



For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1948.

# The Guardian

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## *Top 10 Things to Know* About Choosing a Camp

As camp applications hit mailboxes, and families begin researching and applying for camp, The Arc of Essex County is happy to provide a top 10 list of things you need to know about applying for summer camp for your loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability:



1. Identify a camp that best meets your child's medical, physical, and behavioral needs. The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope offers an accessible-friendly 7 week summer day camp for children and adults (ages 5 and up) with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. Consider factors including location and transportation as you narrow down your choices. Camp Hope is located in East Hanover, New Jersey and transportation is offered to families residing within Essex County.
3. Ensure your schedule and school district Extended School Year (ESY) dates allow for attendance.
4. Involve your child in the decision making process by ensuring their interests and the activities offered by the camp are complimentary. Camp Hope offers extensive recreational activities including adaptive sports, music, science, arts & crafts, and daily swimming in our zero-entry swimming pool.
5. Funding options may be available to you. The following list of funding providers each have their own processes and applications deadlines. Please visit their respective websites for more information and to contact with questions:
  - a. Department of Children and Families (DCF)/PerformCare: for children ages 5-20
  - b. Division of Developmental Disabilities : for adults 21 and over. Please contact your case manager or support coordinator to apply for camp funding
  - c. School Districts: Please contact your child study team if you'd like to leverage camp as an ESY program
  - d. Scholarships Provided by the Camp: The Arc of Essex County and Camp Hope works with various organizations to help send kids to camp each summer. You can submit a financial aid form as part of your Camp Hope application.
6. Complete your application and return all necessary information to camp administration before the application deadline. Camps will require a complete medical history, physical paperwork, various releases, and information about your child to help the camp better provide services.
7. As you're completing your camp application, make an appointment with your child's physician

to ensure a physical is done prior to the start of the camp.

8. You and your camper will likely meet with the camp administration to review your application and your child's specific needs. Come prepared by compiling a list of questions regarding the camp, staff, activities, and how they can provide your child with the best summer camp experience.
9. Attend a camp open house with your camper. During this time, campers can explore the grounds and facilities, meet some of the staff, and begin new friendships with other campers. Bring a camera and take pictures of the camp to help your camper prepare for the upcoming camp season.
10. Prepare for your first day of camp! Pack a bag with all of the items your camper will need during the day. Be sure to label all of their items. Follow your camp on social media and sign up for email updates. The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope utilizes both of these platforms to share your child's camp experience with you.

For more information or questions about applying to The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope, contact Laurie Best, Director of Children and Family Services at [lbest@arcessex.org](mailto:lbest@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.

## *Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services, Dr. Dawn Apgar Visits The Arc*

On Tuesday, January 17th, Dr. Dawn Apgar the Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services visited John Over, a day program attendee and resident of The Arc of Essex County. Meeting at The Arc's Livingston CRC day program, Ms. Apgar conducted the interview as part of a follow up study of former residents of North Jersey Developmental Center and Woodbridge Developmental Center.



During their meeting Ms. Apgar asked John about his living arrangements, engagement with the community, and overall quality of life. His feedback, with others, will be incorporated into a report to the Governor and Legislature regarding the closure of the Woodbridge and North Jersey Developmental Centers.

The study and forthcoming report presents data pertaining to a variety of topics, including the residential settings and services available to former developmental center residents, transfers to other institutional settings as well as movement among community placements, health outcomes and service utilization, guardianship, and staffing ratios. This initiative as well as a photo from the meeting between Ms. Apgar and John will be the focus of an upcoming article from The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities.

## *"Conquering Change" - The Arc of Essex County Releases 2015-2016 Annual Report*

Change is a constant in life. The ability to harness change and take advantage of the opportunities that it presents is what differentiates those that will ultimately succeed. Since The Arc of Essex County's founding sixty-seven years ago, change has afforded much opportunity. Creative solutions, innovation, and a vision for the future have been born out of moments of uncertainty. The Arc, though steeped in history, has always recognized the importance of adaptability and empowers our staff to push past the boundaries of acceptable towards excellence.



Never has the notion of change been more pertinent than the present. In Fiscal Year 15-16 the state's

funding system began its transition from a contract based to a Medicaid fee-for-service model. At its core, this will fundamentally alter the way we operate. This notion alone could paralyze an organization. But The Arc is using this as fuel to ignite a brighter future.

Here at The Arc, we encourage change not only on an organizational level, but on an individual level as well. The accomplishments of those we serve continue to amaze us, and individuals are achieving milestones each day. Some are taking their first steps, earning their first paycheck, living in their communities, and even getting married. Regardless of the goals set forth, The Arc of Essex County is proud to partner with individuals and families to help each achieve their personal dreams.

See how The Arc of Essex County Conquered Change in FY 15-16 by reading our [Annual Report Today!](#)

## The Arc's Saturday Children's Respite Program Enjoys a Recreation Day with the GECC in Montclair

On Sunday, January 21st, attendees of The Arc of Essex County's Saturday Children's Respite program visited the Montclair Cooperative School for an afternoon of sports and fun with the Greater Essex County Chapter (GECC) of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Jack and Jill of America, provides a constructive, educational, recreational, social and cultural program for children and their parents or guardians.



