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The Arc's Top Ten Things to Consider as You Begin
Your Transition to Adult Services



The transition from school to adult services begins as early as 14 years old. However, between the ages of 18 and 21 there are numerous things caregivers should consider to make the transition to adult services as smooth as possible. Here are The Arc of Essex County's top 10:

1. Request and keep copies of all relevant school evaluations (psychological, speech, occupational, and/or physical therapy, etc.) and current year's IEP plan.
2. Secure Medicaid eligibility for your loved one. There are a variety of ways to do this. The easiest way is to ensure your loved one is enrolled to receive Social Security benefits, after the age of 18. Enrolling in Social Security will automatically trigger New Jersey Medicaid eligibility.
3. At 18 years old you can [apply for Division of Developmental Disability \(DDD\) services](#). While the services won't be available until after your loved one's 21st birthday and the end of their educational entitlement, enrolling with DDD as soon as the age of 18 will ensure a seamless transition into adult services.
4. Familiarize yourself with the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT). A sample is available on the [DDD website here](#).
5. Start to interview support coordination agencies to determine which one is the right fit for you. A full list of New Jersey support coordination agencies is [available here](#).
6. Visit a variety of service providers to find the right fit of services for your loved one.
7. Explore what the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has to offer.
8. Find opportunities for greater independence for your loved one in the home, community, or school setting that addresses skills such as learning how to set their morning alarm, making a small purchase independently, etc.
9. Begin to look for an adult primary care physician.
10. Celebrate this time in your loved one's life. They are transitioning into the adult world and many exciting opportunities are ahead of them.

For more information or to discuss our transition services in further detail, contact The Arc of Essex County's Director of Business Development Melissa Soules at msoules@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.

More Than 100 Tastings Featured at Third Annual **Uncorked & Uncapped**

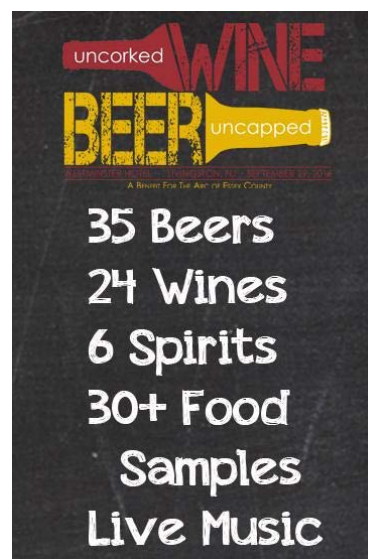
You won't want to miss The Arc of Essex County's third annual Uncorked & Uncapped - Wine, Beer, and Food Fest! Featuring nearly 40 vendors and more than 100 beers, wines, spirits, and delicacies to sample, the 2016 event is the largest one yet.

Taking place on Thursday, September 29th at the Westminster Hotel in Livingston, the evening will also feature a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Auction items include airline tickets, an in-home private dining experience prepared by a celebrity chef, and a wine and cheese tasting for twelve with limo service, to name a few.

Purchase your tickets today by visiting www.uncorkedanduncapped.com. For questions or additional information, contact Brielle Cummings at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1227 or bcummings@arcessex.org.

Participating Restaurants:

- 321 Chillz*



- Bistecca*
- Caffè Navona Fine Cuisine & Piano Bar *
- Chef Jesse Jones Cuisine Catering*
- Cupcakes by Carousel*
- Eight Hills Caterers *
- Jimmy John's
- Miss Nicky's Gourmet Toffee
- Nero's Grill*
- Nicaastro's Sauces
- Oil and Vinegar*
- Piattino Summit*
- Poor Henry's Pub & Restaurant
- Strip House
- Verona Inn
- Villalobos*
- Vital*

Participating Breweries:

- Beach Haus Brewery*
- Climax Brewing Company
- Dogfish Head Brewing*
- Flying Fish Brewing Company*
- Lone Eagle Brewing Company*
- Magnify Brewing Company
- Neshaminy Creek Brewing Company*
- New Jersey Beer Company
- Oskar Blues Brewery*
- River Horse Brewing
- Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
- Sixpoint Brewery
- Weyerbacher Brewing Company

Participating Wine & Spirits Distributors:

- A-List Wines
- Aidil Wines & Liquors*
- Claremont Distillery*
- Familia Martinez Bujanda*
- Fedway *
- Winebow*
- Uva Wines & Spirits*

*notes a new vendor to Uncorked & Uncapped

Camp Hope's 60th Season **Comes to a Close**

It was a season for the record books as Camp Hope celebrated its 60th Anniversary. The August sessions were full of excitement as the campers maximized the last few weeks of summer.



