

Fundraising Goal Exceeded at the 17th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, 2-Mile Walk, and Family Fun Fest

On Saturday, April 25, more than 750 family members, friends, consumers, and advocates for The Arc of Essex County gathered in Bloomfield's Brookdale Park for the 17th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, 2-Mile Walk, and Family Fun Fest featuring games, arts & crafts, face painting, and a bounce house, amongst other activities.

Affiliated with the New Jersey Step Up for The Arc initiative, this family-oriented event raises both awareness and funds to support dozens of programs and services offered by The Arc of Essex County to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The total amount brought in, through registration fees, contributions, and sponsorships, exceeded expectations, totaling nearly \$82,000.

The attendees on this chilly, yet sunny April morning included The Arc's Chief Executive Officer, Linda C. Lucas, Board President, Brad Hopton, numerous members of The Arc's staff, hundreds of runners and walkers, volunteers, sponsor representatives, and five elected Student Ambassadors. Additionally, amongst the walkers, were program participants and group home residents of The Arc of Essex County, who were accompanied by program staff members.

Impressive run times were achieved by both the male and female 5K champions. Cody Kingman, 17, from Charlton, Mass., won both the men's division and the overall race with a time of 17:21. Jerika Lufano, 14, from Montclair, N.J., won the woman's division with a time of 21:13.

In addition to outstanding fundraising



Runners congregate at the USATF-certified 5K starting line in Bloomfield's Brookdale Park.

results by running and walking teams and individuals, more than \$55,000 of the total money raised was contributed by generous sponsors. Gold, silver, and bronze sponsors included: Enterprise Holdings Foundation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, PSE&G, Public Sewer Service, Bird Pharma Consulting, Gallagher Bollinger, Michael P. Bergeron Foundation, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, Prudential, SaxBST, Stop & Shop Supermarkets, TD Bank, Connell Foley, Jonathan J. Proce Foundation, Glen Taylor of Keller Williams Realty, Mack-Cali Realty, Newark Motor & Export Corp., Oratory Prep, and Shop Rite.

This year's 5K Run, 2-Mile Walk, and Family Fun Fest was a success thanks to every supporter of The Arc of Essex County, through each contribution as a sponsor, donor, participant, or volunteer.

We look forward to seeing you next April at the 18th Annual Building Tomorrows event.

Right: Student Ambassadors (L-R) Ansley Hopton, Braden Hopton, Hope O'Hara, Mary McNany, and Myles Little kick off the 2-Mile walk during the 2015 Building Tomorrows event.



Above: Two members of team Action Jackson create sand art at the Prudential booth during the Family Fun Fest.



Where are We in the Fee-For-Service Transition?

In the last issue of The Guardian we provided a brief overview of the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) fee-for-service transition, including the anticipated roll out beginning July 1, 2015. Much of the information providers, consumers, and their families wanted to know regarding next steps was not yet developed or unclear.

Since January, the DDD has issued a second draft of their Supports Program policy manual following concerns and comments voiced by provider organizations and stakeholders, including The Arc of Essex County. The DDD also revised the day habilitation rates that provider organizations can charge for services in the new model. Here is what we know so far:

- Service providers must be DDD and Medicaid approved to bill for services in the new model
- 2015 graduates will be the first group to transition to the fee-for-service system, followed by individuals who entered adult services in the past three years
- Each individual will select a support coordinator to help guide them and their families in selecting services
- In order for DDD to assign rate tiers in the new system, each individual will be assessed using the NJCAT and DDRT to determine their current service needs

- Assessments will take place over the next few months
- The assessment results will determine each individual's rate tier and annual budget for services; with this budget in mind, individuals and their families can choose their services moving forward

The fee-for-service transition is an evolving process, with additional information and policies still forthcoming. For additional information and announcements regarding the DDD's transition, 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

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

The Arc of Essex County will continue to post updates to our website and social media channels as we receive further information regarding the transition and implementation.

