



The Arc.
of Essex County

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

The Guardian

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Fall Fun

at Stepping Stones School

The students at The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School welcomed fall on Friday, October 11th during the annual Fall Festival. Students, staff, and families enjoyed the opportunity to be outside and enjoy the brisk, beautiful weather.

As always, students looked forward to visiting with the friendly bunnies, chickens, goats, alpaca and cow. Some students even bravely fed the animals! A fall-themed obstacle course, pony rides, and a mini pumpkin patch, courtesy of The Candle Lighters, meant a day of smiles and laughter for the students and their families!



The fall festivities continued on Thursday, October 31st as the Stepping Stones students eagerly participated in a school trunk or treat and celebrated Halloween! Families participated by decorating their trunks and passing out treats for the students.

The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School is a Department of Education approved private school for students with disabilities serving children ages 3-10. Located in Roseland, NJ, the school is designed to meet the developmental and educational needs of children with cognitive impairments such as Down syndrome and other students with similar educational and developmental needs. For more information, visit the Stepping Stones website [here](#). To request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1271 or sbrand@arcessex.org.

The Arc of Essex County Goes Skydiving

at iFly Paramus

The Arc of Essex County's Self Advocacy group joined the New Jersey Self Advocacy Project on Monday, September 16th at iFly Paramus as part of its #HealthyLifestylesProject! The group channeled their adventurous spirit, overcame fears, and became indoor skydivers for the day!

The Healthy Lifestyles Project (HLP) is a program of The Arc of New Jersey and receives funding through a grant awarded by the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. The program aims to provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with functional education about the importance of healthy choices related to diet, exercise, and stress management.



Employees Honored at Annual Recognition Luncheon

On Friday, October 25th, The Arc of Essex County honored the employees whose long-standing commitment and dedication have helped shape the agency into what it is today. The Arc held a special luncheon at McLoone's Boathouse in West Orange, NJ to recognize employees who celebrated 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35, and 40 year anniversaries. Linda Lucas, CEO, Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen, COO, and Marnie McNany, Board President presented certificates of achievements to the following employees:



40 Years:

- Linda Cancro Lucas
- Maureen Murray

35 Years:

- Candes Reid

25 Years:

- Jermayne Tims
- Joseph Paris
- Lorraine Harris
- Troy Thomas
- Alexis Soled

20 Years:

- Trevor Cox
- Lyn Danson Smith
- Toshonda Johnson-Hall
- Jean Aristide
- Dwan Armstrong
- Phyllis Kleckley
- Donna Jones
- Lenora Hurdle

15 Years:

- Esther Mensah
- Pamela Meadows-Osayande
- Christine Bridge
- Sonia Achi
- Stacey McDowell
- Laurie Best
- Roseline Oyefeso
- Philomena Eneh

10 Years:

- Marguline Dorcent
- Dacia King-Sarkodie
- Hasan Atkinson
- Martha Nelson
- Ketsia Angerville
- Denise Mehlman
- Monica Humes
- Wali Cooper
- Katria Archie

5 Years:

- Clyde Dover
- Elisa Cohen
- Noel Michaels
- Brenda Lowrie
- Cynthia Smith
- Ismael Beniquez
- Cynthia Charles
- Andrea Holmes
- Anna-Kay White
- Yolanda Monroe
- Shaniqua Williams
- Ricard Mahon
- Romona Davis
- Stefanie Robinson-Thomas
- Rasul Parrish
- Joyce Simmons
- Catherine Christiano
- Rene Rose Dubuisson
- Joannes Wehye
- LaTonya Moore

Congratulations to all employees celebrating a milestone year with The Arc of Essex County!

Parents' Night Out Program

Throws a Halloween Bash

On Friday, October 25th, The Arc of Essex County hosted a Halloween-themed Parents Night Out at the West Caldwell Hub. Featuring an evening filled with arts and crafts, games, snacks, music, and dancing, the Halloween bash did not disappoint!

Don't miss out! The Arc's Parents' Night Out program returns with a Winter Wonderland theme on Friday, December 13th. Hosted by the Children and Family Services department, this program welcomes children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their siblings ages 5-21 for an evening of fun while mom and dad take time for themselves.

For more information and to sign up for the next Parents' Night Out, contact Jennifer DeBarr with any questions at jdebarr@arcsex.org or at (973) 535-1181 x1292.



