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## Thanksgiving Celebrations

### *Abound at The Arc*

Throughout the month of November, The Arc of Essex County's programs were busy celebrating Thanksgiving.

On Sunday, November 3rd, attendees of the Adult Recreation Program enjoyed a Thanksgiving Scavenger Brunch. The group started off creating beaded bracelets and necklaces and a painting project, while others helped prepare the meal. Everyone also made their own candy pilgrim hat with peanut butter cups, icing, and M&M's.

On Friday, November 22nd, the Creative Visions Day Program hosted their annual Turkey Day potluck with a homemade feast prepared by the staff! Attendees and staff indulged in turkey, fried chicken, mac 'n cheese, stuffing, pie and more.

Then, on Tuesday, November 26th the Stepping Stones School in Roseland, NJ hosted a Thanksgiving Celebration. Leading up to the event, each class did their part in preparing something special for the feast. Family members were invited to attend and spend the day with their loved ones to enjoy the delicious meal the students made. Students and their families sampled soup, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and even a home made soup appetizer! Many students dressed up in traditional pilgrim attire with hats, bonnets, and more!

The Arc hopes everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!



## Orange Hub Celebrates

### *National Author's Day*

In celebration of National Author's Day on November 1st, attendees of The Arc's Orange Hub Day Program became authors themselves. Utilizing craft paper and elements from nature, each participant wrote and illustrated their own nature book featuring fall leaves. They enjoyed taking their books home and sharing with friends and family.

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@arcessex.org](mailto:alosapio@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1231.



## ***Linda Lucas Receives Martin Papish Award***

### *from The Arc of New Jersey*


On Thursday, November 21st, The Arc of Essex County's CEO, Linda Lucas, was honored by The Arc of New Jersey with the Martin Papish Award at their 70th Anniversary Gala. Regarded as The Arc's highest professional honor in the state of New Jersey, the Martin Papish Award recognizes the tremendous efforts and accomplishments for professionals dedicated to serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



For the past 40 years, Linda has dedicated her professional life to working for The Arc of Essex County and those we serve. During her tenure, The Arc of Essex County has become the state's largest chapter of The Arc and the go-to resource for countless professionals and families alike. Despite all of her accomplishments and successes, it is Linda's caring and compassion for children and adults with I/DD and their families that makes her a true champion and The Arc of New Jersey's 2019 Martin Papish Award Recipient.

The Arc of Essex County is proud to have Linda at the helm and congratulates her for this deserved recognition. If you would like to make a tribute gift in honor of Linda, please visit [www.arcessex.org/donate](http://www.arcessex.org/donate).


## Parents Night Out and



# Winter Break Child Care

**December 26, 27, and 30th: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**December 31st: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Stepping Stones School**  
**19 Harrison Ave., Roseland, NJ 07068**



Children ages 5-21 with developmental disabilities and their siblings are invited to participate in The Arc of Essex County's annual winter break child care program.


Featuring full days of engaging, themed activities, this exciting program offers a ratio of one staff member to every three children.

Snacks and juice will be provided, however each child needs to bring his/her own lunch.

**\$85** per day per child, 12/26 - 12/30\*  
**\$73** per child for 12/31\*

For questions and to register for any or all days, please contact Jennifer DeBarr by **December 13th** at [jdebarr@arcessex.org](mailto:jdebarr@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 x1292.

\*Minimum of 4 registered children per day for the program to occur.



[www.arcessex.org](http://www.arcessex.org) (973) 535-1181

[@TheArcofEssexCounty](https://www.facebook.com/TheArcofEssexCounty)

## Donate Your Unwanted Used Vehicle to The Arc of Essex County



*Achieve with us.*

## Car Donation Program

Easy, Convenient and Tax Deductible!



*Donate today and give someone with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) the key to their independence. The Arc works through a national network of nearly 700 chapters to advocate for and support people with I/DD. Proceeds from your donation will benefit your local chapter. We accept any vehicle with a title and will arrange free, convenient pick up or towing. Plus, we'll take care of all of the paperwork you need to take advantage of a tax break for your donation!*

*Thank you!*

☎ Call Toll Free 1-877-ARC-CAR-0

Or Donate Online at

🌐 [www.thearc.org/donate-my-vehicle](http://www.thearc.org/donate-my-vehicle)

Note "NJ The Arc of Essex County" as your beneficiary.

## Day Programs Kick Off the Holiday Season with

### Holiday Express

On Wednesday, November 20th, The Arc of Essex County's Day Program attendees were treated to a special holiday celebration courtesy of Holiday Express. The amazing afternoon was filled with live music from Holiday Express' nine-piece band, decorations, holiday character meet-and-greets, face painting, gifts, and lunch!



Attendees especially enjoyed meeting The Grinch, Rudolph, Frosty, and, of course, Santa.



The Holiday Express mission is to deliver music, food, gifts, financial support and friendship to those with the greatest need for the gift of human kindness during the holiday season and throughout the year. This year marked the second year that Holiday Express selected The Arc of Essex County as a benefactor and both organizations are already looking forward to the 2020 celebration.

## Pottery Program Inspires a New Generation of

### Sculptors at The Arc

Members of The Arc's Day Programs have been taking pottery classes with local sculptor Robert Goldberg. The two-day program features a session dedicated to learning how to form clay to make a decorative plate, how to apply textures and patterns to the artwork, and how to turn the malleable clay into a finished product. Day Program participants then use a variety of paints and glazes to decorate their finished product. The Arc of Essex County would like to extend its thanks to Mr. Goldberg who generously donated his time and talents.

