

Uncorked & Uncapped Wine, Beer, and Food Fest Raises More than \$70K for The Arc of Essex County

On Thursday, September 18, 2014 nearly 200 friends and supporters of The Arc of Essex County attended the agency's first annual "Uncorked & Uncapped -Wine, Beer, and Food Fest" at the Westminster Hotel in Livingston, New Jersey. The event raised more than \$71,000 through the generous support of sponsors and attendees.

Guests spent the evening socializing while sampling food and beverages from a variety of vendors, consisting of more than 25 craft beers, 25 wines, and 11 restaurants. Some of the tastings available included an assortment of wines from Opici Family Distributing, craft beer from Cricket Hill Brewery, bacon-wrapped jalapeno poppers from the Verona Inn, crab cakes from McLoone's Boathouse, and ice cream and frozen yogurt from Mark and Julie's Homemade Ice Cream, amongst other items.

Throughout the night, a Homebrew Competition, a "Wine Pull," and a silent auction took place. During the Homebrew Competition, guests sampled each beer and cast their vote for their favorite homebrew variety, naming Matt Bentler of Hackettstown, New Jersey the winning Brew Master. The silent auction consisted of 22 items, generously donated by supporters of The Arc. Some of the items available for bidding were the following: Disney World accommodations for six nights, a Power Wheels Yankee Mustang autographed by 12 Yankees players, dinner at The Manor, an overnight stay in New York City, and much more.

Amidst the bountiful buffet of food and beverages, four honorees were recognized for their continued leadership and support of The



Matt Bentler (left) of Hackettstown, N.J. is crowned the homebrew champion. Corporate Partner awardee and board member Michael Franchino poses with Arc COO Kathy Cohen and CEO Linda Lucas.

Arc of Essex County. Award recipients were:

- Corporate Partner Award: Michael Franchino of Leshner, Franchino & Co.
- Public Partner Award: The Township of Livingston
- Community Partner Award: West Essex UNICO
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Bruce Bird, Ph.D.

The award recipients were personally thanked by Chief Executive Officer Linda C. Lucas and Board President Brad Hopton. Much of the evening's success was due in part to the tremendous support of the event sponsors who contributed a total of \$54,000. "Uncorked and Uncapped" sponsors were: Presenting Sponsor: Leshner, Franchino & Co.; Welcome Sponsors: Connell Foley and PricewaterhouseCoopers; Food Sponsors:

Oratory Prep and PSE&G; Dessert Sponsors: Bird Pharma Consulting, DSW Shoe Warehouse, PrimePoint, and TD Bank; Souvenir Tasting Journal Sponsors: Benefit Management Solutions, Certified Financial Services, EdPowerment, Gallagher Bollinger, and Taylor Real Estate.

The success of this wine, beer, and food event was made possible thanks to all of The Arc's supporters: guests, sponsors, vendors, and donors.

Planning is already underway for the second annual "Uncorked & Uncapped -Wine, Beer, and Food Fest" scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at the Westminster Hotel. Check The Arc of Essex County's website in 2015 for details.

A Hero Among Us



Top: William (Willie) Hubeny and Quadeer Burnett pose together at Willie's group home in Bloomfield, N.J. following Quadeer's lifesaving actions on November 21. Bottom: Willie Hubeny enjoys time listening to music during the December 14 UNICO holiday party.

Bloomfield group home resident, William (Willie) Hubeny, loves to listen to music on his radio after dinner. For Willie, Friday, November 21 started out as a regular day. Following dinner, Willie returned to his room to spend time listening to his favorite tunes.

At the same time, Quadeer Burnett, a substitute at the Bloomfield group home and SWOP Day Program team member was going about his regular duties and checking in on each resident. That's when he realized Willie was slumped in his wheelchair. As he approached, Quadeer noticed Willie was not breathing. He immediately jumped into action, performing CPR and instructing an additional staff member to call 911.

Quadeer continued to perform CPR until the police and EMTs arrived, upon which time Willie regained consciousness. After taking a few minutes to compose himself, Quadeer accompanied Willie to the hospital, where he was tested and ultimately released. Since the incident, Willie has recovered at home and continues to do well. Thanks to Quadeer's keen eye and quick action, Willie is alive and was able to attend the UNICO Holiday Party on Sunday, December 14 where he enjoyed the music on the dance floor with his housemates.

The Arc of Essex County would like to recognize and thank Quadeer Burnett. Without his attention to detail and compassion for his residents, this story could have ended much differently.

Board Member Recognized for Volunteerism



On October 16, Board Member Brad Huntington received the 2014 Recognizing Excellence in Volunteerism Award from PSE&G for his work on behalf of The Arc of Essex County.

