



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

The Guardian

October 2018 • Volume 69 No. 10



[→ Donate Now](#)

The Arc of Essex County

Celebrates 70 Years

September 2018 marked the 70th Anniversary of The Arc of Essex County. Founded by a small group of innovative parents, community leaders, and dedicated volunteers wanting and expecting more for their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the founders sparked an evolution that would lead to wider cultural acceptance and achievement. The Arc of Essex County has continued to advance this evolution through its advocacy, programs, and services.



Our 70 years of experience in this field, coupled with our capacity to be creative and innovative, positions us well to continue the traditions set forth by our founders. As we embark on our anniversary year, The Arc of Essex County will continue to strive to provide the highest quality and most comprehensive supports and services for families and consumers in every walk of life.

In true Arc fashion, our adult consumers wanted to celebrate this milestone anniversary. On Sunday, September 16th, 126 consumers and staff hustled their way to Casa de Sol in Union, NJ for a 70's Disco Dance Party. The crowd came decked out in their grooviest garb ready to groove the night away. Everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and got their disco fever on while dancing to the Bump, the YMCA, the Funky Chicken, the Robot, and so much more!

New Music Program Launches

at Community Link

The Arc of Essex County's staff has been working diligently to introduce new activities to our Day Programs lineup. During the last week of September, we piloted a music program at Community Link and

invited individuals to participate from the West Caldwell Hub.

For one hour, The Coffee House Project staff played guitars and sang a ton of favorites including TV theme songs like Batman and some great rock hits too. Day Program participants were excited to share the mic and join in on the fun. This program will occur twice monthly, and we hope to expand it to other centers soon.



The Arc of Essex County Day Programs are provided in a variety of community based settings with wide ranging activities. Community Resource Center activities such as volunteering, community trips and skill building classes help consumers develop essential interpersonal skills. All participants choose from an evolving menu of activities held either in the center or in the community.

Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Services? Check out our Fall 2018 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 or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.

2018 Award Recipients Honored at VIP Reception

Prior to the 5th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest, a special VIP Reception was held to honor those who have been integral to the agency's success. The Arc of Essex County's CEO, Linda Lucas, and Board President, Marnie McNany, presented the awards to the night's honorees.

The **Corporate Partner Award** was presented to PricewaterhouseCoopers in honor of their tremendous impact on The Arc of Essex County through their generous financial support and wealth of industry expertise and insight. PwC has been a longstanding sponsor of both Uncorked & Uncapped and the Building Tomorrows Run/Walk, and its employees have always supported The Arc's mission.

In addition to their presence at The Arc's signature events, PwC employees have fundraised through crowdfunding campaigns to help furnish The Arc's newest group home in Roseland, New Jersey and fund the transformation of Camp Hope. In total, PwC and its employees have contributed more than \$110,000 to The Arc of Essex County and the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities we serve. Beyond the financial support, PwC employees serve in various capacities as officers and trustees on The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors, providing invaluable financial expertise, insight, and leadership helping to guide the agency forward for the next 70 years.



The **Community Partner Award** was presented to Orange Orphan Society, who The Arc has had a longstanding history of partnership. For the past decade, the Orange Orphan Society has generously granted over \$165,000 in funding to benefit Camp Hope. Funding has been applied to vital camp fee assistance for families and their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities residing throughout the Oranges and in the town of Maplewood. In addition, the Society has granted requests for the camp's pool and pavilion roof rehabilitation projects, and, most recently, the installation of a new playground and splash pad add-on equipment, enhancing the camp experience for both returning and new Camp Hope participants.

A special **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Robert Laurino, Esq., who has dedicated both his personal and professional life to making our community a better place. As the Acting Essex County Prosecutor, Bob Laurino advocated for special victims for over 25 years, including and especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In addition to his professional dedication to protecting victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse, including individuals with I/DD, Bob has also served on The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors for 20 years. He led the organization as Board President from 2006 to 2010 and currently serves as Second Vice President. Personally, Bob is an advocate and guardian for his brother Henry who currently resides with him.

The State of NJ and The Arc of Essex County are better because of his unwavering passion for the I/DD community.

The contributions of these honorees are instrumental in our success and The Arc greatly appreciates their efforts on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The Arc of Essex County

Unveils New Video

Since 1948, The Arc of Essex County has been providing services and support to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Serving nearly 1,500 individuals and their families each week through a wide range of programs and services including early intervention, camp, day programs, and residential services, it can be difficult to capture the true extent of The Arc's reach.



To showcase all that The Arc of Essex County offers, a new agency video was created. The video features testimonials from three families in our services in their own words. The video can be viewed on The Arc's website at <https://arcessex.org/about/>.

