



➔ **Donate Now**

## Stepping Stones Celebrates Graduates

### *with a Car Parade*

Throughout the ongoing pandemic, Stepping Stones students continued their studies with classmates, teachers, and therapists through remote learning plans. With stay-at-home orders still in place, staff devised a way to celebrate the accomplishments achieved during this unprecedented school year. On Tuesday, June 16th a parade of cars celebrated two graduates and the advancement of all students.

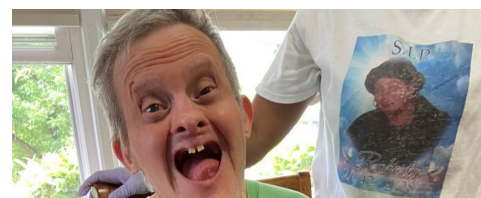


The Arc of Essex County would like to wish all of our graduates the best of luck as they begin their new adventures!

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 (862) 210-8781 or [sbrand@arcsex.org](mailto:sbrand@arcsex.org).

## More Than 150 Virtual Activities

### *Offered in June*



Residents and Day Program attendees of The Arc of Essex County enjoyed more than 150 unique virtual programming activities throughout the month of June as The Arc continues to ensure ample access to services and supports during stay-at-home orders. Offerings included virtual dance parties, cooking classes, health and wellness classes, and even a virtual spelling bee!

Opportunity Zone (OZ) Day Programs participant, Devin, was at first reluctant to fully engage in virtual programming. Recognizing this is the new normal, for now, Devin has fully embraced connecting with peers and staff through Zoom. He most recently enjoyed competing in his Day Program's virtual spelling bee and was a virtual Chopped super star, pulling out his cutting board and preparing all of the vegetables to make a salad right along with his OZ staff members.



The Arc of Essex County is committed to providing dynamic services and supports by leveraging technology and practicing social distancing. Our full virtual programming calendars are available online at [www.arcessex.org/virtual](http://www.arcessex.org/virtual).

If your loved one is interested in joining our Day Programs classes, contact Director of Adult Day Services Angela LoSapio at [alosapio@arcessex.org](mailto:alosapio@arcessex.org). For Adult Recreation & Respite virtual gatherings, contact Director of Community Services, Maureen Murray at [mmurray@arcessex.org](mailto:mmurray@arcessex.org), and for more information about Children's Services, contact Director of Children's Services, Erika Zupkus at [ezupkus@arcessex.org](mailto:ezupkus@arcessex.org).

If you would like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County to ensure we can continue to be agile, responsive, and innovative, especially during difficult times like these, please visit [www.arcessex.org/covid19relief](http://www.arcessex.org/covid19relief).

## ***Foundations & Community Group Award The Arc***

### ***More Than \$25K in Grants***

During the month of June, five funders awarded The Arc of Essex County more than \$25,000 in grants to support current agency initiatives.

The Kessler Foundation awarded The Arc \$10,336 to purchase vital PPE and cleaning supplies for residential programs to meet the immediate needs of The Arc's residents and staff resulting from the pandemic. The Orange Orphan Society and the New Jersey Workforce Registry awarded \$6,560 and \$2,000 respectively to be used for PPE and disinfecting supplies to support Camp Hope which will operate with limited capacity beginning July 12. The Cedar Grove Elks secured a \$2,000 grant to also be used for PPE and personal needs of the Cedar Grove group home residents. Additionally, the Novartis Foundation contributed \$4,000 to expand the tele-medicine program to The Arc's Seven Oaks and Millburn group homes.

The Arc of Essex County thanks the Kessler Foundation, Novartis Foundation, Orange Orphan Society, and Cedar Grove Elks, for their continued support, especially in the face of this unprecedented pandemic.



## ***Self Advocate Caryn Bushko Appointed***

### ***to The Arc's Advisory Board***

During the June Board meeting on Tuesday, June 16th, self-advocate, resident, and Day Program attendee of The Arc of Essex County, Caryn Bushko, was appointed to The Arc's Board of Directors as an advisory board member.

Caryn joined The Arc family in 2015. Since then, she has participated in nearly every type of program offered by The Arc including Day Habilitation, Recreation & Respite, and Camp Hope. She is also a resident of the Roseland Group Home and active in many clubs and activities.



An outgoing and cheerful person, Caryn has formed lasting friendships and mutual respect with her peers and staff alike. She brings to the board a well-rounded perspective and strong voice as self-advocate.

## **Staff Highlight:**

### ***Sandra Washington***

Sandra Washington, a member of The Arc's direct support team at the Park Place Apartments program, has gone above and beyond for the residents in her care. She has not only worked tirelessly to ensure their health and safety, but also made it a priority for her residents to have the opportunity to engage with their family, friends, and peers during stay-at-home orders.

Sandra has stayed late, picked up extra shifts, and came in early to ensure her residents received the amount of support needed during this difficult time. Counterparts in other homes, as well as Day Program staff supporting residents during this time, have recognized the attention and encouragement Sandra has provided to her residents, with one resident often signing into virtual day habilitation activities with her own program as well as others "just to say hi and catch up with friends." With Sandra's encouragement, the resident "thrives in this new normal and does a wonderful job connecting with her extended Arc family!"