Pictured (L-R) are Ralph Izzo, Ellen Lambert, and Caroline Dorsa from PSE&G; Linda C. Lucas, CEO, The Arc of Essex County, Brad Huntington, Board Member, The Arc of Essex County; and Eric J. Fuchs-Stengel, Executive Director, MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc.).

Updates & Resources: Fee-For-Service Transition

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) anticipates launching their new fee-for-service system beginning July 1, 2015. During the transition from a contract-based service system to a Medicaid-based, fee-for-service system, service providers, consumers, and their families await updates and information regarding next steps.

While much of this information is still forthcoming from the state, DDD did release a draft of the fee-for-service rate schedule on July 18 of this year. They also established a fee-for-service help desk to answer all fee-for-service questions.

For information and announcements regarding the Division's transition from a contract-based service system to a Medicaid-based fee-for-service system, visit the fee-for-service Implementation website below or email the Supports Program Help Desk.

Website: http://nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/providers/ffs_implementation.html

Help Desk: DDD.SuppProgHelpDesk@dhs.state.nj.us

Additionally, The Arc of Essex County is happy to work individually with you to answer any questions. If you are a part of the fee-for-service system or have questions about how this may impact your family, please contact Melissa Soules at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262 or msoules@arcessex.org.

The Arc of Essex County Rings in the Holidays



The holidays were in full swing at The Arc of Essex County this December.

On Wednesday, December 10, the agency gathered at the Knights of Columbus in Livingston where Home Assistance Program (HAP) families were treated to a full holiday experience complete with lunch, raffles, holiday music, a balloon artist, and a visit with Santa! Holiday toys were provided by Rutgers University's Big Chill 5K Race participants and SaxBST. The Arc of Essex County's employees donated new winter apparel for each family member. Additionally, frozen turkeys were provided for each family from Shop Rite, which was complemented by holiday food items provided by the Gill St. Bernard School, which were collected via their annual food drive. The Arc of Essex County's Board President, Brad Hopton, generously provided underwriting for the party.

Residents of The Arc of Essex County's group homes and day program participants joined members from UNICO on Sunday, December 14, at the Notre Dame Church in North Caldwell. Consumers enjoyed a homemade Italian meal prepared by

UNICO members, followed by dancing, merriment, and a visit with Santa. Each resident, day program participant, and caregiver was treated to holiday gifts thanks to the generous members of UNICO.

Just four days later, on Thursday, December 18, the students of the Stepping Stones School had their chance to celebrate. With live piano music provided by Stepping Stones' dad Jeffrey McGowan Sr., the children and their families welcomed Santa with great enthusiasm as he passed out toys and gifts donated by Novartis Pharmaceuticals employees.

Finally, The Arc of Essex County's Board Members and Executive Management Committee traveled to four group homes on Sunday, December 21, to spread holiday cheer by singing Christmas carols. The residents enjoyed the visits and joined in the songs as they prepared to celebrate the holidays.

The Arc of Essex County hopes everyone had a great holiday season and extends our best wishes in the new year.

There's Still Time to Contribute



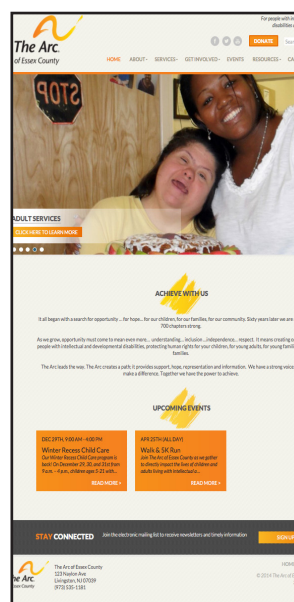
A Holiday to Remember

"I think this will be a new year for us. Henry is excited to put up the tree and wreath. Thanks to The Arc of Essex County, this will be a holiday to look forward to."
-Bob

When their mother passed away in August of 2013, brothers Bob and Henry had to find a way to merge their lives. Bob, a high-profile attorney, and Henry, who has an intellectual disability, turned to The Arc of Essex County for help.

This holiday season, The Arc of Essex County is asking for your help to continue to empower families, like Bob and Henry, in their greatest time of need. Have you made your contribution yet? To learn more and donate to The Arc of Essex County's holiday appeal, visit www.arcessex.org. Additionally, checks can be sent to 123 Naylor Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039 or credit card donations can be made by phone by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1227.