Winners Recognized During Artists Reception

Notecards Now For Sale

On Wednesday, October 23rd, The Arc of Essex County hosted an Artists' Reception at its main office in Livingston to celebrate the 10 winners of its Day Programs Art Contest. The Arc transformed the winning art pieces into a collectable notecard gift set which was presented to each winner along with a certificate of recognition and their matted artwork. The winners include:

- Jennifer Bushko, West Caldwell Hub
- Joanne Connolly, Orange Hub
- Jennifer Hamden, Special Young Adults
- Michael Mappa, Bridges
- Andrew Perez, Main Street Hub
- Fatieem Robinson, Opportunity Zone
- Glenn Hall, Bridges
- Joel Ramos, Main Street Hub
- Vanessa Jaenty, Opportunity Zone
- Kevin Abade, Opportunity Zone



The beautiful stationary is now available for purchase on [The Arc of Essex County's online store](#). One-hundred percent of the proceeds will directly benefit future art programming at The Arc of Essex County. Be sure to pick up your gift set before the holidays and help us celebrate the accomplishments of these talented artists and all individuals in our services!

Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Day Services? Check out our Adult Day Services brochure, [available here](#), then reach out to The Arc of Essex County's Senior Director of Children and Adult Day Services, Laurie Best, to learn how you can enroll - lbest@arcsex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.

Staff Spotlight

Takia Reed

On Friday, October 25th, a local resident was compelled to call The Arc of Essex County to share her observations between Arc staff member Takia Reed and an adult resident in her care. While the caller was in her local 711 convenience store, she watched as Takia nurtured, supported, and interacted with the resident with genuine affection. She specifically noted that what she observed did not appear like a typical consumer/staff relationship, but more like a family relationship.

The caller, who has an adult son with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was so touched by the exchange that she is now considering The Arc's services for her own family member. The Arc of Essex County recognizes Takia for living The Arc mission and bringing it to life in her day-to-day interactions.

Are you or someone you know interested turning your compassion into action at The Arc of Essex County? Join us for an Employment Open House throughout the month of November. Open houses will take place at The Arc's main office on November 5, 13, 19, and 26th. For questions and to RSVP, contact The Arc's recruiter Cyeta Graham at recruiter@arcsex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1256.



Hayrides, Halloween Parties, *and Trunk or Treats, Oh My!*

The Arc of Essex County's Day and Respite Programs were busy throughout the month of October soaking up fall. On Saturday, October 12, The Arc's group homes and Saturday respite programs participated in the Livingston Advisory Committee for Disabilities' annual Halloween Dance. Supported by the Township of Livingston, the Livingston High School Key Club, and Barry Schwartz Entertainment LLC, attendees enjoyed an afternoon complete with themed music, temporary tattoos, lunch, and dessert.

Then, on Thursday, October 24th members of the West Caldwell and Main Street Day Programs were treated to a hayride at Fairfield Farms courtesy of donor Joan Olszewski. The group enjoyed taking in the fall foliage while touring the farm, navigating through the corn maze, and pumpkin picking. While they were there, friends from the Bridges Day Program arrived to enjoy the fall fun too!

The Arc then celebrated the spookiest and most creative costumes at a variety of celebrations on Thursday, October 31st. The Special Young Adults Day Program in Nutley hosted a Halloween party complete with Halloween-themed music, dancing, and treats while the West Caldwell Hub braved the rain for a scaled-down trunk or treat celebration followed by an in-center dance party! Popular costumes included Mario and Luigi, Popeye, various super heros, and a box of donuts!

Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's innovative Adult Day Services? Check out our Adult Day Services brochure, [available here](#), then reach out to The Arc of Essex County's Director of Adult Day



Services, Angela LoSapio, to learn how you can enroll - alosapio@arcsex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1231.

Terrace, Marmon, and Cedar Grove Group Homes

Celebrate Milestone Birthday!

The weekend of October 19th, the Terrace group home organized a baseball-themed party to celebrate a milestone birthday for one of its residents, Peter O'Brien! Attended by friends from the Marmon and Cedar Grove group homes and family members, the party featured plenty of laughter, conversation, and, of course, cake!

For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#). If you are interested in pursuing independent living at The Arc of Essex County, please contact The Arc's Senior Director of Residential Services, Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.



Winter Coat Drive

Help Families in Need!

