



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

# The Guardian

March 2019 • Volume 70 No. 3



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## ***Adult Recreation Program***

### **Has a Monster Good Time Mini Golfing**

The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Program showed off their putting skills on Sunday, February 10th during a Monster Mini Golf session in Fairfield. The indoor, monster-themed course featured 18 holes of glow-in-the-dark fun! After a rousing round of golf, the group finished off the day socializing and making bracelets over some snacks.

Is your loved one interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally-themed events, and weekend group respite programs? If so, The Arc of Essex County's Winter 2019 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog is right up their alley!

Check out the wide range of programs offered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 and up in our 2019 Winter Catalog. Highlights include a Saint Patrick's Day Party, a trip to Historic Smithville, B-The Underwater Bubble Show at the State Theater of New Jersey, Farm-to-Table Cooking Classes, and more.

The Winter 2019 Community Inclusion, Recreation, and Respite Catalog is available [here](#). A sign up form is available at the end of the catalog. For questions or to receive a hard copy of the recreational calendar, contact Dacia King-Sarkodie, Manager of Community Supports Services at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272 or [dking@arcessex.org](mailto:dking@arcessex.org).



***Papermill Playhouse  
Performs Pinocchio for the***

## Stepping Stones School

On Wednesday, February 6th, the Paper Mill Playhouse Children's Theater on Tour made another visit to The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School to perform Disney's "My Son Pinocchio Jr." The Disney classic came to life with a new twist as the story was told through the eyes of toy maker, Geppetto. The students loved the costumes, music, and dancing and even got to meet the young performers after the show.



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 Stepping Stones School 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).



***Join the Fun! Create a Team for the***

**21st Annual Building Tomorrows Event on April 27th**

Spring is right around the corner and so is The Arc of Essex County's 21st Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest. Individual and team registrations are rolling in as people gear up for Saturday, April 27th at The Clipper Pavilion in South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Orange.

JOIN US as we run, walk, laugh, and play to raise money and awareness for children and adults with Autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Register or donate now at [www.runorwalk.org](http://www.runorwalk.org).

**Are you a runner?** Enjoy the beautiful, tree-lined course around the South Mountain reservoir. **New to the 2019 event, all 5K finishers will receive a special treat as they cross the finish line - a delicious donut courtesy of [Off the Wall Donuts](#)!** The entry fee for all ages is \$30 (early-bird rate is \$25 prior to April 17 with code "EARLY"). Post-run refreshments, such as water, coffee, bagels, and fruit, will be provided by Starbucks, Livingston Bagels, and Fresh Pro Food Distributors. For more information about the run, visit the "Event Details" section of the website.

**Looking for a fun day spent with family and friends?** Start a walk team in support of The Arc of

Essex County! Raise \$25 or more and receive free admission to the Fun Fest and an Event T-shirt. The top 3 fundraisers will receive gift cards to McLoone's Boathouse located right next to the event venue.

The 5K will kick off at 9 a.m., followed by the Family Walk at 10:15 a.m. and the Fun Fest from 10:30am -1:00pm. New additions to the Fun Fest include science experiments with Bayer Pharmaceuticals and live children's musical entertainment by Parties by Dylan & Company featuring Mr. Jon! There will even be special appearances from Rapunzel and Batman! Returning favorites include Six Sharp Band, Dancing DJs, L3 Academy slime making, and the Kid's Cookie Decorating Station courtesy of the Community Food Bank.

There's something for everyone at the 21st Annual Building Tomorrows Event! Help support The Arc's mission of providing supports and services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Northern New Jersey and sign up today: [www.runorwalk.org](http://www.runorwalk.org)!

For questions and inquiries, contact Maria Meizoso, Special Events and Development Coordinator, at [mmeizoso@arcessex.org](mailto:mmeizoso@arcessex.org) or at (973) 535-1181 x1227.

For sponsorship inquiries, contact Heather Comstock, Senior Director of Development and Communications, [hcomstock@arcessex.org](mailto:hcomstock@arcessex.org) or at (973) 535-1181 x1224.

## ***The Arc Celebrates***

### **Valentine's Day**

Love was in the air throughout the month of February as The Arc of Essex County's participants celebrated Valentine's Day. On Friday, February 8th the Adult Recreation program hosted a mini dance and decorated heart-shaped cookies with white, pink, and red sprinkles.



Then, on Thursday, February 14th, The Arc's Adult Day Programs met at the Maplewood Women's Club for the 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Dance. The entire room was adorned with vibrant red and pink decorations and delicious desserts. The group spent time at the crafts table creating personalized Valentine's Day cards and enjoyed the upbeat music with tons of dancing.

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 Children & Adult Day Services, Laurie Best, to learn how you can enroll - [lb主@arcessex.org](mailto:lb主@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.