The Arc of Essex County Unveils New Website



In August, The Arc of Essex County unveiled a new website featuring additional content, information, and functionalities including an online donation feature. The new, more robust website will be updated regularly and will serve as a go-to resource for professionals, families, and individuals in the intellectual and developmental disabilities community.

Check out the new website for inclement weather updates this winter, information/deadlines for services and programs, digital copies of the semi-annual Guardian, and more!

5K Run and Walk Scheduled for April 25; Student Ambassador Applications Coming Soon

Save the date for The Arc of Essex County's 17th Annual Building Tomorrow's 5k run, two-mile walk, and Family Fun Fest scheduled for April 25, 2015 at Brookdale Park in Bloomfield, N.J. This USATF-sanctioned event will raise needed funds to support the agency's programs and services. The Family Fun Fest, free of charge to all registrants following the event, will feature music, balloon art, a bounce house, and more!

Additionally, this year's Building Tomorrow's program will include a Student Ambassador Program. Students interested in serving as the Student Ambassador for their school are encouraged to submit an application detailing why they are passionate about advocating for the disability community and why they would be the perfect candidate to represent their school.

Run/walk registration, Student Ambassador applications, and additional details regarding the Building Tomorrow's initiative will be available on The Arc of Essex County's website in early January. Be sure to check back for updates!



The 2015 Building Tomorrow's initiative will feature a new Family Fun Fest as part of the April 25 event, as well as a new logo.

Dreams Come True at First Arc Prom

On June 27, The Arc of Essex County's Day Program participants experienced the magic of attending prom. The Arc's first-ever prom, hosted at the Nutley Parks and Recreation Annex Building, was themed "Dreams Come True."

Nearly 150 Day Program participants attended the Friday afternoon prom in formal attire. Suits and dresses were generously donated by several Arc staff members, Kathy Acox, Judy Bellina, and Marion Haig, to accommodate anyone who did not own formal wear.

Prom-goers spent the afternoon enjoying a catered meal, dancing to music provided by a professional DJ, and having their photos taken with friends by a professional photographer. The family of Roseanne Abuan, a participant at Arc company, donated inflatable guitars to add to the fun.

In true prom fashion, a king and queen were crowned based on their stunning prom attire. The two newest Assistant Directors for the Adult Services team, Kelly Holzli and Jessica Walder, had the honor of crowning king and queen Rodell Hudson and Evette Laws.

At the conclusion of the prom, attendees received their photo in a frame that included the theme "Dreams Come True" along with the date as a memento.

The Arc of Essex County would like to thank a few individuals who made the prom a success. Special thanks to Dora Young, Assistant Manager at Creative Visions Day Program who conceptualized the event and theme. The event would not have been possible without Anne Rotonda, Program Manager for Special Young Adults, and Linda Hamilton, who works for Nutley Parks and Recreation Department, for securing the venue. Also, Frank Cinque, Senior Manager of Property and Housing assisted in transporting chairs to the venue.

Day Program staff and participants are already anticipating the Prom's return in 2015.

Pictured left: The Arc of Essex County's inaugural prom queen, Evette Laws, strikes a pose while jamming out on the dance floor with an inflatable guitar donated by the family of Roseanne Abuan.



The Arc of Essex County Recognizes Employees for their Years of Service

On Thursday, October 9, 2014, The Arc of Essex County's Executive Management team and Board President, Brad Hopton recognized employees who have reached milestone years of service within the agency, beginning with five years and extending to 35 years, in five-year increments. A brunch reception was held at The Manor in West Orange, to show appreciation for these employees' dedication to The Arc.



Five Years: (Front) Monica Humes, Sonia Jones, Tracy Doherty, LeAnn Burns, Rebecca Woods, and Dacia King-Sarkodie (Back) Malik Frager, Hasan Atkinson, Humphrey Igwe, Margeline Dorcent, and Martha Nelson



10 Years: (Front) Christine Bridge, Esther Mensah, Kesona Bolden, and Laurie Best (Back) Anthony Irvin, Ayesha Gordon, Pamela Meadows-Osayande, Sonia Powell, Philomena Eneh, Stacia Hay, and Stacey McDowell