2nd Annual Uncorked & Uncapped - Wine, Beer, and Food Fest Returns September 24

On Thursday, September 24 The Arc of Essex County will host the second annual "Uncorked & Uncapped - Wine, Beer, and Food Fest." The event will return to the Westminster Hotel in Livingston, New Jersey. Tickets for the 2015 "Uncorked & Uncapped" event can be purchased for \$100, and the festivities will begin at 6:30 pm.

Attendees can expect to see some of last year's crowd-favorite foods and beverages, as well as fare from a selection of new vendors. Additionally, well-received activities will take place, such as the "Wine Pull" and a silent auction. Some of this year's auction items include

restaurant gift cards, tickets to attend sporting events, and admission tickets to theme parks.

Throughout the evening, individuals, organizations, and companies that generously support The Arc, both with time and with monetary donations, will be honored. Honorees will be recognized for the Lifetime Achievement Award, Community Partner Award, Public Partner Award, and the Corporate Partner Award.

For additional details and to purchase tickets for "Uncorked & Uncapped," visit the event website at www.uncorkedanduncapped.com.

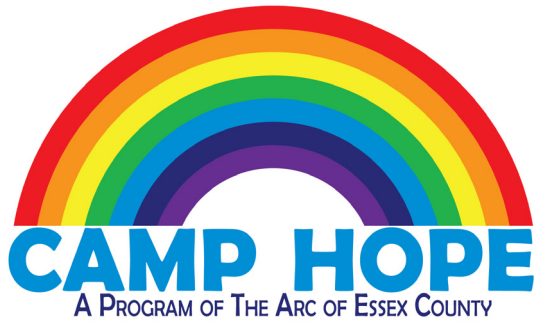
For inquiries about becoming a vendor or sponsor, contact Nancy Whitman, Director of Communications, at 973-535-1181 x 1225 or nwhitman@arcessex.org.



Participating Vendors (As of May 27, 2015)



Camp Hope Welcomes Campers and Changes



On Monday, June 29 Camp Hope will kick off its 59th season with a few new twists. This year, Camp Hope will debut a new program logo, containing the same message of happiness, fun, and learning that Camp Hope represents. Additionally, renovations have been made on the camp grounds to enhance the accessibility for all campers.

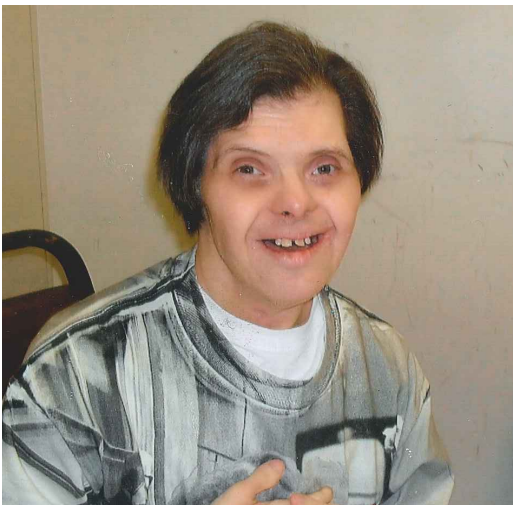
The renovations, referred to as the “Camp Hope Accessibility Project,” have improved certain walkways and transition areas throughout camp. This project involved a complete overhaul of walkways from the camp

parking lot, nurse’s office, two classrooms, and bathrooms, adding metal transition pieces to make the grounds more wheelchair-accessible. Another transition piece was installed at the pavilion entrance, near the camp pool. These enhancements were made in memory of Joseph Weitze and made possible thanks to the generous funding from Ellen Blumenkrantz and the family of long-time camper, Kelly Starrett.

The 2015 camp season features a variety of exciting activities for veteran and first-time campers alike. Some of the greatly-anticipated activities include the Fourth of July BBQ, Fossil Dig, Scavenger Hunt, Nature Walk, Talent Show, Carnival Day, and Outrageous Obstacle Course, amongst others. Each activity will revolve around a specific weekly theme. The seven themes include: Around the World in 4 Days, Operation Discovery, Mystery Week, Where the Wild Things Are, Camp Spirit, Color War, and Active Adventure.

Stay tuned to The Arc of Essex County’s Facebook page and website for additional updates and photos of the improvements at Camp Hope!

