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## The Arc Celebrates Five

### Stepping Stones Graduates

It was a full house the morning of Tuesday, June 18th as families, staff, and volunteers packed the Stepping Stones gym for the school's annual completion ceremony and graduation. The 2019 school year concluded with the graduation of five students.

Graduates began the ceremony by walking in to the traditional tunes of pomp and circumstance. They were joined by the remainder of their classmates as they led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Star Spangled Banner, and a sampling of their favorite songs. Following the ceremony, graduates, students, families, and friends enjoyed a dessert reception and year-in-review photo slideshow.

The Arc of Essex County would like to wish all of our graduates the best of luck as they begin their new adventures!

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@arcsex.org](mailto:sbrand@arcsex.org).



## Art Contest Winners



## ***Announced!***

Members of The Arc of Essex County's Adult Day Programs channeled their inner Picasso throughout the month of June as they created artwork to compete in an agency-wide art contest. The only parameters given were that they art must have a floral theme. One winner from each program was chosen by a panel of judges and an additional four pieces were declared winners following a week of intense voting on Facebook. Congratulations to the following winners!



- 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 10 winning pieces will be turned into beautiful stationary which will be available for purchase. Be sure to like and follow [The Arc of Essex County's Facebook page](#) so you can purchase the limited edition notecards later this fall!

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](mailto:lbest@arcsex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.



***Only 3 Boxes Left. Help Fill Them Today!***



## ***Just 3 Boxes Remain***

### **to Fully Fund New Sensory Initiative!**

Thanks to donors like you, 27 individuals in The Arc of Essex County's services have already begun customizing "Sensory-to-Go" boxes tailored to meet their individual needs. However, there are still 3 more individuals who could use your help!

**Meet the Next Recipient:**

Susie\* has a dual diagnosis of Down syndrome and early onset dementia and is next in line to receive a "Sensory-to-Go" box. She enjoys a structured routine and expressing her creative side through arts and crafts projects. Due to her dementia, Susie has become more set in her ways, resisting transitions, and becoming possessive over shared items. Here's where you come in. Equipped with her own customized box including a variety of tactile items like magnetic tiles and sensory art supplies, Susie will be able to better cope with the changes associated with her fleeting memory. Will you donate today to help fill Susie's box?

*\*Individual's name has been changed for privacy reasons.*

To make a secure online tax deductible contribution, visit [www.arcessex.org/springappeal](http://www.arcessex.org/springappeal). Donations can also be mailed to 123 Naylon Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039 or via phone at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to The Arc of Essex County and to individuals with I/DD. With your continued generosity, we can continue to provide custom solutions tailored to those we serve.

## ***Camp Hope Gears Up for an Unforgettable Summer***

On Wednesday, June 26th, The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope opened for its 63rd season which features a the addition of a mini-week at the end of June as well as anticipated enrollment of more the 200 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Open to children under the age of 21, the first week of camp was "mini" themed with days and activities focused on popular "minis" including mini-golf, mini muffins, and Minnie Mouse. Camp then expanded to children and adults of all ages the first week of July with holiday-themed days including Saint Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving Tuesday, and Independence Day. Favorite daily activities included swimming in the pool, cooling off in the splash pad, and celebrating the 4th of July with an Independence Day barbecue.

Many camp classics including the Color Run, Car Wash, and Camp Olympics will take place later this month. Campers are also looking forward to a visit with the New York Red Bulls Freestyle Crew in August.

### **Is Your Loved One Attending Camp Hope this Summer?**

New merchandise items including baseball hats and white long sleeve t-shirts are available, in addition to water bottles, cinch sacks, and sweatshirts. To view apparel options and to place your order today, [click here](#). For questions, contact Heather Comstock at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224 or via email at [hcomstock@arcessex.org](mailto:hcomstock@arcessex.org).



## **Scott and Nakeema Crowned King and Queen at Annual Day Services Prom**

On Thursday, June 20th, The Arc of Essex County crowned the 2019 Prom King and Queen. Scott from the West Caldwell Hub and Nakeema from the Main Street Hub took home the titles. The prom, complete with a Casino Night theme, featured an afternoon of dancing, singing, food, and fun at Libretti's in Orange.

