



January 2022

Donate Today

HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR ADULT RECREATION & RESPITE PROGRAM

The Arc of Essex County made spirits bright with a Jolly Jamboree, a Gingerbread Extravaganza, and some holiday shopping for adults in our Group Respite program in December.

The Jolly Jamboree featured Christmas games and caroling karaoke, along with hot chocolate and sweet snacks. The Gingerbread Extravaganza gave all participants a chance to gather together and create confectionery masterpieces to take home. An additional group enjoyed shopping at Livingston Mall with their peers, picking up gifts for loved ones and enjoying a meal together at the food court.

If your loved one with intellectual or developmental disabilities is interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally themed events, or weekend group respite programs, the offerings for individuals 18 and older can be viewed in our Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Fall Calendar. For any questions, contact Manager of Community Supports Services Dacia King-Sarkodie at (973) 535-1181 ext 1272 or dking@arcessex.org.



SYA WINS ANNUAL DAY PROGRAMS FOOD DRIVE COMPETITION; ARC GATHERS TOYS AND COATS FOR HAP FAMILIES

Throughout the months of November and December, The Arc of Essex County gathered items for members of our Home Assistance Program (HAP), including 40 coat donations for children and adults, dozens of toys and gifts, and more than 500 non-perishable food items for our families.

The Adult Day Programs competed to see who could gather the most food items for the drive, and this year SYA was victorious with 203 items. For their efforts, SYA attendees and staff will enjoy a pizza party.

The Arc thanks everyone who contributed to the drives and helped make the holiday season brighter and cozier for our neediest families, including SAX LLP and the Sumas Family Foundation, who helped make sure there would be holiday gifts for every child in the program to open.



The HAP program provides services in the areas of transportation, community resources, housing, navigating school systems, recreation, and skill trainings to low-income families whose child and/or parent has an intellectual or developmental disability. The goal is to maintain the family unit, attain independence, and assist parents and families in becoming more self-sufficient both economically and personally.

If you or a loved one is interested in joining the HAP program, please contact Laurie Best, Senior Director of Children & Adult Day Services, to see if you qualify. Laurie can be reached at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264 or lbest@arcessex.org.

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 on our website, 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 or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1231.

A FESTIVE SEASON FOR STEPPING STONES

The students at Stepping Stones School enjoyed a variety of holiday activities throughout December, from dreidel games to opening gifts from Santa.

The children started the month with Hanukkah activities. Each day they would count the lights on the menorah, and they enjoyed eating potato latkes and spinning the dreidel. They even practiced Hanukkah yoga poses!

The fun continued through the month, as each classroom decorated their door with beautiful holiday themes and the children enjoyed holiday movies, songs, and books, and made and sent wish lists. On December 16, the students received a visit from Santa, who delivered special gifts to each child.

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 virtual tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand, Director of Early Childhood and Education at (862) 210-8781 or sbrand@arcessex.org.



LOCAL PERFORMANCE VENUES HOST ARC CONSUMERS FOR DECEMBER SHOWS

The Papermill Playhouse in Millburn and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark both hosted groups from The Arc of Essex County during December, giving consumers and staff the opportunity to watch fun and festive holiday performances.

NJPAC provided complimentary tickets to two Cedar Grove group home residents and one chaperone, who enjoyed Mannheim Steamroller Christmas on December 15. On December 21, the Papermill Playhouse held a special free community engagement performance of "A Jolly Holiday:



Celebrating Disney's Broadway Hits," providing nearly 70 complimentary tickets to Arc consumers.

The Arc of Essex County thanks the Papermill Playhouse and NJPAC for their generosity in giving these memorable and enjoyable experiences to dozens in our Arc community, brightening the holiday season for local individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

WEST ESSEX UNICO TREATS RESIDENTS TO HOLIDAY MEAL

To make the holidays more festive (and delicious), the West Essex UNICO organization catered a Christmas Dinner for 30 of The Arc of Essex County's residents and staff on Thursday, December 23.



Residents from the West Caldwell, Green Avenue (Roseland), and Cedar Grove group homes and the Verona Apartment Program, and their residential staff, were all treated to a holiday meal that included antipasto, meatballs, and pasta. The Arc of Essex County and those we serve would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the West Essex UNICO for their continued generosity during the holiday season.

The West Essex UNICO's mission is to promote and enhance the Image of Italian Americans by being of service to the community, including supporting and assisting charitable projects.

For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, contact The Arc's Senior Director of Residential Services Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcessex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

NEW YEAR. NEW GOALS.

WALK BUILDING TOMORROWS 5K RUN

Back in person again!

**SATURDAY
APRIL 9, 2022** || **THE CLIPPER PAVILION
WEST ORANGE, NJ**

SAVE THE DATE: BUILDING TOMORROWS 5K ON APRIL 9, 2022 IN WEST ORANGE

We're back in person and can't wait to run, walk, and have fun together! On Saturday, April 9, 2022, The Arc of Essex County will host its 24th Annual Building Tomorrows event at the Clipper Pavilion in South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Orange, returning to an in-person gathering after two years of virtual events. The day will once again feature a 5K



Run, Fundraising Walk, and Family Fun Fest with games, activities, and fun for all ages.

All proceeds will directly benefit The Arc of Essex County's services that support nearly 1,500 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. If you have never been to an Arc of Essex County event, this is the one to attend! The Run/Walk is a day where program participants, families, friends, staff, and volunteers come together to fuel The Arc's mission.

