

***“When I connected with the staff from The Arc of Essex County everything just clicked. They were able to answer all of my questions and how they interacted with Doug just put my mind at ease.” - Pam Trolice, Doug’s Sister***



Dear Friend,

**You make it possible for us to answer the calls of families in need.** Your donation to The Arc of Essex County ensures that families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) receive necessary assistance. Your generosity provides tangible results in the lives of the many people who contact us each week.

Answering phone calls at The Arc of Essex County is more complex than it may sound. It requires a unique level of empathy and the type of expertise that can only be groomed through experience. Your support ensures that we have the right people on our end of the phone to guide families through the unpredictabilities of life. I’d like to tell you about one such call.

Doug, a middle-aged man with Down syndrome, was at risk of losing his existing services due to sporadic attendance. His father contacted us for help, but the solution wasn’t immediately evident. A less-concerned person may have given up or even assigned blame to the family. However, with our staff’s past experience, knowledge, and intuition, they were able to identify a need for greater agency involvement to provide support to the entire family unit.

Through continued, caring inquiry we discovered the reason Doug was missing his day program... his father was in the grips of dementia. Recognizing the solution would require involvement from the whole family, our staff was able to connect with Doug’s sister, who lives out of state. We helped her navigate the complexities of New Jersey state systems to secure a community living placement. Three months later, she transitioned her brother into The Arc’s Belleville group home, where Doug is happy and thriving.

Doug now attends day program regularly, enjoys the comradery with his house mates, and even attended Camp Hope for the very first time. He enjoys his independence, remains close with his father, and has rekindled a long-distance relationship with his sister. Finding solutions for our callers isn’t always easy, but in cases like Doug’s, it is most certainly worth it.

**Your support provides these types of happy endings. We are able to invest this much time in people because you make the choice to invest in us.**

**Will you answer our call for help?** Your \$50 donation to the 2017 Annual Appeal will ensure that our phones are always staffed and at-the-ready to help the next family in need. Like you, we recognize the impact that access to resources and services has on individuals with I/DD. That's why the Board and staff of The Arc of Essex County will **match your donation to the 2017 Annual Appeal dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000.**

Thank you for your support of The Arc of Essex County. With your help, we can continue to serve individuals and families for years to come.

Sincerely,



Linda C. Lucas  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Visit [www.arcessex.org/annualappeal](http://www.arcessex.org/annualappeal) to make your gift online.

### **Matching Challenge**

The Board and staff of The Arc of Essex County have pledged to match up to \$20,000 towards this campaign.  
Will you double your impact today?

**\$50** + **\$50** = **\$100**  
Donation Today      Board & Staff Match      Your Impact