## ***DCF Funding Available for***

### **2109 Camp Season**

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, which serves children up to age 21, is currently accepting requests from families for financial assistance toward the 2019 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 Tuesday, April 30, 2019. 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.

Camp Hope is an eight week summer day camp for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities located in East Hanover. Operating since 1956, camp runs Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, starting in late June and ending in August, with transportation provided for campers living in Essex County and surrounding areas. Camp Hope provides campers with traditional camp activities including supervised swimming and outdoor fun with modified sports, arts & crafts, and music. While enjoying these activities, attention is also given to daily living skills, peer interaction, socialization skills, and developing appropriate behaviors.

For more information and to apply for the 2019 camp season, visit [www.arccamphope.com](http://www.arccamphope.com). To request a tour and for questions regarding the application process, contact Laurie Best, Senior Director of Children & Adult Day Services at (973) 535-1181 x1264 or [lb主@arcessex.org](mailto:lb主@arcessex.org).

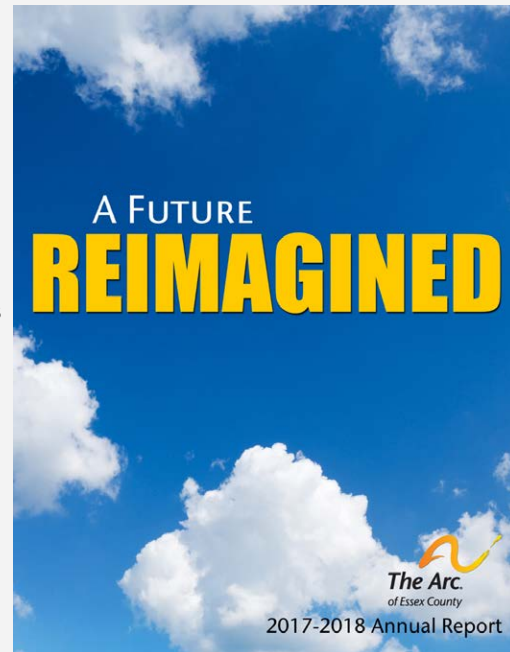
## ***The Arc Delivers A Future Reimagined - Read the***

### **2017-2018 Annual Report Today!**

Inspired by their children, a group of dedicated parents embarked on a mission to alter the status quo. The dream was big... to transform from a segregated reality to a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) would be accepted and included in everyday life. Out of these efforts, The Arc of Essex County was born.

With each generation that's come through our doors since, The Arc continues to build upon this legacy. We constantly seek to reinvent the landscape for people with disabilities in New Jersey by creating more and better opportunities for acceptance, inclusion, and achievement.

Read the [2017-2018 Annual Report](#) today to learn how The Arc is continuing to remove obstacles for families to access our programs and rising to the increased demand for services. Then, renew your financial commitment so The Arc can continue to be a champion of change on behalf of the families we serve.



## ***The Arc of Essex County to Host a***

### **Meet the Support Coordination Agencies Night March 6th**

As New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities continues to transition to the fee-for-service system and 2019 graduates approach the end of the school year, families will be asked to choose a support coordinator. Your support coordinator is a critical part of you and your family member's ability to successfully access and maintain services. The graduating class of 2019 will need to identify a support coordinator before services can begin after

## 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 and 2019 graduates approach the end of the school year, families will be asked to choose a support coordinator. Your support coordinator is a critical part of you and your family member's ability to successfully access and maintain services. The graduating class of 2019 will need to identify a support coordinator before services can begin after graduation.

If you do not have a support coordinator or would like to select a new one, join us for a "Meet the Support Coordination Agencies" event. Meet the agencies currently serving Essex County to make the best choice for you and your family.

Wednesday, March 6

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Arc of Essex County's Opportunity Zone  
50-58 Burnett Avenue  
Maplewood, NJ 07040

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



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



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

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## The Arc of Essex County Seeks Counselors in Training for 2019 Camp Season

The Arc of Essex County is seeking volunteers for the 2019 Camp Hope season to serve as counselors in training (CITs). CITs play an important role in the day-to-day camp experience, helping to facilitate activities for our campers while learning the ins and outs of becoming a full-time camp counselor.

Counselor in Training (CIT) Requirements:

- No Prior Experience Needed
- Minimum Age - 14 Years Old
- One Week Minimum Commitment

Interested applicants must attend a Camp Hope CIT Open House/On-the-Spot Interviews:

- Tuesday, March 26: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 11: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 1: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Camp Hope is an eight week summer day camp for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities located in East Hanover. Operating since 1956, camp runs Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, starting in late June and ending in August, with transportation provided for campers living in Essex County and surrounding areas. Camp Hope provides campers with traditional camp activities including supervised swimming and outdoor fun with modified sports, arts & crafts, and music. While enjoying these activities, attention is also given to daily living skills, peer interaction, socialization skills, and developing appropriate behaviors.