Sandra embodies the passion and dedication that drives the mission of The Arc of Essex County. We extend our utmost appreciation to Sandra and recognize her unwavering dedication to those we serve.

## **Annual Business and Membership Meeting**

### ***Goes Virtual***

On Tuesday, June 16th members of The Arc of Essex



## **The Power of Advocacy**

**Tom Baffuto, Executive Director**  
June 16, 2020

## The Power of Advocacy

Tom Baffuto, Executive Director  
June 16, 2020

County tuned in for the first-ever virtual annual business and membership meeting. During the meeting, hosted on GoToWebinar, members elected a new trustee and received a year in review complete with pictures from Board President Marnie McNany and a COVID-19 program and services update from CEO Linda Lucas. The evening's feature presentation, "The Power of Advocacy" was presented by The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto. Appointed to the Board were:

### Officers:

- Marnie McNany – President
- Stephen Falanga – 1st VP
- Robert Laurino – 2nd VP
- Benjamin Proce – 3rd VP
- John O'Brien – Secretary

### Advisory Board Members:

- Caryn Bushko – Self Advocate
- Michael Franchino
- Thomas Giblin
- Alvin Hersh
- John McKeon
- David Meyer
- Matthew Ryan
- Scott White
- Richard Wright

### Trustee:

- Juan Arroyo

In addition, the Board bid farewell to former Board President Brad Hopton and Trustee Theresa Thompson. The Arc of Essex County extends our utmost appreciation for their time, talent, and effort on behalf of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A copy of the "Power of Advocacy" presentation is now available on The Arc's website. To view the presentation, visit [www.arcessex.org/annualmeeting](http://www.arcessex.org/annualmeeting).

## Uncorked & Uncapped Postponed

The safety and well-being of our annual Uncorked & Uncapped guests and vendors is The Arc of Essex County's top priority. Due to the current group gathering restrictions and concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Uncorked & Uncapped event has been postponed until a later date.



If you are interested in becoming a vendor or sponsor when the event is rescheduled, please contact Heather Comstock at [hcomstock@arcessex.org](mailto:hcomstock@arcessex.org). For more information, updates, and to pre-register, visit



[www.uncorkedanduncapped.com](http://www.uncorkedanduncapped.com).

## The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

### July Openings

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following July 2020 openings:



#### Roseland Group Home (1 Female Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 5-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large, Ranch-Style, Single-Family Home on a Quiet Suburban Street
- ADA compliant/barrier-free home within walking distance of community parks
- Current roommates are females ranging in age from mid 30's to late 70's. They enjoy shopping with one another, having spa nights, and watching Thursday night wrestling on TV together.



#### Verona Supervised Apartment (1 Male 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, socializing with friends, and occasionally participating in community activities as a group.



### Bloomfield Supervised Apartment (1 Vacancy)

- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Apartment-style living in a multi-family, Arc of Essex County, owned home
- Single bedroom on 1st floor in shared apartment with opportunities to mingle with fellow residents
- Within walking distance to Bloomfield's downtown shopping & restaurants



**South Orange 2 Bedroom / 2 Bathroom  
Supportive Living Apartment**

### South Orange Supportive Living Apartment (1 Female Vacancy)

- 1 bedroom available in a 2 bedroom 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 with elevator
- Located steps from public transportation and South Orange's vibrant downtown

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

## Tributes from Spring 2020

Tributes are a beautiful way to acknowledge those you care for, and at the same time, help further The Arc's mission. To purchase a tribute, please call Minerva Delgado at (973)



535-1181 ext. 1237 or visit The Arc of Essex County's website [here](#).

**Special Occasions:**

**In Honor of Kelly Starrett**

Sheree Starrett Bennett

**Memorials:**

**In Memory of Barbara Calderone**

Matthew Calderone

**In Memory of Jackie Juster**

Stuart Applebaum

Joyce Kerner

Ellen Lev

Maryanne Vindici

**In Memory of Lorraine Martino**

Maryanne Vindici

**In Memory of Maureen O'Brien**

Bruce Bird

**In Memory of Pamela Palmieri**

Kathleen Babulski

Beth Elkis

Kathleen Gilhooly

Supporters can host Facebook Fundraisers for birthdays and celebrations to raise money on behalf of The Arc of Essex County. We are very grateful for the following individuals who fundraised January – March 2020:

**Delia Naguit's Birthday Fundraiser**

Anidale Naguit

Delia Naguit

Emilia Pedrozo

**John O'Brien's Birthday Fundraiser**

Peter Gorham

Michael McGahan

Ginny O'Brien

Betsy Sullivan

**Darlene Reeves' Birthday Fundraiser**

Ava Faustin

Darlene Reeves

Qu Sarcastic



**Stay Connected!**



**➔ Donate Now**