15 Years: Donna Jones, Lenora Hurdle, Jean Aristide, Toshonda Johnson-Hall, Dwan Armstrong, and Phyllis Kleckley



20 Years: Lorraine Harris and Gail Ann Fasano



25 Years: Victoire Jean-Charles



30 Years: Candes Reid



35 Years: Maureen Murray and Linda C. Lucas

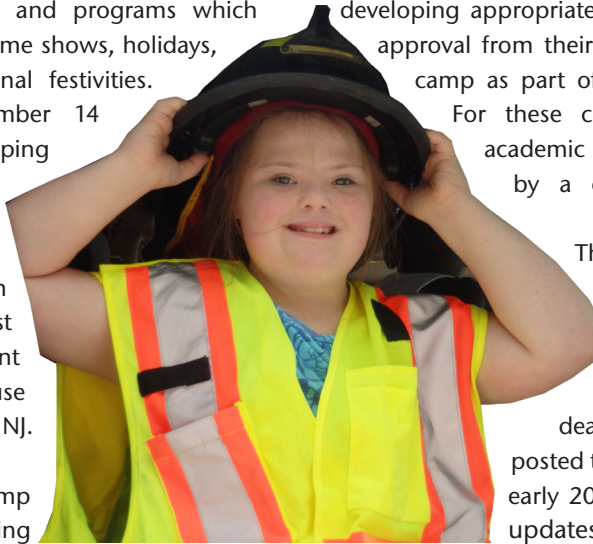
Camp Hope Concludes Exciting 2014 Season; Applications for 2015 Season Due Late Spring

On Friday, August 15, Camp Hope bid farewell to 136 campers and closed out its 58th season. Camp Hope 2014, a seven week summer day camp program, located in East Hanover, featured themed weeks and programs which included awesome adventures, spirit, game shows, holidays, explore and more, sports, and seasonal festivities. Campers reunited on Friday, November 14 for a reunion dance held at the Stepping Stones School in Roseland, New Jersey.

Thank you to the following donors who made the 2014 Camp Hope season possible: Lillian P. Schenck Charitable Trust Fund, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Provident Bank Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and the United Way of Northern NJ.

Camp Hope provides traditional camp activities including supervised swimming

and outdoor fun with modified sports, arts and crafts, and music. While enjoying these activities, attention is also given to daily living skills, peer interaction, socialization skills, and developing appropriate behaviors. For families who request approval from their school district, campers may attend camp as part of the district's Extended School Year. For these campers, the program provides an academic component that is supervised by a certified special education teacher.



The 2015 Camp Hope season will run from late-June/early-July until mid-August 2015. The application deadline is rolling with a final deadline in late spring. Applications, deadlines, and additional details will be posted to The Arc of Essex County's website in early 2015. Please visit www.arcessex.org for updates.

In Memory of Bernie White

On Tuesday, October 14, the New Jersey disability community lost a long time supporter and advocate. Bernard "Bernie" Lewis White, father of The Arc of Essex County Board Member Scott White, served as the Deputy Director of the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities from 1966 until his retirement in 1988. A true humanist, Bernie took great pride in improving the lives of those less fortunate.

The Arc of Essex County thanks Bernie White for his contributions to the intellectual and developmental disabilities community. Donations may be made to The Arc of Essex County in lieu of flowers.

Stepping Stones Welcomes Back Students and New Principal, Staff

On a Saturday in late May, The Arc of Essex County and the Stepping Stones School learned that a fire broke out on the first floor of the building where the school is located. While thankfully no one was present during the blaze, the school had to temporarily relocate due to facility damages sustained following the fire. Thankfully, St. Raphael's in Livingston graciously hosted the Stepping Stones students and staff so they were able to continue their studies until the repairs were completed at the Harrison Street location.

In September, students reported back to the Harrison Street location, eager to continue their studies. They were welcomed back by a new principal, Rita Richetti, as well as, a number of new staff members including teacher assistants Julia Dakich, Barbara McEvoy, and Ashley Thomas; teacher Sarah Moreno; physical therapist Brinda Rathod; and speech therapist Stacey Rokhsar.

The students have had an active fall,



Students from the Stepping Stones School partake in a Thanksgiving celebration. They enjoyed dressing up as pilgrims and indians to commemorate the holiday.

including Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Holiday celebrations. They also welcomed the Paper Mill Playhouse in mid-December where the performers and students expressed creativity and enjoyed performing.

While students and staff are excited to spend time with their families over the holiday break, the spring is certain to bring many new adventures and lessons.

The Candle Lighters Celebrate 40th Anniversary

Forty years ago, The Candle Lighters was established as a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to raising resources for The Arc of Essex County. Since their inception, The Candle Lighters have generated considerable funds, including nearly \$80,000/year for the past few years, to support The Arc of Essex County's unfunded and underfunded programs. Benefitting programs include Camp Hope, the Stepping Stones Early Intervention program, and recreation programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Past Stepping Stones students, parents, and Candle Lighters leadership enjoy the 40th anniversary festivities. Front row: Kari Smith and Dina Lev, original Stepping Stones students. Back row: Lee Bergman, Ethel Smith, Ellen Lev, and Judy Bellina.