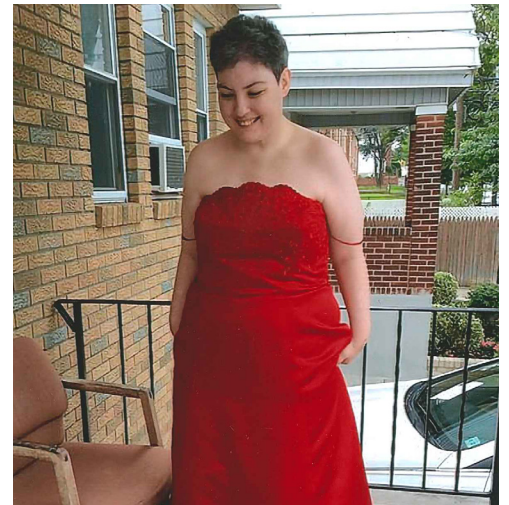
In Memory of Three Long-Time Residents and Day Program Participants



John Richard attended The Arc of Essex County’s day programs for more than 20 years, most recently attending the Creative Visions day program in Orange. He enjoyed playing bingo, watching sitcoms, and taking lunch trips to McDonald’s with his peers.



Larry Conley resided in the Oakwood group home and attended ARCompany for many years, before switching to the Avenues day program. An avid reader, Larry enjoyed getting a newspaper delivered to his home every day, and particularly enjoyed the sports section. Larry was a golfer, attended The Arc of Essex County’s golf outing every year, and was a huge Tiger Woods fan. He was well versed in current events, could recite every state capital, and was a Baby Boomer trivia buff.



Claudia Oliveira also attended the Creative Visions day program in Orange. Claudia always had a beautiful smile and loved to get her hair and nails done. She liked wearing a little makeup from time to time, and enjoyed dancing and hanging out with her peers and program staff.

Home Assistance Program Families Shop for New Shoes



On Wednesday, March 18 nineteen families in the Home Assistance Program (HAP) went on a group shopping trip to the East Orange Payless ShoeSource to participate in the Payless Gives™ Shoes 4 Kids program. By participating in the Payless Gives™ Shoes 4 Kids annual giving program, for which The Arc of Essex County was selected as an official 2015 partner, each family received merchandise certificates to spend on new foot ware. Children and parents enjoyed browsing through the selection of shoes and picking out new apparel.

The Arc of Essex County's Home Assistance Program is a vital support for low-income families in Essex County with a child and/or parent with an intellectual or developmental disability. In partnering with Payless Gives™ Shoes 4 Kids, The Arc of Essex County is able to help with basic clothing necessities for families while providing them the opportunity to have an in-store shopping experience furthering their sense of independence and dignity.



The Arc of Essex County Takes Part in Novartis' Community Partnership Day

On Tuesday, April 21st The Arc of Essex County joined forces with Novartis employees for their 19th Annual Community Partnership Day, a day which is marked by Novartis employees volunteering with charitable causes in their communities.

Community Partnership Day gives associates the opportunity to dedicate their work day to participate in a variety of service activities and make an impact on the local communities where they live and work. Fifteen Novartis employees spent the day at The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope facility where they helped clean up the grounds and paint classrooms in advance of the opening of Camp Hope's 59th season.

Camp Hope will kick off the 2015 season on Monday, June 29. If you are interested in more information about Camp Hope, including camp registration, employment,

or volunteer opportunities, contact Courtney Kane at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292.



Novartis employee Lin Wang paints bookshelves in one of two Camp Hope classrooms during Novartis' Community Partnership Day.

A Day of Fun and Games - Annual Livingston Kiwanis Barry Ross/Arc Day Carnival



On Saturday, May 9 the Livingston Kiwanis held their Annual Barry Ross/Arc Day Carnival – opening the event to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, free of charge. Named for Barry Ross – a long-time supporter of The Arc of Essex County – the event honors his legacy and civic endeavors.