This annual event offers approximately 100 Day Program participants the opportunity to enjoy a traditional prom experience. Attendees snapped pictures in the photo booth and enjoyed time with friends both old and new. The highly anticipated event will return in June 2020. Follow The Arc of Essex County on our social media channels to get a sneak peek into the 2020 prom theme!



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](mailto:lbest@arcsex.org) or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.



## ***Save the Date! 2019 Uncorked & Uncapped***

### **Set For October 3rd**

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Tasting Experience. Returning to the Wilshire Grand Hotel on Thursday, October 3rd, the highly anticipated Uncorked & Uncapped event is one you do not want to miss.

With 25+ beer & ciders, 45+ wines, 15+ spirits & cocktails, and 50+ restaurant samplings, there is something for everyone. Be adventurous and taste exotic drinks and unique cuisine that you otherwise wouldn't or sample traditional fare from New Jersey's finest establishments! For three hours you can enjoy unlimited tastings, live entertainment, a robust silent auction, and 50/50 raffle.

Check out the new event website for more details, to see what's in store, and to buy your ticket today: [www.uncorkedanduncapped.com](http://www.uncorkedanduncapped.com).



## ***Large Crowd Gathers for Annual Membership Meeting***

### **& Transitioning to Adult Services Workshop**

More than 55 members of The Arc of Essex County attended the Annual Membership Meeting & Information Session hosted on Tuesday, June 18th at the main office in Livingston. Presented by The Arc of Essex County's Transition Coordinator and Resource Development Consultant, Melissa Soules, the discussion focused on Transitioning to Adult Services.

Throughout the evening, attendees learned about key stages and ages for transition planning; how to navigate state systems; initial and ongoing eligibility, regulations, and requirements, and service options. To view the presentation, [click here](#).

If you have any questions about how to transition to adult services, contact The Arc of Essex County's transition coordination team at [msoules@arcsex.org](mailto:msoules@arcsex.org) or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.



## ***Adult Recreation Program Hits the Casino***

### **in the Poconos**



On Sunday, June 9th, The Arc of Essex County's Community Inclusion Program took a trip to Mt. Airy Casino in the Poconos. The group had a wonderful time playing the slot machines and visiting the gift shop. They also took a break in-between all the fun to grab some lunch together at the buffet.



Is your loved one interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally-themed events, and weekend group respite programs? Check out the wide range of programs offered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 and up in our 2019 Spring/Summer Catalog. Highlights include day trips to Point Pleasant and Mt. Airy Casino, a visit to the Silverball Museum, Summer celebrations, Farm-to-Table Cooking Classes, and more.

The Spring/Summer 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](mailto:dking@arcessex.org).

## ***Volunteers Honored at Annual Stepping Stones Luncheon***

On Wednesday, June 12th, The Candle Lighters and The Arc of Essex County paid tribute to the volunteers and staff of the Stepping Stones School during a luncheon celebration. Hosted annually by The Candle Lighters and the parents of Stepping Stones students, this luncheon recognizes the efforts of all school volunteers and staff and pays special tribute to those volunteers who celebrate milestone anniversaries. This year's honorees included:

### **1 Year:**

Katelynn Brenner  
Stacy Davidson  
Diana Neumann

### **5 Years:**

Roberta Polton

### **10 Years:**

Nancy Stein

### **15 Years:**

Carla Saratella

### **30 Years:**

Mary Babiarz



Special recognition was also given to Stepping Stones teacher Barbara Ashurst who will retire following the 2018-2019 school year. Throughout her 30-year teaching career at The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School, Barbara has displayed an undeniable kindness, concern, respect, and passion for her students. Her impeccable ability to connect with each student has helped countless graduates lay a strong foundation on which to build for future learning and achieve their greatest potential. The Arc of Essex County thanks Barbara for her tremendous service and hard work.

**Are you interested in volunteering at the Stepping Stones School?**

The Arc of Essex County's Stepping Stones School, a school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities is seeking volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year. Stepping Stones, located in Roseland NJ, serves children from birth to ten years of age. A unique aspect of this program involves a one-on-one student to volunteer concept for many of the children. This is accomplished with the assistance of volunteers from local communities.

Volunteers are needed for weekday mornings and afternoons. A commitment of ½ day per week, the same day each week from September to June is required. Please contact Judy Bellina, Volunteer Coordinator at [jbellina@arcessex.org](mailto:jbellina@arcessex.org) or 973-535-1181 ext. 1223 for more information.