## SUMMER 2019 CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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- No Prior Experience Needed
- Minimum Age - 14 Years Old
- One Week Minimum Commitment

CITs play an important role in the day-to-day camp experience, helping to facilitate activities for our campers while learning the ins and outs of becoming a full-time camp counselor.

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Participate in all activities involving campers (i.e. singing, sports, art projects, swimming, etc.)
- Assist the group leader whenever possible (i.e. taking campers to the main, lunch preparation, lining up for dismissal, etc.)
- Discuss any problems with your group leader

### CAMP INFO:

- Camp Hope is located in East Hanover, NJ
- Children and adults with autism, Down syndrome and other intellectual and developmental disabilities attend
- Nearly 180 campers attended in 2018
- The season runs from June 26 - August 14
- Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Training will take place one week prior to the start of camp



### REGISTER FOR AN INFO SESSION TODAY:

Contact Jasmin Medina at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1265 or [jmedina@arcessex.org](mailto:jmedina@arcessex.org).  
123 Naylor Avenue | Livingston, NJ 07039 | (973) 535-1181 | [www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

### Interested applicants must attend a Camp Hope CIT Open House/On-the-Spot Interviews:

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To register for an information session and on-the-spot interview, contact Jasmin Medina at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1265 or [jmedina@arcessex.org](mailto:jmedina@arcessex.org).

## ***Feeling Lucky? The Arc's***

### **50/50 Raffle Returns**

The Arc's annual 50/50 raffle returns – \$10 tickets are now available for purchase and proceeds will benefit The Arc of Essex County. The winning ticket will be drawn on Thursday, October 3, 2019 during the 6th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest at The Wilshire Grand in West Orange, NJ. You need not be present to win. Tickets can be purchased online [here](#) or at The Arc's [Building Tomorrows Run, Walk, and Family Fun Fest](#) on Saturday, April 27th or [Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, & Food Fest](#) on Thursday, October 3.



The Arc is also seeking volunteers to help sell raffle tickets. Each volunteer can sign up for as many raffle ticket books (10 tickets per book) as they would like. Volunteers are not responsible for any unsold tickets. Unsold tickets simply need to be turned in along with any sold ticket stubs and money collected by September 23rd. Please contact Maria Meizoso by email at [mmeizoso@arcessex.org](mailto:mmeizoso@arcessex.org) or by phone at 973-535-1181 x1227 to sign up.

## ***The Arc Celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with a***

### **Bulletin Board Contest**

March marks the beginning of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and participants of The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs are celebrating with a bulletin board contest. Each Day Program will design a bulletin board with the theme "Everybody Belongs". On Monday, March 18th we'll unveil the completed bulletin boards on The Arc's Facebook page and open up the poll for voting. The Day Program that receives the most votes for their bulletin board will win a breakfast party!



Be sure to like The Arc of Essex County on [Facebook](#). Voting will open on March 18th and close on March 31st. The winner will be announced on Monday, April 1st.

## ***The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner***

### **March Openings**

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following February 2019 openings:

**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 Supervised Apartments (1 Female Vacancy)**



- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Condo-style Living in a 2nd Floor Unit with Elevator
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to Maplewood's downtown shopping & restaurants

#### **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

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 Senior Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at [rlorusso@arcessex.org](mailto:rlorusso@arcessex.org) or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

## ***The Arc of Essex County Receives \$29,400***

### **CDBG Grant from Essex County**

Thanks to a 2018 community development block grant (CDBG) from Essex County, The Arc was able to purchase a new 12 –person, wheelchair accessible vehicle that features track seating giving The Arc flexibility to accommodate more wheelchair-bound passengers, when needed. The vehicle hit the roads in late January and is actively transporting program attendees to activities throughout the community, seven days a week.



The Arc of Essex County would like to thank the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development for their ongoing support and commitment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## ***PSE&G Awards \$5K***

### **Grant to The Arc**



# **PSE&G**

PSE&G recently awarded The Arc of Essex County a \$5,000 grant to help underwrite Adult Day Programs recreation activities including the 2019 annual Prom and a new End of Summer Blast. These events provide valuable socialization opportunities for our Day Program participants where they can join together, socialize, and develop new friendships with their peers.

The PSE&G Foundation (501c3) is the philanthropic arm of Public Service Enterprise Group (NYSE: [PEG](#)). The Foundation generally supports and invests in programs in three areas: community and the environment, education and safety. The Foundation provides grants to organizations in communities served by PSE&G and its subsidiaries. The Arc of Essex County thanks PSE&G for their continued support and looks forward to sharing the joy these events will bring attendees.

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 Children & Adult Day Services, Laurie Best, to learn how you can enroll - [lbest@arcessex.org](mailto:lbest@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.

## **The Candle Lighters Raise More**



## than \$55,000 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 25th Annual Tricky Tray at Mayfair Farms in West Orange on Sunday, February 24th. 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 \$55,000. 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.



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### Stay Connected!



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