The Arc of Essex County's group homes, Saturday respite programs, and day program participants, and their families took advantage of spring-like weather to play carnival games;



enjoy rides such as the Scrambler, Tilt-a-Whirl, and Carousel; and feast on carnival favorites like hot dogs, hamburgers, and funnel cakes. In total, more than 500 individuals and their families attended the event.

On behalf of program participants and their families, The Arc of Essex County would like to extend their thanks to the Livingston Kiwanis for their long-standing support and the opportunity for program participants and their families to make lasting memories.

The Arc Kicks off the Parents' Workshop Series with Award Winning Author Natalie Hale

Stepping Stones staff have been using the "Special Reads for Special Needs" curriculum to teach students how to read for a number of years. Thanks to funding from The Candle Lighters and The Arc of Essex County, the Stepping Stones education team and parents were able to learn directly from the curriculum developer, Natalie Hale, during a series of workshops at the Roseland campus in March.

During an all-day staff workshop on Friday, March 13, and a parent workshop on Saturday, March 14, Hale led attendees through an effective plan to teach reading to learners of any age with Down syndrome including current best practices, the optimal order of learning to read, sight word learning vs. Phonemic awareness, the Fast Flash method, and guidelines for creating personal books and adapting trade books.

The workshop was divided into two sessions, the first focusing on how to create personal books to aid in the learning process, and the second focusing on how to modify trade books to fit each child's learning needs. Parents and teachers left the workshops armed with the materials and plans to take their children's reading to the next level.

The Arc of Essex County continued the parents' workshop series with funding from The Candle Lighters on Tuesday, May 19, with presentations from The Arc of Essex County's Director of Business Development, Melissa Soules, Director of Education and Early Childhood, Sue Brand, and Director of Children and Family Services, Laurie Best. Soules, Brand, and Best discussed the different services and systems that families and children will experience throughout their life, including an overview of early intervention, the NJ Department of Children and Families, Children's System of Care, PerformCare, the transition years, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Check back on The Arc of Essex County's website or follow us on social media for the next installment of the parents' workshop series.

The Candle Lighters 20th Annual Tricky Tray Raises More Than \$55,000



The Candle Lighters, a 501c3 organization dedicated to assisting the growth and well-being of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities by raising funds for The Arc of Essex County programs in need of financial support, hosted their 20th Annual Warm Your Heart Tricky Tray on Sunday, March 1. Raising more than \$55,000 and attracting approximately 450 people, the event was a rousing success.

Attendees tested their luck as they vied for 269 regular-sized prizes (valued up to \$100) and 107 large prizes (valued at amounts greater than \$100) which filled two rooms at the Mayfair Farms banquet hall in West Orange, N.J. By the time the ticket placement ended, many prizes had cups nearly overflowing. As a delicious four-course meal was served, tickets were pulled to pick the winners and results were announced by Tricky Tray Chairperson Stephanie Koprowski-McGowan, often to the energetic applause of the crowd.

To add to the excitement, there were three grand prizes: a \$500 Nordstrom gift card, a 50" Toshiba Flat Screen television, and

an Apple iPad. Additionally, three high-value ShopRite gift certificates, a Fair Share Raffle, a Lottery Scratch-off Apron (valued at \$100), and a \$500 Amazon gift card attracted excitement from attendees. To cap off the event, a Wine Cork Pull, in which each player wins a bottle of wine matching the numbered cork they picked, was very popular; this game alone raised \$1,030.

The tricky tray was made possible thanks to numerous supporters of The Candle Lighters, the Tricky Tray Committee, and dozens of volunteers who assisted in collecting basket prizes, wrapping baskets, and ensuring the smooth operations of the event. A number of local organizations generously donated their time to volunteer, including high school students from Oratory Preparatory School, Girl Scout Troop 38 from Assumption Church in Morristown, sorority sisters from Seton Hall University, as well as other friends and family of The Arc.

The Candle Lighters and The Arc of Essex County are looking forward to next year's Tricky Tray and hope to see you there – snow or shine!



Left: Natalie Hale with current Stepping Stones Students. Right: (L-R) Judy Bellina and Rita Richetti from The Arc of Essex County, Natalie Hale, and Eileen Hahn and Trish Boylan from The Candle Lighters.

