



The Arc
of Essex County

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

The Guardian

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Stepping Stones Visits

the Turtle Back Zoo

The Arc of Essex County welcomed students back to its Stepping Stones School on Thursday, September 5th and everyone has been busy learning ever since. They kicked off the beginning of the school year with a much anticipated field trip to the Turtle Back Zoo for the annual Elks Festival.

On Monday, September 23rd the students had fun observing the animals, visiting in the bird aviary, and riding the train and carousel. They enjoyed hot dogs and ice cream for lunch after receiving bracelets from a local Girl Scout troop and winning prizes by playing various games.

Hosted annually, the Elks Club and the Turtle Back Zoo welcome more than 1,400 students with special needs. The zoo donates the entire day to the cause, including food and prizes.

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, or to request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand, Director of Early Childhood and Education at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1271 or sbrand@arcessex.org.



Adult Recreation Program

Cruises the Hudson

On Sunday, September 8th, The Arc of Essex County's Community Inclusion participants spent the day cruising on the Hudson River in New York City. Setting sail at noon, the group enjoyed a delicious meal, music, and dancing while taking in the picturesque skyline, Statue of Liberty, and famous bridges.

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 is now available! Highlights include:

- Pumpkin Picking & Hay Ride
- An Indoor Holiday Lights Spectacular



- Fall celebrations including a Halloween Spooktacular, a Thanksgiving Scavenger Brunch, and an Autumn Sip & Paint Party
- 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@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.



6th Annual Uncorked and Uncapped Wows Attendees

The Arc of Essex County's 6th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Tasting Experience took place on Thursday, October 3rd at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange, NJ. With more than 400 in attendance, 45+ vendors, 130+ tastings in 2 tastings rooms, and \$90,000+ raised, the 2019 event was a smashing success.

Attendees were enticed by fine wine, craft beer, hard cider, spirits, and delicious food from new and returning vendors. Crowd favorites included duck terrine from White Birch, seasonal Oktoberfest Märzen-Style Lager from Cape May Brewery, coldbrew coffee creations from Cedar Beans, carbonara arancini from The Fox and Falcon, and much more! This year, live cooking demonstrations by Town Bar + Kitchen and Stone Water elevated the tasting experience.

Musical entertainment was provided by JT Rooney and The DC Trio, both of whom graciously donated their services. Suero Cigars rounded out the tasting experience by providing an interactive, educational demonstration of the art of cigar rolling.

Pictures from the 2019 Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Tasting Experience will be available in the coming days. A special thank you to Kristen Noble Photography for donating their services and taking amazing pictures of the 6th annual event. Be sure to check The Arc of Essex County's social media for pictures from the event.

The entire event could not have been possible without the help of our 2019 sponsors: Primepoint HRMS & Payroll, PSE&G, TD Bank, Walsh, Pizzi, O'Reilly, Falanga, LLP, Bird Pharma, Primepoint, Franchino DeLargy LLP, Oratory Preparatory School, and William H. Connolly & Company.

Save the Date! The 7th annual event will return to the Wilshire Grand on Thursday, October 1, 2020! To learn more about participating in next year's event please contact The Arc of Essex County's Special Events Manager, Maria Meizoso, at 973-535-1181 x 1227 or at mmeizoso@arcessex.org.

Openings Available in Children's Saturday Recreation Program

The Arc of Essex County's Children's Saturday Recreation program for individuals ages 5-21 years old is accepting new participants. This group respite program, which meets three Saturdays each month for approximately 6 hours and features a 1:3 staff to participant ratio, spends most of their time out of center, enjoying community events such as dances, fairs, movies, bowling, parks, etc. In the event



of inclement weather, in-center activities take place in Maplewood. Door-to-door transportation is available to those who live within Essex County.

If you are interested in additional information or enrolling in the program please contact, Jennifer DeBarr at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292 or jdebarr@arcsex.org or Erica Zupkus at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1275 or ezupkus@arcsex.org.



Pre-Vocational Job Training Program

Continues to Expand

The Arc of Essex County marked the beginning of Disability Employment Awareness Month with an expansion of our prevocational and job training programs. Kwame, Sharif, Steven, and Melvin, who graduated from the Villa program in July, began their work at the East Orange Community Learning Garden. They will learn industry-specific skills such as weeding, soil components, garden beds, planting, controlling pests, and composting.

We are also happy to announce a second cohort of individuals began their six-week program at Villa Restaurant Group learning the ins and outs of working in a restaurant with support from restaurant management and The Arc of Essex County's employment specialist.

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



Day Programs Celebrate Summer

Thanks to PSE&G Foundation

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the PSE&G Foundation, The Arc of Essex County's Adult Day Programs enjoyed a number of new recreation activities, including an End of Summer BBQ Blast. On Friday, September 6th, one hundred Day Program participants enjoyed a delicious BBQ at Camp Hope consisting of chicken and ribs with mac & cheese, potato salad, and bread pudding catered by Famous Dave's.

Following the meal, everyone joined in for singing and dancing. Some even made use of the Camp Hope playground and basketball court. The Arc of Essex County thanks the PSE&G Foundation for making the end the summer celebration one to remember!



Renovations Wrap at the Verona Supervised Apartments;

More Improvements Slated

The Arc of Essex County's property management team continues to focus on strategic capital improvement updates. During the month of September, bathroom renovations were completed at the Verona supervised apartments, gutting the space and installing brand new, accessible friendly facilities for residents and staff. This fall, the Linden supervised apartments will also receive a bathroom makeover, while the Belleville group home will undergo kitchen and bathroom renovations.