On Friday, November 14, The Candle Lighters honored their 40th anniversary with a "Cocktails for a Cause" fundraising celebration. Hosted at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park, the evening featured an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and socializing while raising funds with a tricky tray, auction, and 50/50 raffle. Prizes included a six-night getaway to Barbados, the opportunity to walk the red carpet at a movie premier, a behind the scenes experience at NBC Nightly News, and more.

In total, The Candle Lighters's "Cocktails for a Cause" 40th anniversary celebration raised more than \$45,000 for The Arc of Essex County.

"Thanks to the funds raised by The Candle Lighters, The Arc of Essex County is able to continue to offer critical supports and services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families," said Linda C. Lucas, Chief Executive Officer for The Arc of Essex County.

"We'd like to thank and congratulate The Candle Lighters for their forty years of service and look forward to continuing our partnership in the years to come."

The Candle Lighters will continue their mission by hosting their annual Tricky Tray, at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, on Sunday, March 1. Additional details and registration will be available in the coming weeks.

Board Member Farewell

At the end of the 2013/2014 fiscal year in June, three Board Members stepped down from The Arc's Board: Jacqueline Juster; Warren R. Gleicher, Esq.; and Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Esq.

Jacqueline Juster, a committed, 30-year member of The Arc of Essex County's Board, served in numerous positions including member of the Advisory Board, Trustee, Executive Member at Large, Third Vice President, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee. Additionally, Juster represented The Arc of Essex County as a Delegate to The Arc of New Jersey.

In addition to Juster, two other Board Members placed importance on philanthropic work. Warren R. Gleicher, Esq. served on The Arc Board from 1996 to 2014. During those 18 years, he served as a member on the Advisory Board. Another Board Member, Linda Lordi Cavanaugh committed eight years to The Arc's Advisory Board, serving from 2006 to 2014.

Although The Arc of Essex County must say goodbye to three of its Board Members, we recognize and thank these individuals for their support and dedication to the agency.

Welcome to the Neighborhood



Beacon Group Home residents are welcomed to the neighborhood with gifts donated by the community.

In August 2014, four men moved into The Arc of Essex County's newest group home on Beacon Avenue in Livingston, New Jersey. In order to transform this three-bedroom ranch into a home, a gift registry was established at Bed Bath & Beyond in the hopes that advocates of The Arc would purchase items to furnish the house and welcome the gentlemen to the neighborhood.

That same month, the Star Ledger and nj.com published an article about the opening of the Beacon group home, which included a link to the gift registry. Hopes for support

soon became a reality when individuals with no known connection to The Arc, kindly purchased housewarming gifts for the residents of the Beacon Avenue group home.

A total of 33 items were gifted to the new residents including kitchen necessities, bedroom items, and household goods.

The community support from Livingston Township and generous New Jersey residents helped transform this house on Beacon Avenue into a home that will be enjoyed by its residents for years to come.



123 Naylon Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07039
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #336
West Caldwell
07006



Community Partner



www.arcessex.org
(973) 535-1181



www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty
@ArcOfEssexNJ

Crisis Averted Thanks to The Hyde and Watson Foundation

The Hyde and Watson Foundation generously provided funds in the amount of \$7,700 to replace the boiler unit at the Crisis Respite group home.

The Arc's Crisis Respite Program provides adults with a community residence setting on a temporary or long-term basis, depending on need. Located in Newark, this large home can serve up to eight residents who require immediate emergency housing. This program is designed to create a family-like setting in which individuals can feel comfortable until they transition into permanent housing or return home. The Arc of Essex County's 24-hour staff is trained to manage behavioral issues with patience and respect, and provide additional supports based on residents' needs.

Guardian Angels

CDBG Bloomfield
CDBG Essex
Glen Ridge Community Fund
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
NJPAC Ticket Subsidiary Program
Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids
PSE&G
WBGO JAZZ 88.3 FM Kids
Fall Concert Series

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 1, 2015, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Candle Lighters Annual Tricky Tray
Mayfair Farms, West Orange, N.J.

Saturday, April 25, 2015, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Building Tomorrows 5k Run/2-Mile Walk
Brookdale Park, Bloomfield, N.J.

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Uncorked & Uncapped
Westminster Hotel, Livingston, N.J.



123 Naylon Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039
www.arcessex.org

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Linda C. Lucas
Chief Executive Officer
Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen
Chief Operating Officer
Minelly Cummings
Chief Financial Officer

GUARDIAN STAFF

Heather Comstock
Senior Director of Development & Communication
Nancy Whitman
Director of Communications
Stephanie Milot
Community Resource Associate