The Arc Day Programs Host an Art Exhibition



In 1987, Ronald Reagan declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Now, in 2015, The Arc and our program participants continue to lead the way in promoting awareness of the strengths and achievements of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To mark the month, The Arc of Essex County's day program participants created "I Can" themed artwork and hosted an art exhibition at Opportunity Zone, in Maplewood, on March 27. Posters and artwork featured all the activities program participants enjoy, and spread awareness about their abilities and interests in the community.

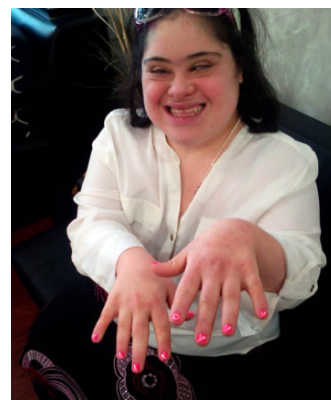
To view photos from the event, and stay up to date on The Arc's daily happenings, like us on Facebook!

Local Salon Spreads Beauty

The owners of Salvatore Angelo Studio 11 salon, in Nutley, New Jersey, not only have careers revolving around beautiful hair and nails, but also exude their inner beauty through their support of The Arc of Essex County and the intellectual and developmental disabilities community.

The salon's co-owner, Rosemarie "Roe" Dowe Brush, is a close family friend of a participant at The Arc's Special Young Adults (SYA) program. She's opened up the salon and welcomed SYA participants on several occasions, providing manicures, haircuts, and shaves to program attendees free of charge.

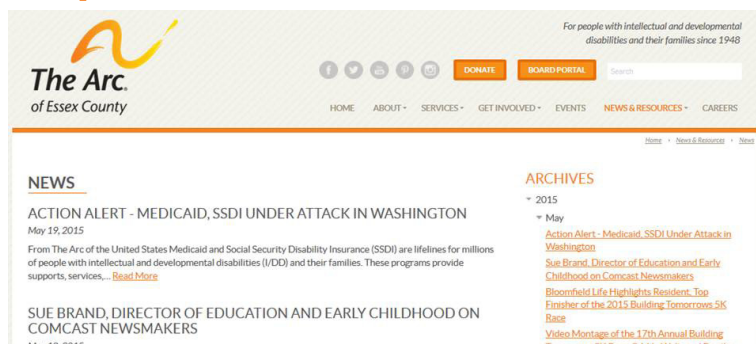
On behalf of The Arc, our great thanks to the staff at Salvatore Angelo Studio 11, whose generosity has made the SYA participants feel beautiful inside and out.



The Arc of Essex County Rolls Out Additional Website Updates and Social Media Channels



Instagram



The Arc of Essex County continued to roll out new website features and added social media accounts to deliver information where people want it most. In January, a "News" page was launched on The Arc of Essex County's website. The News page serves as a repository for all media clips from newspapers, magazines, and local television and radio stations who mention The Arc of Essex County or quote representatives in their stories. It also highlights the daily activities our program participants are partaking in, acknowledges new grants awarded to The Arc of Essex County, and serves as the digital edition of The Guardian. To check it out, visit www.arcessex.org/resources/news.

In April, The Arc of Essex County launched a Pinterest account, an online pin board and social bookmarking website. The account features a number of pin boards offering educational resources, inspiration and

quotes, information and facts, innovation and creation, advocacy, and news and personal stories. To follow The Arc of Essex County on Pinterest and repin our resources, visit www.pinterest.com/arcessex.

Finally, The Arc of Essex County relaunched an Instagram account in conjunction with the 17th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, 2-Mile Walk, and Family Fun Fest. The Instagram account features images of program attendees participating in daily activities. To follow The Arc of Essex County on Instagram, visit www.instagram.com/arcessex.

Like what you see or want to make recommendations on how we can improve our social media presence? Email Nancy Whitman, Director of Communications, at nwhitman@arcessex.org.