Record Breaking Uncorked & Uncapped

The Arc of Essex County's 5th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest took place on September 28th at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange, NJ. The 2018 event featured a new venue, layout, and format. With over 400 in attendance, 40+ vendors, 2 tastings rooms, and \$90,000+ raised, the 2018 Uncorked & Uncapped was record breaking on all counts.



Attendees were enticed by fine wine, craft beer, hard cider, spirits, and delicious food from new

and returning vendors. Crowd favorites included pumpkin hooch from Jersey Spirits Distilling, tuna ceviche from Stone Water, lobster bisque from H2Ocean, home-made gourmet ice cream from Das' Creamy, and much more! This year, specialty cocktails were hand-crafted by Mix 'Em Up Bartending School and Famous Events.

Musical entertainment was provided by JT Rooney and Dancing DJ's, both of whom graciously donated their services. Chris Dare made his mind-blowing debut as he wowed the crowd performing card tricks and other illusions that left them stunned and wanting more!

Pictures from the 2018 Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest are now available. A special thank you to Judy Justin Photography and Kristen Noble Photography for donating their services and taking amazing pictures of the 5th annual event. Be sure to check The Arc of Essex County's social media for pictures from the event.

The entire event could not have been possible without the help of our 2018 sponsors: PwC, PSE&G, Enterprise Fleet Management, Oratory Preparatory School, TD Bank, Walsh, Pizzi, O'Reilly, Falanga, LLP, Bird Pharma, Primepoint, and William H. Connolly & Company.

Save the Date! The 6th annual event will return to the Wilshire Grand on Thursday, October 3, 2019! To learn more about participating in next year's event please contact The Arc of Essex County's Special Events and Development Coordinator, Maria Meizoso, at 973-535-1181 x 1227 or at mmeizoso@arcessex.org.

Adult Respite Fun at Sea

On Sunday, September 23rd, The Arc of Essex County's Adult Respite Program took to the seas for a Sunday brunch! The program participants and staff cruised the inland waterways of New York and New Jersey aboard the Cornucopia Princess. As they soaked up the views, they enjoyed wonderful buffet featuring pastries, omelets, chicken, pasta, carving stations, and more! The Arc's program participants enjoyed interacting with all of the guests on the Brunch Cruise, and were invited to join in on another passenger's 50th birthday celebration!



Do you have a loved one interested in The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation Services? Check out our Fall 2018 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 or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1272.

Join The Candle Lighters at Cocktails for a Cause

The Candle Lighters, a 501c3 organization dedicated to raising money for the unfunded and under-funded programs of The Arc of Essex County, will host their annual Cocktails for a Cause on Saturday, November 3rd at the Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell, NJ from 7:00-11:00pm.

The event will feature live music and dancing, an open bar, and heavy hors d'oeuvre as well as a tricky tray, auction, and 50/50 raffle. This "Thank You for Making Our Futures Brighter" event will raise money to benefit



Arc of Essex County programs and services such as Camp Hope and Stepping Stones Early Intervention.

To purchase tickets and for more information, visit <https://www.thecandlelighters.org/cocktails-for-a-cause>.

Susan Wright Memorial Golf Outing

Set for October 15th

Calling all golfers - on Monday, October 15th, The 2nd Annual Susan Wright Memorial Golf Outing will take place at the Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring. The outing is organized by the family of Susan "Sue" Wright in celebration of her lifelong commitment as a steadfast volunteer of The Arc of Essex County.

Featuring a full day of golf, lunch, and dinner, the event will raise funds for The Arc of Essex County and its Special Young Adults (SYA) day program. Detailed registration and sponsorship information are available on the event website at www.susanwrightmemorial.com.

Sue and her family were first introduced to The Arc of Essex County more than 30 years ago when they enrolled in the Stepping Stones program with their son Billy. Sue would volunteer at Stepping Stones, and later SYA, when bringing Billy to and from program. She was instrumental in the success of The Arc's annual golf outing, running it for many years. The family hopes that funds raised from this golf outing will honor Sue's memory and serve as a thank you to The Arc and SYA for the happiness she found there and the love Billy continues to receive.

To register for the Susan Wright Memorial Golf outing on Monday, October 15th at the Montclair Golf Club at Rock Spring, visit www.susanwrightmemorial.com.



Tributes from Summer 2018

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:

In Honor of Lily Bohon

Ms. Milan Kovac

In Honor of Marnie McNany

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hirsh

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Arthur Bergman

Ms. Barbara Gross

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rubin

In Memory of Bob Flynn

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wright

In Memory of Sylvia Leiken

Mrs. Lee Bergman

In Memory of Rose Milici

Mr. John McClain

Ms. Laura Prato

Ms. Sheila Figman Eule

Stay Connected!



 **Donate Now**