The Linden supervised apartments currently have a vacancy and are ready to welcome a new resident. If you or a loved one are interested in pursuing an independent living placement with The Arc of Essex County, please contact The Arc's Senior Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270. For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential openings, [click here](#).



The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

October Openings

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

NEW! 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 Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

Parents Night Out Program Returns

Friday, October 25

Parents, mark your calendar for an October date night! On Friday, October 25th, The Arc of Essex County will host a Parents Night Out. Drop your kids off at our West Caldwell Hub for an evening filled with arts and crafts, games, snacks, and a movie, and hit the town for a romantic date.

The Parents Night Out program is hosted by The Arc of Essex County's Children and Family Services department and welcomes children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their siblings ages 5-21. Snacks will be provided; \$25 for the first child and \$20 for additional children. For more information, please view the attached flyer. Contact Jennifer DeBarr with any questions at jdebarr@arcsex.org or at (973) 535-1181 x1292.

Treat yourself to a night out and The Arc of Essex County will watch the kids!

Friday, October 25, 2019
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Arc of Essex County's West Caldwell Hub
1120 Bloomfield Ave., West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Parking is located in the back of the building.

\$25 for the first child
\$20 for each additional sibling

We invite you to come dressed in your Halloween costume! Interested in attending? Contact Jennifer DeBarr for a registration sheet before Friday, October 18, 2019 at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292 or jdebarr@arcsex.org.

*Dinner will NOT be served, however there will be a snack available.
**This event is open to all participants of The Arc of Essex County and their siblings ages 5-21.

The Arc
www.arcsex.org (973) 535-1181 @TheArcofEssexCounty @ArcofEssexNJ

Low Cost Fee- for- Service

**COMMUNITY
HEALTH LAW**

Guardianship Services

This article is a reprint from the Community Health Law Project.

WHAT: Uncontested guardianship matters for clients who are seeking guardianship of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. To obtain guardianship, the person must be deemed incapacitated by the respective Surrogate's Court through the legal process.

Low cost fee-for-service program for people not eligible for services through the NJ Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). This low cost program is specifically available for those between the ages of 18 and 21 (requests can be started at age 17 and a half to be effective at age 18) and people over 21 not currently receiving services from DDD. Income qualifications apply to the person for whom guardianship is being sought.

Full and/or partial guardianships covering residential, educational, financial, medical, vocational and/or legal matters are available.

NOTE: Legal services that are less restrictive, such as powers of attorney and medical directives, may be appropriate for persons not deemed incapacitated. The goal is to have people responsible for and involved in their life decisions whenever possible. CHLP can also provide such services on a fee-for-service basis.

WHERE: For people residing in Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union Counties.

COST: A flat fee of \$1,800 to CHLP for representation in uncontested guardianship proceedings. Fee information can be requested for other services mentioned above.

\$500 fee to CHLP for incidental costs such as court filing fees, postage costs, photocopies, etc. Any portion of the \$500 fee remaining at the end of the case will be returned to the client.

Clients will be solely responsible for paying any fees required by court appointed attorneys, medical and other experts, or other potential costs.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: An affidavit regarding income and assets and statements from two physicians, psychologists or other medical professionals who have examined the person within 30 days of filing with the court are required. CHLP will also need to review existing legal documents, such as powers of attorney and medical directives. CHLP attorneys will need to meet with the person(s) applying to be guardian(s) as well as the person to be subject to guardianship (separately in most cases).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Erika Kerber at ekerber@chlp.org or Susan Eisenhauer at seisenhauer@chlp.org or call 973-275-1175.



Tributes from Summer 2019

Tributes are a beautiful way to acknowledge those you care for, and at the same time, help further The Arc's mission. To purchase a tribute, please call Minerva Delgado at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1237 or visit The Arc of Essex County's website [here](#).

Special Occasions:

In Honor of Doug Weber

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Krawitz

Memorials:

In Memory of Joan Frantz

Mrs. Dolores Brink
Ms. Kristin Bezanson

In Memory of Mary Claire Owens

Ms. Patricia Saar
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boyd
Ms. Mary Renaud
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Smiley
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tutela
Ms. Danielle Annuzzi



Supporters can host Facebook Fundraisers for birthdays and celebrations to raise money on behalf of The Arc of Essex County. We are very grateful for the following individuals who fundraised July – September 2019:

Kassie Marie Pierinelli's Birthday Fundraiser

Nancy Maneri Pierinelli
Karen Frontera Marron
Elizabeth Colasanti

AJ Bu's Birthday Fundraiser

Weihong Xu
John Chiarelli
AJ Bu

Joe Bergman's Birthday Fundraiser

Nancy Dubow Kanell
Mel Renner
Ralph Martino
David Le Grand
Daniel Nourse
David J. Pecora
Samantha Altomare

The Arc Remembers Shakia Reeves

Also known as KeKe to friends and staff, Shakia joined The Arc of Essex County's Opportunity Zone Day Program in March of 2014. Best remembered by her infectious smile, she also took great pride in her appearance, making sure to always look her best. She loved listening to music and dancing. The first on the dance floor and the last one to leave, parties were Shakia's favorite activity.

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

Stay Connected!

