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Coronavirus Update from the CEO

Dear Members of The Arc Family:

What a difference a month makes! May has brought new hope as restrictions relax and communities and businesses across the State embrace opportunities to re-open. The relaxation of restrictions and opportunities to re-open have positively impacted services to the IDD community, including The Arc of Essex County. We are very excited to begin opening adult day centers as well as respite and recreation services for children and adults. Camp registration is going strong with some weeks at maximum enrollment. The use of Camp Hope for respite and recreation activities for children and adults is an added bonus, especially with opening the Splash Pad as allowed this year.

Many of our participants and staff have been vaccinated as eligibility opened and securing an appointment became easier. If you are having difficulty securing a vaccine for your family member with IDD, we may be able to help, so please let us know.

The increase in vaccination has also proven to be a positive influence on changes to state COVID policies and procedures for our IDD community. DDD further adjusted the day program opening guidance making it much easier to re-open services, albeit with COVID protocols such as limited capacity, social distancing, masking, and screening. All current COVID guidance in use from DDD, DCF, and DOE has been and will continue to be developed in partnership with the NJ Department of Health which uses updated recommendations from the CDC. Guidance from all of these sources can change very quickly, but please be assured that The Arc of Essex County

is dialed-in with the ability to pivot, adjust, or move very quickly to make accommodations as changes occur.

Although re-opening services has begun, the Arc Essex plan includes a slow, limited and deliberate opening so we can be sure to get it right. We don't want to close our services again! We are hopeful that as state COVID restrictions further relax, our pace and volume of opening will increase which will then have greater impact on our Arc family. Rest assured as quickly as changes happen, you will be provided with timely and relevant information about services, resources and opportunities for staff, consumers, and families.

The Arc remains focused on staying on top of the most recent guidance from all state and federal partners so as to implement the best strategies, provide and expand needed services, all while mitigating risk and protecting health and safety for all. The health, safety, and happiness of our community are the most important focus of The Arc of Essex County. Our efforts to implement this focus at a high level can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of our staff, supporters, and the entire Arc Essex family. We are thankful and appreciative for the hearts, minds, and hands of all involved as we strive to honor our commitment to all opportunities that support our Arc family, now and in the future.

Thank you, all. Stay safe and be well.



Linda C. Lucas
Chief Executive Officer

Updates:

- Congregate adult day programs to begin opening May 10 with limited locations and capacity.
- Congregate respite and recreations programs and activities to begin in June.
- Community Based Supports and HAP continue and expand with in-person services supporting individuals (CBS) and families (HAP) to engage in community activities.
- Camp Hope general registration for summer 2021 continues with very limited week availability; ESY at Camp Hope option available; Splash Pad opening!

Current Status of Programs and Services:

- Shapiro Center for Early Intervention: In-person and telehealth services continue
- Stepping Stones School: In-person classes continue; 100% remote option continues
- Stepping Stones Early Intervention: Virtual sessions continue into spring
- Children Group Respite and Recreation Programs: In-person activities authorized to re-open with restrictions; plans to resume in June
- Arc Essex congregate adult day programs: Re-opening with limited capacity beginning May 10.
- Community Based Supports and Individual Respite: Limited but expanding options available.
- Virtual activities calendars will continue for at-home and residential home consumers on www.arcessex.org

2021 Camp Hope Open House

The Arc of Essex County invites all 2021 Camp Hope registrants and their families to join us on Saturday, June 19th from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a Camp Hope Open House. Take a tour of our camp, meet the camp director and managers, ask questions, and get a feel for a typical camp day before the season kicks off on June 28.

During the camp open house, campers and families can pick up your 2021 camp t-shirt and peruse other merchandise options. To ensure social distancing requirements and the health and safety of all attendees, registration is required.



Join The Arc of Essex County on **Saturday, June 19th** from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a Camp Hope Open House. During your designated appointment time:

- Take a tour of our camp
- Meet the camp directors and managers
- Ask questions and get a feel for a typical camp day
- Pick up your camper's 2021 camp t-shirt and peruse

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

To ensure social distancing requirements and the health and safety of all attendees, families will be given an appointment time.

Families will be given an appointment time and allotted 30-45 minutes per visit in an effort to welcome as many 2021 campers as possible. Please arrive at your designated time. Masks are required for all parents/guardians and as tolerated by campers. To register and schedule your appointment time, please email camphope@arcessex.org or call (973) 535-1181, ext. 1292.