Led by Marlon Pollard, Director of Programming at Geyer Family YMCA, 16 children from The Arc's program teamed up with 16 children from the GECC to collaborate, get to know each other and do what children love to do - play and have fun. Activities included three-legged races, relay races, team activities, and more. Everyone had a great time and The Arc of Essex County looks forward to planning future recreational days with the GECC.

## Join Us for The Arc of Essex County's Employment Open House on February 16th

Are you looking for a full or part time job where you can make a difference? Join The Arc of Essex County on Thursday, February 16th to learn about employment opportunities working with individuals with Autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Openings include:

- Program Managers
- Respite Workers
- Consumer Support Specialist
- Special Events Coordinator
- Children and Family Services Manager
- Direct Support Professionals: Counselors, Technicians, and Program Aides
- Seasonal Camp Staff: Counselors, Life Guards, and Nurse



### EMPLOYMENT OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> • 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
123 NAYLON AVE. LIVINGSTON, NJ

#### FULL & PART TIME OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Program Managers
- Respite Workers
- Consumer Support Specialist
- Special Events Coordinator
- Children and Family Services Manager
- Direct Support Professionals: Program Aides, Technicians, & Counselors
- Seasonal Camp Staff: Counselors w/ Behavioral Experience, Life Guards, Nurse

- Submit an employment application on our website prior to attending <http://arcessex.org/careers/>
- Potential candidates must come with multiple copies of their resume and be prepared to interview
- For questions, call (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates must have a High School Diploma or equivalent, a valid Driver's License, a minimum of 2 years driving history in the U.S. and no suspensions within the last 2 years.
- Program Aides, Technicians and Counselors can apply without previous experience.
- Camp Counselors must be available to work July-August. Experience preferred, but not required. High school students welcomed to apply.
- Program Managers: BA/BS in Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Psychology, or related field preferred. Minimum of 3 years of management or leadership experience in Residential and/or Day Program required. Minimum of 3 years of experience working with individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities is required.
- Consumer Support Specialist: Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology or related field. Experience in developing behavior plans and strategies required.



The Arc of Essex County provides comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families ensuring a lifetime of achievement with dignity and full partnership in the community.

We offer eligible employees a comprehensive benefit package including: Medical/Dental Insurance, Life Insurance, 401(k) with agency match, and paid time off.

Interested individuals should submit an employment application on The Arc of Essex County's website ([www.arcessex.org/careers](http://www.arcessex.org/careers)) prior to attending. Candidates should bring multiple copies of their resume and be prepared to interview. For questions, call (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256.

## *Board Member and Stepping Stones Alum Take Home*

### *Bronze for Unified Pairs Figure Skating*

On Sunday, January 15th, Leon Morton, a Board Member of The Arc of Essex County, and his son Jared, a Stepping Stones alum competed in the Special Olympics New Jersey 2017 Winter Games at the Richard J. Codey Arena in West Orange. Competing alongside 50 athletes in four different categories (free-style, compulsory, unified pairs, and interpretative dance), the duo took home bronze for their unified pairs performance and fan-favorite gold for their outfits.

The Arc of Essex County congratulates Leon and Jared and all athletes competing in the 2017 Winter Games!



## *Team Captain Interest Meeting to be Held*

*Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.*

Are you interested in forming a corporate or family walk team for the 19th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest? Email or call Heather Comstock, Senior Director of Development and Communication at [hcomstock@arcessex.org](mailto:hcomstock@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224 to learn more and reserve your seat at the Team Captain Interest Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.



The Arc of Essex County's 19th Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest will take place on Saturday, April 29th at The Clipper Pavilion at South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Orange. All funds will support The Arc of Essex County and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## *The Arc to Celebrate Developmental Disabilities*

### *Awareness Month with Photo Contest*

Get your cameras out and your photos ready! The Arc of Essex County will launch a photo contest in conjunction with Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month this March. We're looking for photos of your loved ones that celebrate their unique personalities and demonstrates their enthusiasm to achieve. Tune in to our [Facebook page](#) on March 1 to find out how you can submit your photo during the month of March, then vote on the finalists during the month of April.

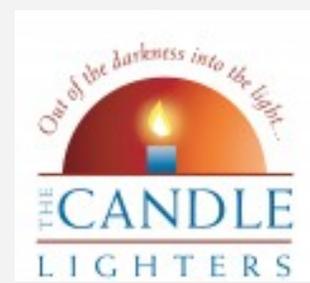


All finalists will receive a gift from The Arc of Essex County. Our grand prize winner will receive two tickets to The Arc of Essex County's 4th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest at The Westminster Hotel in Livingston on Thursday, September 28th. Second and third place winners will receive a \$50 and \$25 American Express gift card, respectively. To follow us on Facebook, visit [www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty](http://www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty).

# The Candle Lighters Annual Tricky

Tray to Benefit The Arc of Essex County on March 12th

Registration is now open for The Candle Lighters' 23rd Annual Tricky Tray on Sunday, March 12 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, NJ. Proceeds from the event will go towards unfunded and underfunded programs of The Arc of Essex County like Stepping Stones Early Intervention and Camp Hope.



Two registration options are available: a basic package includes one sheet of 26 regular prize tickets and a deluxe package that includes 4 sheets of regular-prize tickets (104) and 10 large-prize tickets. All packages include lunch. To register, visit [www.thecandlelighters.org](http://www.thecandlelighters.org).

➡ Donate Now

## The Arc of Essex County

123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039  
(973) 535-1181  
[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org)

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