



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

Celebrating
Down Syndrome
Awareness Month 

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The Arc of Essex County Celebrates

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

The Arc of Essex County is celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Month (DSAM2017) by encouraging anyone who loves someone or has been touch by someone with Down syndrome to update their social media profile pictures with a custom DSAM2017 filter. When updating your pictures, be sure to share with your friends, family, and colleagues information on who inspires you to raise awareness.



To access The Arc of Essex County's DSAM2017 social media filters, images, and suggested posts, visit <http://bit.ly/2xk3imf>. If you'd like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County so we can continue to provide comprehensive services and support to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Down syndrome, visit www.arcessex.org/donate.

Day Programs Carnival

Delights Attendees

On Wednesday, September 13th, attendees of The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs enjoyed a day at the carnival. Coordinated by The Arc's Day Services team, the carnival took place at the Knights of Columbus lodge in Summit and featured more than 20 traditional carnival activities.

Top activities included bean bag and ring toss games, face painting, temporary tattoos, popcorn, water gun games, and a spin the wheel game. The carnival, which will return next Fall, is already creating a buzz amongst staff and attendees alike.

Do you have a loved one interested in attending 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 Support Program Services, Melissa Soules, to learn how you can enroll - msoules@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.



Partnership Between Roseland Public Library and the Stepping Stones School Continues

Last year, The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School began a partnership with the Roseland Public Library that provided each child with their own library card and various experiences throughout the year. The students enjoyed numerous trips to the library for themed story time, community performances, and more.



Following the success of the program, the Stepping Stones School and the Roseland Public Library renewed the program for the 2017-2018 school year. The students' first visit, on Wednesday, September 13th, focused on learning about community helpers. The Primary Class sang songs, read books, and picked a sticker of their choice as they were leaving.

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, view the new Stepping Stones School website [here](#). 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@arcsex.org.

The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner: October Openings

Adulthood is marked by many decisions, the most exciting of which is determining where to live. For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), the desire to pursue greater independence is achievable with proper planning and open discussion. The Arc of Essex County's



residential services offers individuals with I/DD housing options that provide an opportunity to live a fulfilling and independent life in a nurturing, supportive atmosphere.

To pursue residential services with The Arc of Essex County individuals must be:

- Medicaid eligible
- Division of Developmental Disabilities/Waiver eligible

There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to residential options for individuals with I/DD. The Arc of Essex County carefully takes into account accessibility and support needs in combination with personality and wishes to find a housing option that meets individual needs. All residents have access to 24-hour staff support, nursing and clinical supports, and a variety of local community inclusion activities. Residential service options include community residences, supervised apartments, and supported living.

October Openings:

Beacon Group Home (1 Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in 4-Bedroom Group Home
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Recently renovated, single family, ranch-style home
- Located on a quiet cul de sac in Livingston that backs up to a golf course. Shopping and dining nearby.
- Current roommates are males ranging in age from early 30's to late 50's. They enjoy spending time alone on their own pursuits such as movies, swimming at the local YMCA, and occasionally participate in community activities as a group.

Verona Supervised Apartments (1 Vacancy)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 3-Bedroom Supervised Apartment
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Large 2 Family Home with Great Front Porch
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance of Verona's downtown shopping & restaurants and the beautiful Verona Park
- Current roommates are males ranging in age from early 20's to late 40's. They enjoy spending time pursuing their own interests such as reading, watching TV, being active, and socializing with friends, and occasionally participate in community activities as a group.

Maplewood Supervised Apartments (2 Vacancies)

- 2 Bedrooms Available in a 2-Bedroom Supervised Apartment
- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Condo-style Living in a 3rd Floor Unit with Elevator
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to Maplewood's downtown shopping & restaurants
- Neighbors are younger and enjoy socializing and participating in community events

South Orange Supportive Living Apartment (1 Vacancy - Supports Program Waiver Eligible Only)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 2-Bedroom Supportive Living 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
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to South Orange's vibrant downtown
- Current roommate is a male in his 50's who is employed within the community, easy going, social, and close with his family

Maplewood Supportive Living Apartment (1 Vacancy - Community Care Waiver Eligible Only)

- 1 Bedroom Available in a 2-Bedroom Supportive Living Apartment
- 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

- Current roommate is a male in his late 50's who enjoys spending time in Montclair, watching movies, and socializing with friends

Crisis/Respite Group Home (For Planned and Unplanned Coverage)

- Can accommodate up to 6 residents who require immediate housing due to planned or unplanned occasions (i.e. caregiver business trips, emergency situations, etc.)
- 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 Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

Uncorked & Uncapped Continues to Wow, Raises Nearly \$80K

The Arc of Essex County's Fourth Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest set new records at the Westminster Hotel in Livingston, NJ on Thursday, September 28th. With over 400 in attendance, 40 vendors, 120 tastings, and nearly \$80,000 raised this year's event was the biggest in its history. Attendees were able to try the widest array of tastings with everything from Ethiopian to Japanese to Mediterranean food.