Camp Hope is a seven-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.

other merchandise options

Registration is required. See details (right) to register.



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The Arc of Essex County

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127 Cedar Street | East Hanover, NJ 07936 | (973) 535-1181 | www.arccamphope.org

One Day Left to Submit Building Tomorrows

Times and Photos

The Arc of Essex County's Building Tomorrows Run/Walk kicked off on Saturday, April 24th with the completion window remaining open until Saturday, May 8th. To date, The Arc has received numerous virtual race times and over 50 photo contest submissions. Runners and walkers who have not yet completed their race have until Saturday, May 8th at 2 p.m. to do so and [upload your time and photos](#).

Thanks to the participation and ongoing support from runners, walkers, sponsors, and donors, the 23rd Annual Building Tomorrows Run and Walk is projected to raise more than \$44,000 which will directly benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families served by The Arc of Essex County.

Proceeds from the event will enable The Arc to remain agile, responsive, and innovative and continue to fund vital services for children and adults with special needs throughout the pandemic. Over the past year, The Arc provided:

- 140+ hours of day programming for adults each month
- Round-the-clock care to nearly 150 residents through the height of the pandemic
- 5 weeks of summer day camp resulting in zero COVID-19 cases
- More than 2,250 virtual physical, speech, and occupational therapy sessions

If you or your friends and family have not yet had the chance to contribute, fundraising pages remain active for a few more weeks.

Photo contest winners will be announced on Monday, May 10th. Pictures from the 2021 Building Tomorrows Run and Walk will be posted to [The Arc's Facebook page](#) while a complete list of 5K, 10K, and half marathon times will be posted on www.runorwalk.org.

The Arc would like to extend our utmost appreciation to the 2021 sponsors: PSE&G, Bogush, William H. Connolly, Bird Pharma Consulting LLC, NJM Insurance, Group, Sax LLC, Benefit Management Solutions, Eastern Janitorial Services, StationMD, Wakefern, Walsh, Pizzi, O'Reilly, Falanga, and the Rotary Club of Livingston.



You Can Help Make This Summer Magical

As we get ready to celebrate the 65th anniversary of Camp Hope this summer, we can't help but realize how fast time flies when you're having fun. While we are excited to celebrate this milestone anniversary, the implications caused by the ongoing pandemic require extra planning, strategic thinking, and generous donors like you.

With over six decades of experience, including the unprecedented 2020 season, our camp team is ready to tackle the challenge. Thanks to one-time grants awarded in the thick of the pandemic, the 2020 camp season welcomed more than 60 campers and resulted in zero COVID-19 cases. The Arc of Essex County accomplished this by investing in additional personal protective equipment (PPE) and individual camper supplies, increasing the frequency of professional cleaning services, and hiring extra staff to ensure smaller group sizes.

Utilizing this same model, preparations are underway for the 2021 season. With more than 115 campers already registered, expectations are high for a summer of fun and The Arc plans to deliver. However, with preventative measures expected to cost nearly \$20,000 and the grants that made these safety precautions possible in 2020 no longer available, we need your help.

Our families have been greatly impacted by ongoing hybrid school schedules, Day Program closures, and the financial constraints that accompany uncertain child care situations. They are counting on a fun-filled summer, and we are committed to providing it without raising rates. Will you make a donation today to help us replicate the effective safety measures adopted during the 2020 camp season?

To make a donation, please visit www.arcessex.org/springappeal or mail your donation to 123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039.

Celebrate Camp Hope's 65th Anniversary on June 2!

Be sure to follow The Arc of Essex County on social media as we host a virtual Camp Hope 65th Anniversary Day of Giving on Wednesday, June 2! We'll share exciting updates about the upcoming camp season and rally Camp Hope families and alums young and old to help make the 2021 magical.



The Arc Receives Major Gift

Via Planned Giving Program

In celebration of her 100th birthday, long-time supporter and parent of an Arc resident, Lucille Goff made a sizeable donation of stock. Using proceeds from the sale, The Arc plans to install a new bathroom in Ms. Goff's daughter's group home. The Arc of Essex County extends its upmost appreciation to Ms. Goff for including the organization in her financial and estate plans.