Each year, throughout the month of November, The Arc of Essex County strives to improve the lives of low income children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their families by collecting new (tags included) winter coats. We need your help! Please consider signing up to donate a new winter coat for a child or adult in need. To sign up, visit: <https://signup.com/go/XfXaAvD>.



All of the collected items will go to The Arc of Essex County's Home Assistance Program (HAP) families. HAP provides services to low income families whose child and/or parent has an intellectual or development disability. The program provides support in the areas of transportation, community resources, housing, navigating school systems, recreation, and skill trainings. The overall goal of HAP is to assist parents and families in becoming more self-sufficient, both economically and personally, in order to maintain the family unit and attain independence.

Donated items may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or shipped directly to The Arc of Essex County's Main Office at 123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039 no later than Wednesday, December 11. Please direct any questions to Jennifer DeBarr at jdebarr@arcsex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292. Thank you in advance for helping us warm up the holiday season!

Creativity Abounds at The Arc's

Fall Paint & Sip

The Arc of Essex County's Community Inclusion and Recreation Program hosted its seasonal paint and sip on Sunday, September 29, welcoming the beginning of fall. The group had a wonderful time socializing with friends, eating, and drinking all while creating a beautiful sunflower masterpiece!

Do you have a loved one interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally-themed events, and weekend group respite programs?? The Arc of Essex County's Fall 2019 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog includes:

- An Indoor Holiday Lights Spectacular
- A Thanksgiving Scavenger Brunch
- Farm-to-Table Cooking Classes and more!

Check out the Fall 2019 Recreation Catalog, [available here](#), then reach out to The Arc of Essex County's Manager of Community Supports Services, Dacia King-Sarkodie, to learn how you can enroll - dking@arcsex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.



Give the Gift of Arc Apparel

for the Holidays

Want to show your support of The Arc of Essex County all year long? Stock up on Arc, Camp Hope, and Stepping Stones apparel and merchandise in time for the holidays. New merchandise items include white Camp Hope long sleeve t-shirts, notecard sets, baby blue baseball caps, and more. To shop, visit The Arc of Essex County's online store [here](#).



The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

November Openings

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following November 2019 openings:





NEW! Ashwood Group Home (1 Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in 6-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Recently Renovated, Single Family, Bi-Level Home on a quiet, residential street in Livingston
- Current roommates are an active and social group who, when not out in the community, enjoy hosting backyard barbecues, throwing parties, and participating in social activities offered for individuals with developmental disabilities in the area



Park Place Supervised Apartments and Supportive Living (1 Male Vacancy)

- Community Care Program (CCP) or Supports Program eligible
- 24/7 staff access available based on individual's support needs
- 1 bedroom apartment in newly constructed, apartment-style living community in Irvington
- Located steps from public transportation



Bloomfield Supervised Apartment (1 Vacancy)

- 24/7 Staff Supervision

- Apartment-style living in a multi-family, Arc of Essex County, owned home
- Single bedroom on 1st floor in shared apartment with opportunities to mingle with fellow residents
- Within walking distance to Bloomfield's downtown shopping & restaurants



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



Respite Group Home

Are you heading out of town for an upcoming business trip, wedding celebration, or planning a medical procedure that requires overnight or rehab recovery? Do you need coverage for your loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability? The Arc of Essex County's Respite Group Home can help. Accommodating up to 6 residents, the home is designed to provide a caring and supportive stay during planned or unplanned respite events. The home features:

- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large, 2-Story, Single Family, Colonial-style Home
- Designed to create a family-like setting in which consumers can feel comfortable until they transition into permanent housing or return home
- Staff is prepared to manage behavioral issues and additional supports based on the needs of the individual

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@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

The Arc Remembers Henry Alexander

Henry Alexander joined The Arc of Essex County family in the early 1980's and, in his nearly 30 years with The Arc, attended countless programs while residing at the Ashwood Group Home. He enjoyed many of the finer things in life including dining at The Manor in West Orange, enjoying Broadway shows, listening to operatic music, and wearing fancy clothing and shoes, just to name a few. Henry was a very intelligent man, was especially close with his housemates, and was a central part of the Livingston and The Arc community.

The Arc of Essex County conveys its condolences to the Alexander family and Henry's extended Arc family during this difficult time. If you would like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County in Henry's memory, please visit www.arcsex.org/donate and note that your donation is in memory of Henry – an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to family members.

Stay Connected!

