



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

The Guardian

December 2018 • Volume 69 No. 12



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Thank You to Our Dedicated Staff

On Thursday, November 16th, Essex County and the surrounding areas experienced extreme weather that resulted in dangerous conditions. Throughout the storm, staff stayed with our consumers providing comfort and safety during the night and ensured each returned home safely the next morning. Additional staff remained at the main office overnight to be readily available to triage and mitigate any emergencies. Our maintenance and transportation crew were also hard at work the morning after clearing access and recovering vehicles that were stranded during the storm.

The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors would like to extend its gratitude to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts during the inclement weather and in the aftermath of the storm. Thank you for continuing to go above and beyond! We would especially like to recognize:

- Jean Aristede
- Jean Aristede
- Jenn Barbieri
- Manno Barthelemy
- Branda Bennett
- Laurie Best
- Michele Bradley
- David Brieva
- Fatimah Brown
- Christy Campbell
- Cynthia Charles
- Catherine Christiano
- Frank Cinque
- Deanna DeCosta
- Joanne Douze
- Noreen Eason

thank
YOU

- Elmira Edgar
- Carmen Edgehill
 - Fritzeine Edme
 - Philomenah Eneh
 - Evelyn Gallik
 - Taneekah Garvin
 - Desi George
 - Tamika Gray
 - Marion Haig
 - Dee Hall-Moon
 - Camille Hampton
 - Kayron Harris
 - Monica Humes
 - Lenora Hurdle
 - Cecilia Jackson
 - Toshanda Johnson-Hall
 - Marie Joseph
 - Julius Joseph
 - Jessica Kahl
 - Howard Knight
 - Nicole Leach
 - Rebecca Lorusso
 - Angela LoSapio
 - Niiya McSeed-Fenderson
 - Rosaline Munroe
 - Thomas Neufville
 - Kristina Olszewski
 - Dorinda Owoo
 - Roseline Oyefeso
 - Rasul Parrish
 - Titania Perry
 - Tameka Perry
 - Troy Rohdes
 - Arielle Samuels
 - Jamilla Scott
 - Melissa Soules
 - Shanay Strothers
 - Eric Sutherland
 - Keisha Varnado
 - Sherl Williams
 - Shardeliz Yantin

Stepping Stones

Thanksgiving Feast

The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School in Roseland, NJ hosted a Thanksgiving Celebration on Tuesday, November 20th. 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 hand-made doughnuts for dessert! Many students dressed up in traditional pilgrim attire with hats, bonnets, and more. Afterward, the students and staff read Thanksgiving stories, played Thanksgiving bowling and volley, and pin the



hat on the turkey!

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](http://www.steppingstoneschoolnj.com). 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. For more information about Stepping Stones School, visit www.steppingstoneschoolnj.com.

Winter 2019 Adult Recreation

Calendar Now Available

Is your loved one interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally-themed events, and weekend group respite programs? If so, The Arc of Essex County's Winter 2019 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog is right up their alley!

Check out the wide range of programs offered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 and up in our 2019 Winter Catalog. Highlights include a Saint Patrick's Day Party, a trip to Historic Smithville, B-The Underwater Bubble Show at the State Theater of New Jersey, Farm-to-Table Cooking Classes, and more.

The Winter 2019 Community Inclusion, Recreation, and Respite Catalog is available [here](#). A sign up form is available at the end of the catalog. For questions or to receive a hard copy of the recreational calendar, contact Dacia King-Sarkodie, Manager of Community Supports Services at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272 or dking@arcessex.org.



Make a Year-End, Tax Deductible

Gift Today!

Over the course of the past 12 months, The Arc of Essex County increased our after-work respite offerings, opened the Park Place Apartments program, and planned innovative recreational and social outings for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While the new fee-for-service system has enabled The Arc to broaden our scope of services, there remains limited funds for transportation. Without reliable transportation that accommodates all needs, access to engaging community activities diminishes. We need your help.