The evening featured a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, awards ceremony, and live entertainment from JT Rooney. As attendees made their way around, they were enticed by fine wine, craft beer, hard cider, spirits, and delicious food from new and returning vendors including McLoone's Crab Cakes, Chef Jesse's Shrimp Creole, Stonewater's Shrimp and Grits, Jersey Spirits' Cucumber Gimlet Cocktail, and A-List's Australian wines. After eating and drinking anything you could imagine, the crowd went home with Primepoint and Cadillac sponsored giveaways, which included a custom Uncorked & Uncapped pint glass and alcohol infused gummy bears.

The funds raised from the 50/50 raffle, silent auction, sponsorships, and event tickets will directly support The Arc's many programs and services that assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Essex County.

As always, The Arc honored the individuals and groups who have been integral to the agency's success, including:

- **Corporate Partner Award:** Enterprise Fleet Management
- **Public Partner Award:** Township of Irvington, Department of Economic Development & Grants Oversight
- **Community Partner Award:** Essex County College Public Safety Academy

A special **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Barbara Ashurst, who has dedicated 30 years to teaching at The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School. Her impeccable ability to connect with each student has helped countless graduates secure a strong foundation on which to build for future learning and achieve their greatest potential.

"This evening is an opportunity to honor some very special individuals and organizations who have lent tremendous support and leadership to The Arc of Essex County," explained Board President, Brad Hopton. "The contributions of these honorees are instrumental to our success and The Arc greatly appreciates their efforts to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families."

The entire event was possible thanks to the help of our sponsors: Enterprise, PSE&G, Oratory Prep, TD Bank, Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP, Bird Pharma Consulting LLC, Primepoint, and Cadillac.

This year's Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest was a success thanks to every vendor, sponsor, honoree, attendee, volunteer, and staff member who assisted. The event will return next fall for its 5th anniversary! If you know of any restaurants, breweries, cideries, distilleries, or wine vendors interested in participating, please contact The Arc of Essex County's Director of Development and Communication, Heather Comstock at 973-535-1181 x 1224.

Get Out The Vote Guide

This article was originally published by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute on Monday, October 2, 2017.

Election Day may seem far away, but November 7th will be here before you know it! That's why The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute created a Get Out the Vote Guide to help you understand the voting process and learn more about the candidates on the ballot. In a questionnaire, we asked gubernatorial candidates Kim Guadagno and Phil Murphy where they stood on the issues impacting people with I/DD and their families, and their responses are printed in our Guide.

In addition to electing a new governor - for the first time in eight years - New Jerseyans will elect 120 members to the State's Legislature. Of those 120 members, 40 will be Senators and 80 will be Assemblymen and Assemblywomen. Learn more below about the voting process, the candidates running for office and the resources you may need when heading to the polls.

For additional information and to see all of the resources available in the Get Out The Vote Guide, [click here](#).



New Facilitated Individualized Education Program (FIEP)

This article was originally published by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute on Monday, September 11, 2017.

Parents and districts now have access to a new program offered by the New Jersey Department of Education called Facilitated IEP. The program has two main purposes:

- To promote student-centered IEP meetings that are conducted in a respectful and collaborative manner.
- To maximize district-level capacity to develop student-centered IEPs and minimize state-level procedural protections and interventions which often result from ineffective IEP meetings.

To learn more about the FIEP program, visit the New Jersey Department of Education website [here](#). Resources include a Facilitated IEP Brochure, a Preparing for the Meeting Brochure, Frequently Asked Questions, information on How IEP Facilitation Compare to Mediation, and a Facilitated IEP Request Form.

Wells Fargo Awards The Arc \$5,000 Towards New Boiler

Wells Fargo recently awarded The Arc of Essex County a \$5,000 grant towards the replacement of the boiler at the Bloomfield Group Home. The Bloomfield group home was acquired in 1980 and

provides residential services to 6 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Essex County thanks Wells Fargo for their ongoing support. To learn more 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.



The Arc Launches Stepping Stones Website

On September 25th, The Arc of Essex County launched a new Stepping Stones School website. Featuring robust information, the website aims to share details about the school and curriculum with prospective families and serve as a resource for current students.



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For more information and to view the new Stepping Stones School website, visit www.steppingstoneschoolnj.com. 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.

The Arc Remembers

Gail Foster and Amoda Duncan

Gail Foster, a long-time attendee of The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs and a recent Millburn group home resident, was born and raised in Newark and Irvington. She enjoyed bowling, dining out, and going to the hair salon. One of her happiest memories was attending the Day Programs Prom in June, which combined her love of getting dressed up and socializing with friends.

Amoda Duncan began his journey with The Arc when he began attending the Bridges Day Program in October 2014. Even though he was quiet and reserved, Amoda enjoyed participating in all activities, especially Friday community lunches.

If you'd like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County, in Gail or Amoda's memory, please visit www.arcessex.org/donate. Please note who your donation is in memory of - an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to their respective family members.

[Donate Now](#)

The Arc of Essex County

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