Don't want to run or walk alone? Looking for an opportunity for team building activities while supporting a great cause? Create a team with friends, family, or coworkers. Enjoy a day out and support a great cause. Additional event details as well as online registration will be available in the coming weeks at www.runorwalk.org.

If you or your organization are interested in forming a corporate walk team or joining an event planning committee, contact Heather Comstock, Senior Director of Development and Communication, by emailing hcomstock@arcessex.org or calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.

Stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead!

CHILDREN'S RECREATION HOLIDAY FUN RETURNS

Holiday activities were back in 2021 as part of The Arc of Essex County's Children's Saturday Respite activities in December. The children created beautiful holiday ornaments together at the Opportunity Zone in Maplewood, filling and decorating clear globe ornaments to personalize each decoration. A group also took a trip to Walmart to do some holiday shopping, with each participant selecting items of their choice to give to loved ones.

The Arc is looking forward to hosting more children's recreation and respite activities in 2022. The program hosts children ages 5 to 21 years old, who meet on Saturdays for approximately 6 hours with a 1:3 staff-to-participant ratio. 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 Erica Zupkus at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1275 or ezupkus@arcessex.org.



THE ARC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINGS IN THE SEASON FOR RESIDENTS

On Sunday, December 5th, members of The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors hosted a virtual caroling party in lieu of their annual Board Caroling event. Eight groups homes tuned in to sing along to their favorite holiday songs, bringing warmth and joy to the season.

If your school, business, or civic organization would like to spread cheer to The Arc's residents and frontline staff during the winter months, please email The Arc's Senior Director of Development and Communication, Heather Comstock, at hcomstock@arcessex.org to express your interest in getting involved and discuss ideas and agency needs.



NEWARK POLICE SPONSOR MOVIE TRIP FOR

CHILDREN'S RESPITE GROUP

In December, the Newark Police Department's 7th Precinct sponsored a group from The Arc of Essex County's Saturday children's respite program to attend a movie at the Citiplex 10 theater in Newark. The group received free admission as well as snacks, and enjoyed the movie "Encanto" together. The event was part of the police department's autism and special needs program.



Recreation and respite programs for children ages 5 to 21 years old meet on Saturdays for approximately 6 hours and feature a 1:3 staff-to-participant ratio. 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 Erica Zupkus at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1275 or ezupkus@arcessex.org.

WINTER-SPRING ADULT RECREATION CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

With more than a dozen events to choose among, The Arc of Essex County's [Winter/Spring Community Inclusion, Recreation, and Respite Catalog](#) is packed with fun activities and trips for adult consumers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Community Inclusion Trips include visits to Funplex, the Sea of Life Aquarium at the American Dream Mall, the Turtle Back Zoo, and the Silverball Museum.

Group Respite activities include Soup Day, where consumers will be making soup and enjoying each other's company; Super Bowl Sunday, where they will enjoy snacks and play football-themed games; a "Be Mine" Valentine's celebration; Oscar Night, complete with a red carpet; a Mardi Gras celebration; a St. Patrick's Day party; a Sip & Paint event; and Easter Brunch.

Recurring bowling will also continue through the winter and spring, with 12 Saturdays scheduled.

All activities will closely follow Covid-19 protocols, and The Arc staff will make sure participants are partaking in the fun while also being safe.

The Arc's programs and services are designed to help participants learn and enhance skills through socialization and fun. If your loved one with intellectual or developmental disabilities is interested in joining the fun, the fall/winter catalog can be viewed on our website. For any questions, contact Manager of Community Supports Services Dacia King-Sarkodie at (973) 535-1181 ext 1272 or dking@arcessex.org.



TRIBUTES AND FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS – FALL 2021

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 Ann Burleigh at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1245 or visit The Arc of Essex County's website [here](#).

Special Occasions (October to December 2021):

In Honor of JoAnn Raines
Cara L. Schnaper

Schwab Charitable

In Honor of Albert C. Ianacone
John Ianacone

In Honor of Joseph Bergman
Geri Kahn

In Honor of Susan Comparato
Ellen Rooney
Heather Rooney

In Honor of Eileen Stuart
Joan Ratner

In Honor of Brian Lowe
Allyns Melendez

Memorial:

In Memory of Gregory J. De Lorenzi
Schwab Charitable

In Memory of Luisa Rendenna
Mary Tranchetti

In Memory of Grace Bergman
Leona Bergman

In Memory of Irene Brotman
Mathew Moura

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 October to December 2021.

Giving Tuesday Fundraiser
Susan Comparato
Donna Salindardo Hrebin
Courtney McNeese
Sharon Canestry Garofalo

Birthday Fundraiser
Shaleeia lasenberry



THE ARC OF ESSEX COUNTY RESIDENTIAL CORNER

January Openings

For individuals seeking a community living placement, The Arc of Essex County has the following January 2022 openings:



NEW! Verona Supervised Apartment (1 Male 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, socializing with friends, and occasionally participating in community activities as a group.



Belmont Group Home (1 male vacancy)

- 1 bedroom available in this single-family style group home in a great Livingston neighborhood.
- 24/7 staff supervision
- Can accommodate residents with additional medical supports and aging needs
- The residents have tight personal relationships and prefer quieter activities, but remain an active and fun-loving group



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 (pre-COVID)



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

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@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.

Donate Today



Our Contact Information

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