"I appreciate everything The Arc has done in the past, and all that they have planned for the future," said Ms. Goff.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving opportunities with The Arc of Essex County, please contact Senior Director of Development and Communication, Heather Comstock at hcomstock@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.

The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

May Openings

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following May 2021 openings:



NEW! Nutley Group Home (1 Female Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 6-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large Single-Family Home on a Quiet Dead-End Street
- Current roommates range in age from early 30's to early 60's. They are an active and fun loving group, always looking for new things to try. Pre-COVID, they held parties at their home and enjoyed attending parties hosted by others. They enjoy trips to the movies, restaurants, Medieval Times, the YMCA, and numerous other venues, often making use of The Arc's recreation clubs.





Cedar Grove Group Home (1 Male Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 5-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large Single Family Home Located a in a Quiet Cedar Grove Neighborhood
- Current roommates are males ranging in age from early 30's to early 60's. They enjoy spending time as a group playing board games and pursuing individual interests including playing with their Wii gaming system and watching DVDs. They also enjoy all their community has to offer including going to the movies, dining out, bowling, carnivals, parties, and more (pre-covid).



**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 or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

The Arc Receives Two New Grants

Thanks to a generous \$10,000 grant from The Hyde and Watson Foundation, The Arc of Essex County will install an all-encompassing home generator at its West Caldwell Group Home. The generator will ensure the safety and wellbeing of its residents in the event of a power outage. The Arc of Essex County's West Caldwell Group Home is home to five residents. This project is the seventh capital improvement project funded by The Hyde and Watson Foundation since 2004.

Additionally, Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation awarded The Arc of Essex County a \$1,000 grant. The funds will be used to ensure low-income



children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to attend a fun-filled summer at The Arc's Camp Hope. This grant is the 12th monetary and in-kind donation received from Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation since 2012.

The Arc of Essex County extends its appreciation to The Hyde and Watson Foundation and Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation for their unwavering support.

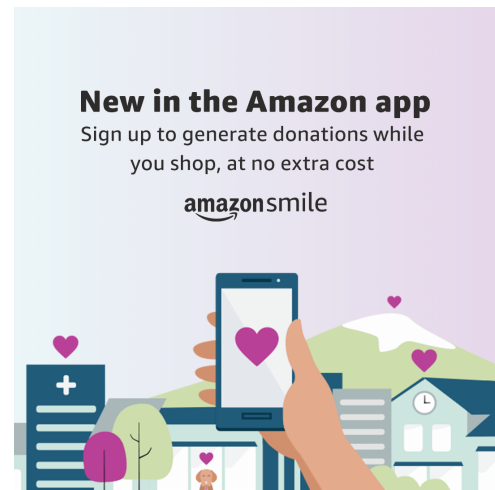
AmazonSmile Enabled

in the Amazon Mobile App

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "The Arc of Essex County Inc" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to The Arc of Essex County!

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "The Arc of Essex County Inc" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



Tributes from Winter 2021

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 Ann Burleigh at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245 or visit The Arc of Essex County's [website here](#).

Special Occasions:

In Honor of Brad Hopton:

Sarah White

In Honor of Sean Patraic McGlynn:

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Memorials:

In Memory of Thomas Corino:

Ang Lotito

In Memory of Angela DellaPia:

Ann Aly Ahmed

Ann Marie Buonopane

Angela Caruso

Lois Ann Caruso

Joseph G. Chichelo

John Diminich

James Imposimato

John F. McKeon

C. Michael Morreale



Christine O'Neill
Janis Pastore
Kevin Reilly
RD Parisi Associates

In Memory of Gregory DeLorenzi:
DeLorenzi Family Fund

In Memory of John McCarthy:
Deborah Beuttler

In Memory of Philip Milici:
Victoria Hickey
Albert C. Ianacone
Charles Milici
Vito Milici
Stephanie Moreira
MECA Electronics, Inc.
Josephine Orlando
Francine Paragano

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 2021.

Susan Caufield's Birthday Fundraiser

Kathy Blaha
John Caufield
Shay Caufield
James Geary
Lea Higgins
Mark Pocius
Steven Raimondo
Squire Peter Stoffers
Chrissy Thatcher
Brian Warnock
David Warnock
Nancy White Dunn

Stay Connected!



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