During Sun and Sand week, campers enjoyed the annual Camp Hope Carnival, complete with face painting, a bounce house, cotton candy, and snow cones. Campers also competed in a sand castle contest and learned all about wildlife during Safari Adventure Day.



The final week of Camp Hope, themed Travel Week, took campers on fictional explorations of the South Pole, Under the Sea, Out West, and To the Moon. Firemen from the East Hanover Fire Department visited and shared fire safety tips. Campers concluded the week with the annual end of camp dance, themed "Aloha Ohana."

Thank you to the following donors for supporting the 2016 Camp Season: Knights of Columbus New Jersey State Council, Lillian Schenck Foundation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, and Orange Orphan Society.

Members of the Board of Directors

Take the Plunge for Camp Hope

Throughout the month of June members of The Arc of Essex County's Board of Directors competed in a Dunk Tank Challenge to raise funds for the Camp Hope Create Play Capital Campaign. Each board member who raised \$500 went "into the tank" and for every \$500 raised above that a bucket of ice was added. On Friday, August 12th, the Dunk Tank Challenge came to a close as seven members of the Board of Directors went "into the tank."



In total, the Board of Directors raised more than \$8,500 for the Create Play Capital Campaign! This brings the Create Play Capital Campaign total raised to \$84,500. Thank you to Bruce Bird, Brad Hopton, Brian Lowe, Ben Proce, Matt Ryan, Maryanne Vindici, and Lisa Wolfe for your efforts and enthusiasm in the dunk tank.

While the majority of the planned renovations will take place over the next 6-8 months, The Arc was able to install the adjustable height backboards and new basketball court for the campers to enjoy this summer - and enjoy it they did!

The Create Play Capital Campaign continues this fall as we strive to reach our \$250,000 goal by December 31, 2016. Will you help us complete all of the outlined projects prior to the start of the 2017 camp season? The Create Play Capital Campaign focuses on the revitalization of campground recreation spaces and the addition of new recreational amenities. For a complete list of projects please [click here](#). These newly created and enhanced spaces will provide the perfect backdrop for future summers packed with joyful memories.

To donate to the Create Play 2016 campaign, visit www.arcessex.org/createplay or contact Heather Comstock at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224 or hcomstock@arcessex.org.

The Arc of Essex County Seeks **Volunteers for 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 2016-2017 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.



There will be an orientation for new and returning volunteers at 11:00am on Thursday, September 1, 2016. The meeting will take place at Stepping Stones, located at 19 Harrison Avenue (Roseland Municipal Building) in the all-purpose room on the first floor. Volunteers are needed weekday mornings and afternoons. Please contact Judy Bellina, Volunteer Coordinator at jbellina@arcessex.org or 973-535-1181 ext. 1223 for more information.

Seven Oaks Residents Enjoy Summer at the Shore

Several times this summer, residents of the Seven Oaks group home in Orange took trips to the shore to soak up the summer sun and escape the heat.

Visiting Bayshore Waterfront Beach, the residents and staff enjoyed picnics and pizza delivery on the beach, afternoons filled with music and fresh air, and building castles in the sand. As one of the few New Jersey public beaches, the residents also enjoyed making new canine friends!



The Arc of Essex County Participates in the "10 In 10" Podcast Series Produced by The Arc of New Jersey

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute recently rolled out the 10 In 10 Podcast series to highlight local county chapters of The Arc and enable listeners to learn more about the services and supports they provide to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



On Friday, August 5, The Arc of Essex County's Director of Business Development Melissa Soules joined Lisa Ford, Director of The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute to answer 10 questions about The Arc of Essex County in 10 minutes. [Click here](#) to listen in and learn about The Arc of Essex County and how we help families navigate through state systems and services!

For questions about our services or navigating state systems, contact Melissa directly at msoles@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.

Are You Getting Married this Fall? On the Hunt for a Unique Wedding Favor?

In lieu of traditional wedding favors, consider giving a charitable gift in honor of your wedding guests. To recognize your contribution, we will provide you with a personalized 8" x 10" framed message to display at your reception as well as personalized table signs to display on each wedding table.

Beyond weddings, The Arc of Essex County is happy to help you celebrate any occasion such as birthdays, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, graduations, and more. To order your special occasion favors or for more information, contact Heather Comstock at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224 or hcomstock@arcessex.org.



➔ Donate Now

The Arc of Essex County

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