With your steadfast investment and support, we can expand our transportation fleet and continue to change the lives of those we serve. [Read the full 2018 Annual Appeal](#) to see how your donation will facilitate this expansion. Then, make a year-end gift to demonstrate your confidence in The Arc of Essex County and all we hope to achieve in 2019.

Donations can be made online at <https://arcessex.org/get-involved/2018-annual-appeal/> via mail to 123 Naylor Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039, or via phone by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.



2018 Annual Appeal

Oh the places we'll go...



5th Annual Board Caroling Event Spreads Holiday Cheer

On Sunday, December 2nd, members of The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors, their families, and Executive Management team kicked off the holiday season by caroling with residents of The Arc's group homes. The group visited the Belleville, Branchbrook, and Millburn properties where residents from the different group homes gathered to welcome the jolly crowd, enjoy homemade cookies, and join in on the festivities. The group homes look forward to participating in this cheerful tradition with some residents going as far as wearing matching holiday sweaters for the occasion.



This caroling trip marked the 5th annual event, and continues to grow in popularity. The Arc of Essex County is already looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2019!

The Candle Lighters Raise

\$50,000 at Annual Cocktails for a Cause

The Candle Lighters biennial "Cocktails for a Cause" fundraising celebration took place on Saturday, November 3rd. Hosted at the Hackensack Golf Club in

Oradell, NJ, the evening featured live music and dancing, an open bar, and heavy hors d'oeuvres as well as a tricky tray, silent & live auction, and 50/50 raffle.

In total, The Candle Lighters' "Cocktails for a Cause" raised more than \$50,000 on behalf of The Arc of Essex County.



The Candle Lighters will continue their mission by hosting their popular Tricky Tray at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, on Sunday, February 24, 2019. Additional details and registration will be available in the coming weeks.

The Candle Lighters was established as a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to raising resources for The Arc of Essex County. Since their inception, The Candle Lighters have generated considerable funds to support The Arc of Essex County's unfunded and under-funded programs. Benefiting programs include Camp Hope, the Stepping Stones Early Intervention program, and recreation programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

2019 Special Events -

Mark Your Calendar!

As we look to the New Year, we are excited to continue to grow our signature events! On Saturday, April 27, 2019, The Arc of Essex County will host its 21st Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest. This family friendly event will return to the beautiful lakeside venue of West Orange's South Mountain Recreation Complex. Come join us at The Clipper Pavilion to enjoy entertainment, activities, and fun for the whole family. The 5K run kicks off at 9:00am, followed by the Family Walk and Fun Fest. Additional event details as well as online registration to follow. To learn more about how to start a walk/run team or for sponsorship inquiries, please contact Heather Comstock at hcomstock@arcessex.org or 973-535-1181.



The highly anticipated 6th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest will take place on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange. This delectable evening features fine wine, craft beer, hand crafted cocktails, and delicious food samplings from a wide variety of vendors. You can also expect live music and entertainment, a 50/50 raffle, and silent auction. Event details as well as online ticket purchases will be available in the summer of 2019 at www.uncorkedanduncapped.com.

All proceeds from both events will directly benefit The Arc of Essex County's services that support nearly 1,500 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Your support fuels The Arc's mission, enabling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full and independent lives.