## The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

### July Openings

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



#### **NEW!** - 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 (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 with elevator
- Located steps from public transportation and South Orange's vibrant downtown

#### **Maplewood Supervised Apartments (1 Female Vacancy)**



- 24/7 Staff Supervision
- Condo-style living in a 2nd floor unit with elevator
- Located near public transportation and within walking distance to Maplewood's downtown shopping & restaurants

#### **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

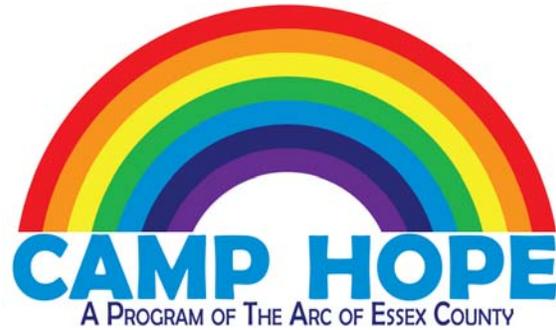
For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#). If you are interested in pursuing independent living at one of the above properties, please contact The Arc's Senior Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at [rlorusso@arcsex.org](mailto:rlorusso@arcsex.org)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

## The Arc Receives 2 Grants

### Totaling \$8,000 for Camp Hope

The Newark Fresh Air Fund recently awarded The Arc of Essex County's Camp Hope a \$4,000 grant to provide camping experiences for children and young adults from under served communities with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the Greater Newark area.

The Catholic Human Services Foundation also contributed a \$4,305 grant for additional equipment needed at Camp Hope. The Arc of Essex County will be using the funds to purchase equipment to kick off a new Culinary Arts program, to maintain pool safety, and to accommodate growing enrollment and camper needs.



Camp Hope is an eight week summer day camp for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities located in East Hanover. Operating since 1956, camp runs Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, starting in late June and ending in August, with transportation provided for campers living in Essex County and surrounding areas. Camp Hope provides campers with traditional camp activities including supervised swimming and outdoor fun with modified sports, arts & crafts, and music. While enjoying these activities, attention is also given to daily living skills, peer interaction, socialization skills, and developing appropriate behaviors.

For more information, visit [www.arccamphope.com](http://www.arccamphope.com). To request a tour and for questions regarding the application process, contact Laurie Best, Senior Director of Children & Adult Day Services at (973) 535-1181 x1264 or [lbest@arcessex.org](mailto:lbest@arcessex.org).

## Tributes

### from Spring 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 David and Sharyn Barber

Ms. Ellen Doreen Higgins  
Ms. Roseanne Monacelli  
Mr. Alfred Galluzzo  
Mrs. Darielle Walsh

##### In Honor of Alan and Susan Hammer

Ms. Alla Glaz  
Mr. Jonathan Cohen

##### In Honor of Ruth Horn

Mrs. Helga Horn

#### Memorials:

##### In Memory of Norma Amato

Ms. Noida Mahiya  
Ms. Jill Prandstatter

##### In Memory of Joan Frantz

Mr. Dale Seabury



**In Memory of Stephanie Hogan**

Mr. Andrew Pecora

**In Memory of Kathy James**

Mr. Andrew Blumetti

**In Memory of Bob Leopold**

Mrs. Iris Leopold

**In Memory of John Schettine**

Mr. John O'Brien

Mr. Bruce Bird

Mrs. Marnie McNany

Ms. Karen Silverman

Ms. Anne Bradley

Mrs. Heather Comstock

Mr. Albert Ianacone

Mrs. Maryanne Vindici

Mrs. Nancy Petite

Mr. Matthew Ryan

**In Memory of Thomas Sheridan**

The Werner Family Trust

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 individual who fundraised April – June 2019:

**Delia Naguit's Birthday Fundraiser**

Cathleya Fajardo-DeGuzman

Maritess Bulacan

Michael Jay Guevarra

Alleli Naguit

Giselle Dana Luna

Gabrielle Dawn Luna

Delia Naguit

**Dawn Glammy Cooper's Birthday Fundraiser**

Michelle Suarez

Brian Cooper

Mylene Porter

Geoffrey Burbage

**Stay Connected!**



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