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## Giving Tuesday Success

### Onto the Next Challenge!

On Tuesday, December 3rd, The Arc of Essex County was issued a #GivingTuesday challenge - recruit an additional 25 new Annual Appeal donors and the Pamela and Craig Goldman Charitable Foundation would contribute \$5,000 towards The Arc of Essex County's newest endeavor, Studio Arc.

Thanks to supporters like you, we conquered the challenge, unlocking the **\$5,000 grant** with **53 new donors** who contributed **more than \$4,500!** All funds



raised will go towards specialized equipment and furnishings for the new, creative "Studio Arc" art space opening in Summer 2020.

Building on the success of #GivingTuesday, The Goldmans have issued The Arc another challenge. If 75% of past Annual Appeal donors increase their contribution, The Pamela and Craig Goldman Charitable Foundation will donate an additional \$20,000 towards Studio Arc's opening expenses!

Anticipating a cost of \$100,000 for specialized equipment and furnishings, **we still need your help!** Donate today so children and adults with I/DD from all of The Arc's programs and services can learn new skills, cultivate passions and talents, and enhance their worlds with expressive creativity.

With your help, we can unlock \$20,000 in challenge funds. To make your contribution, visit [www.arcessex.org/annualappeal](http://www.arcessex.org/annualappeal), call us at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245, or mail a check made payable to The Arc of Essex County to 123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039.

## The Coffeehouse Project Performs for The Arc

Throughout the fall, members of the Coffeehouse Project have been touring and performing at all of The Arc's Day Programs. Dedicated to providing arts education, with a focus on music making in the community, through classes, workshops, presentations and performances, The Coffeehouse Project have provided attendees of The Arc of Essex County with an outlet for artistic expression. Day Programs participants look forward to the interactive music performance continuing through early 2020.

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@arcessex.org](mailto:alosapio@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1231.

## Winter 2020 Recreation Catalog

**Now Available**

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 Winter 2020 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog is now available! Highlights include:

- Wreath Making and Easter Brunch
- Game Day and Super Bowl Celebrations
- Trips to the Silverball Museum in Asbury Park and Mt. Airy Casino
- Pottery, Confectionary and Pasta Making Classes and more!

Check out the Winter 2020 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](mailto:dking@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.



## More Than 30 Coats Still Needed

### for Annual Winter Coat Drive

There is still time to donate a new coat (with tags) to help improve the lives of low income children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their families this holiday season. Sign up and arrange to



have your coat arrive at The Arc's main office by Wednesday, December 11. 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 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039. 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.

Please direct any questions to Jennifer DeBarr at [jdebarr@arcessex.org](mailto:jdebarr@arcessex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1292. Thank you in advance for helping us warm up the holiday season!

## The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

### *December Openings*

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



**NEW!** Terrace Group Home (1 Male Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in 4-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Recently Renovated, Single Family, Ranch-Style Home on a quiet, residential street in West Orange
- Minutes from Eagle Rock Reservation, shopping, and recreation
- The residents of this all male group home enjoy picnics at Liberty State Park, bowling, going to the mall to shop, and weekly restaurant nights



#### **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 2 Bedroom / 2 Bathroom Supportive Living Apartment**

### **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@arcessex.org](mailto:rlorusso@arcessex.org) or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

## Benefit The Arc While You Shop

### Using Amazon Smile This Holiday Season

Looking for a creative way to give all year long? This holiday season, it's easier than ever to donate to The Arc through Amazon Smile! While you're scouring Amazon for the perfect gift, use The Arc's [custom link](#) and with the click of a button you can donate 0.5% of the price of all your eligible purchases to The Arc at no added cost to you!



Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1546173> for more information.

## The Arc Remembers Mario Fernandez, Deborah Pecora, and Elijah Peralta

Mario Fernandez joined The Arc of Essex County family in 2013 when he moved into the Terrace Group Home in West Orange and began attending the Creative Visions Day Program. A delightful man, Mario was an avid fan of Super Mario Brothers and Motown hits. He loved to know when it was someone's birthday and would loudly regale the person with an enthusiastic rendition of "Happy Birthday".

Deborah Pecora was a lifelong attendee of The Arc's Special Young Adults Day Program in Nutley. For 40 years, she enjoyed partaking in various day program activities and outings with her SYA friends.

She was an exceptional conversationalist who enjoyed meeting new people, shopping, bowling, attending parades, and dining at various restaurants.

Elijah Peralta joined The Arc of Essex County when he and his family enrolled in the Stepping Stones Early Intervention Program. As a member of the pre-school class, Elijah's bright and infectious smile lit up the school. He will be missed by his teachers and classmates tremendously.

The Arc of Essex County conveys its condolences to the Fernandez, Pecora, and Peralta families and their extended Arc family during this difficult time. If you would like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County in their memory, please visit [www.arcessex.org/donate](http://www.arcessex.org/donate) and note that your donation is in memory of Mario, Deborah, or Elijah – an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to family members.

## **Save the Date! The Candle Lighters Annual Tricky Tray Scheduled for Sunday, February, 9**

Tickets for The Candle Lighters' Annual Tricky Tray are now available. Purchase your seat today as this event typically sells out. To purchase your tickets, visit [www.thecandlelighters.org/trickytray](http://www.thecandlelighters.org/trickytray).



**Stay Connected!**



**➔ Donate Now**