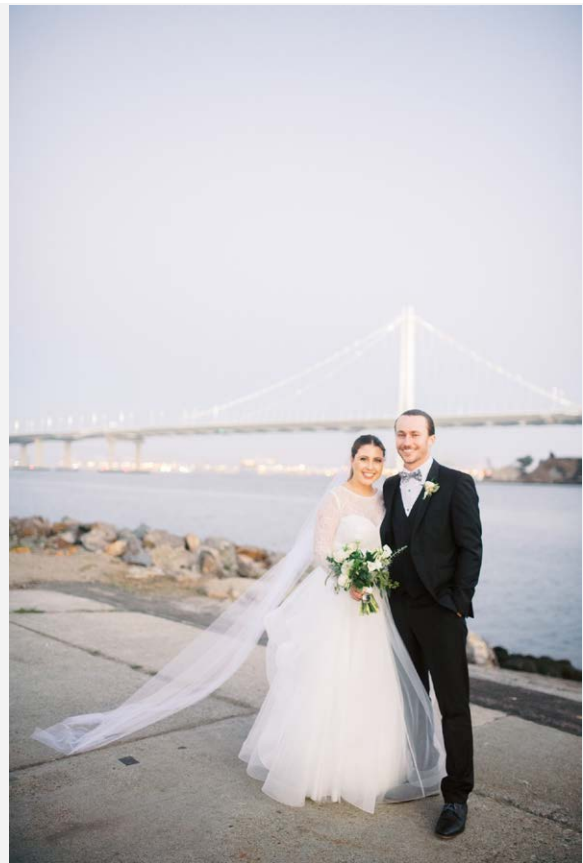
In Lieu of Favors/Gifts,

Donate to The Arc of Essex County

When Melissa Bergman and Bret Benner of California tied the knot this fall, they invited The Arc of Essex County to participate in the festivities. Melissa's grandmother, Lee Bergman, is a long-time Arc of Essex County volunteer and donor, so for Melissa and Bret the decision was easy. In lieu of favors, the couple chose to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County.

Do you have a milestone birthday or anniversary on the horizon? Maybe you're getting married? Whatever the special occasion is, please consider making a donation to The Arc of Essex County in lieu of favors/gifts. The donation can be designated to the fund of your choice or distributed to where it is needed most.

If you are interested in making a donation to The Arc of Essex County in lieu of favors and have any questions, please contact Heather Comstock at hcomstock@arcessex.org or 973-535-1181 x1224. On behalf of The Arc of Essex County, congratulations to the new Mr. & Mrs. Benner!



Winter Break Child Care Available



Winter Break Child Care

December 26, 27, and 28th
9 a.m. - 4 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.

For questions and to register for any or all days, please contact Jennifer DeBarr by **December 11th** at jdebarr@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 x1292.

\$85 per day per child*

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



www.arcessex.org
(973) 535-1181



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[@ArcOfEssexNJ](https://twitter.com/ArcOfEssexNJ)

**Shop Amazon and
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The Arc of Essex County

Support us when you shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

amazon smile



The holiday shopping season is officially here, and this year, you can give back to The Arc of Essex County while you shop. Did you know that when you shop using AmazonSmile, the company will donate a half-percent of each purchase to a charity you choose? Remember to start your holiday shopping by navigating to The Arc's [custom link](#) before making a purchase.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support The Arc of Essex County every time you shop – and it comes at zero cost to you. It's a donation made by Amazon in your honor. You just have to select us at smile.amazon.com and use smile.amazon.com instead of Amazon.com whenever you shop.

At smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the work we do.

Here's how to get started:

1. **Visit smile.amazon.com.** It's just like shopping on the regular site.
2. **Sign in.** You can use your existing Amazon credentials. If you don't have an account, you can create a new one.
3. **Start shopping.** After you've chosen us as your charity -- (The Arc of Essex County) -- your shopping experience will be the same as it is on the Amazon website. Remember, purchases on the main Amazon.com site do not support us so please bookmark smile.amazon.com for the future.
4. **Spread the word.** Once you've checked out, Amazon makes it easy to spread the news to your friends through Facebook and Twitter. Please be sure to let everyone know you've supported The Arc of Essex County.

[Click here to sign up and start shopping!](#)

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

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 2018 openings:

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

South Orange Supportive Living Apartment (2 Vacancies)



- 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
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to South Orange's vibrant downtown

Maplewood Supportive Living Apartment (1 Vacancy)



- Minimal Community Living Support Needs; Access to an emergency on-call system for added safety 24 hours a day
- Townhome-Style Community
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance of Maplewood's downtown shopping & restaurants

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 Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcessex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

Stay Connected!



[→ Donate Now](#)