An Abundance of Activities at Stepping Stones



Stepping Stones students and staff had a fun-filled schedule throughout the winter and spring, participating in memorable experiences and activities from Valentine's Day festivities to Easter activities to a trip to the Turtle Back Zoo.

In February, the Paper Mill Playhouse Youth Troop visited Stepping Stones to put on a production of Peter Pan. The children loved seeing the classic book brought to life. In the true Valentine's Day spirit, students exchanged Valentine cards and had a special holiday lunch of heart-shaped pancakes or English muffin pizzas.

A few weeks later, in early March, Stepping Stones hosted members of The Arc of Essex County's staff and Stepping Stones family members for Read Across America. Visitors enjoyed reading Dr. Seuss books and family favorites to the students. The

students enjoyed a very suitable lunch of "green eggs and ham," in honor of the Dr. Seuss book by the same name.

On March 9, students and staff went on a field trip to St. Barnabus Hospital. Hospital staff provided the students with an educational tour of the hospital with the goal of students becoming more familiar with the medical setting and easing any fears of being admitted into a hospital. The children had the opportunity to wear ID bracelets, look at x-rays, and give a doll an immunization shot and a band-aid.

In honor of World Down Syndrome Day, on March 21, the children wore socks with crazy designs to emphasize having fun and embracing unique qualities. Several days later, to celebrate Easter, the students dyed eggs and had an Easter egg relay race. Another day of fun attire, Pajama Day, was a crowd favorite. The students

had a cozy Friday wearing their pajamas to school. Many children sported movie-themed pajamas, such as Disney's Frozen, as well as a variety of superhero characters.

On May 4, Stepping Stones students and staff attended the 2015 Elks Friendship Festival. This event was hosted by the North and East Central District Special Children's Committees of the New Jersey Elks and Essex County's Turtle Back Zoo. Some of the children's favorite exhibits were the bears, wolves, bird aviary, and the petting zoo. In addition to gazing at the animals, the group enjoyed clowns, face painters, games, music, lunch, and had a class photo taken.

Stay tuned to The Arc of Essex County's Facebook page for more updates about Stepping Stones activities and trips!

The Candle Lighters Rock the 21 in Honor of World Down Syndrome Day

The Arc of Essex County would like to recognize the generous contributions and efforts of three Stepping Stones parents and Candle Lighters who hosted a Rock the 21 event on March 21 at the Hyatt on the Hudson. The event celebrated people with Down syndrome, increased social awareness, and raised funds for The Candle Lighters and the National Down Syndrome Society. Featuring an evening of dinner, drinks, and dancing, as well as a tricky tray and wine

pull, the event raised more than \$50,000. The Candle Lighters are contributing a portion of the funds raised to renovate two new sensory rooms at The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School in Roseland. Additionally, they have purchased follow up materials from the Natalie Hale "Special Reads for Special Needs" presentation and will supply Stepping Stones and local libraries with copies of "47 Strings for Tess," a children's book aimed at explaining Down syndrome to siblings.





of Essex County

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Livingston, NJ 07039

Address Service Requested



Community Partner



www.arcessex.org
(973) 535-1181



www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty
@ArcOfEssexNJ

The Arc Honors Caregivers on Mother's Day

This Mother's Day, Diana Milici Hickey shared the story of her family's journey with The Arc and the profound impact her mother had on her life. The following individuals joined Diana in honoring the mothers and caregivers in their lives by making a contribution in their name to The Arc of Essex County:



Susan Arillo
Joseph Bergman
Ann Marie Buonopane
Matthew Calderone
Kathleen Constantino
Margrione El
Jane Gaertner
Lucille Goff
Thomas & Diana Hickey

Janine Pierro Martinez
Ryan, Marnie, Mary, Jack, & Finn McNany
Janice Scheer
Thomas Sheridan
Gloria Simonsen
James P. Smith
Mary Tranchetti
Mary Wright



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United Way of Northern New Jersey
WBGO JAZZ 88.3 FM Kids Spring Concert Series

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, June 15, 2015, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting

123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, N.J.

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

Uncorked & Uncapped

Westminster Hotel, Livingston, N.J.

GUARDIAN STAFF

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