabilities and their siblings are invited to participate in The Arc of Essex County's annual winter break child care program.

Featuring full days of engaging, themed activities, this exciting program offers a ratio of one staff member to every three children.

Snacks and juice will be provided, however each child needs to bring his/her own lunch.

For questions and to register for any or all days, please contact Jennifer DeBarr by **December 11th** at [jdebarr@arcessex.org](mailto:jdebarr@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 x1292.

**\$85** per day per child\*

\*Minimum of 4 registered children per day for the program to occur.



[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)  
(973) 535-1181



[www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty](https://www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty)  
[@ArcOfEssexNJ](https://twitter.com/ArcOfEssexNJ)

## ***The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner -*** **November Openings**

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

#### **South Orange Supportive Living Apartment (2 Vacancies)**



- 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 (1 Vacancy)**



- 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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## ***The Arc Remembers Patricia Malcolm***

Patricia Malcolm was born and raised in Essex County and lived with her parents prior to moving to The Arc of Essex County's Ashwood group home in 2005. She had attended various Arc day programs, most recently the West Caldwell Hub since 1992, and made many friends along the way.

Her infectious laughter and wonderful sense of humor served her well, and she was always a pleasure to be around. She was especially fond of watching Alvin and the Chipmunks, I Love Lucy, Dr. Doolittle, and Bewitched. Observing her joy in watching any of these was certainly a pleasure to behold. The Itsy Bitsy Spider was one of her beloved songs, and she would delight in asking whoever was with her to sing and act out the song repeatedly. Automobiles were also among her favorite things, and she loved pantomiming driving her own vehicle, having perfected the sounds that accompanied her "driving". All who spent time with her couldn't help but walk away with a smile on their face.

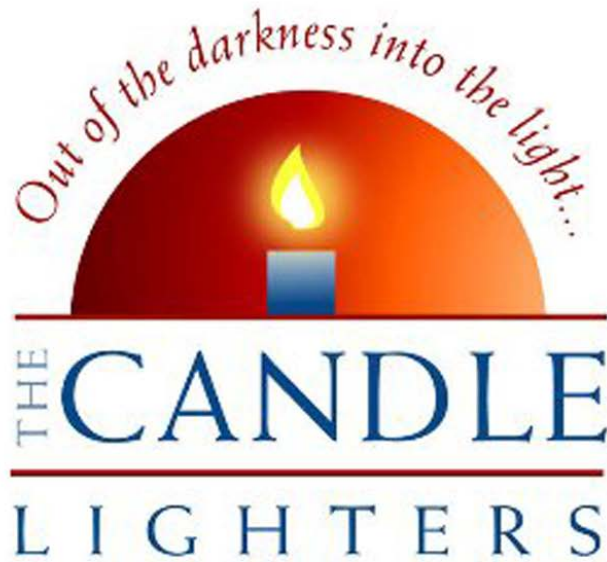
She is survived by her brother John with whom she was especially close as well as her housemates, day program associates, and staff who were privileged to provide her services.

If you would like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County in Patricia's memory, please visit [www.arcessex.org/donate](http://www.arcessex.org/donate). Please note that your donation is in memory of Patricia – an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to family members.

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## **Save the Date:**

### **The Candle Lighters Annual Tricky Tray**



**Save the Date!**

Annual Tricky Tray  
Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>  
Mayfair Farms, West Orange, NJ

*Details coming soon!*

**Stay Connected!**



**➔ Donate Now**