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Day Programs, Staff, and Family

Celebrate Read Across America

Each year, staff, day program participants, and family members join the Stepping Stones students in celebration of Read Across America. This year, the week-long initiative designed to foster a love of reading kicked off on March 4th. Throughout the course of the week, nearly 25 members of The Arc spent time reading with the students. Class favorites included many of Dr. Seuss' classics, Cat in the Hat themed crafts, and a special green eggs and ham lunch on Friday, March 8th. Thank you to all of the volunteers who dedicated their time to this special event!



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 Stepping Stones School website [here](#). To request a tour and assistance with an out-of-district placement, contact Sue Brand at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1271 or sbrand@arcsex.org.

An Underwater Adventure **for The Arc's Adult Recreation & Respite Program**

On Saturday, March 30th, The Arc of Essex County's Adult Recreation and Respite Program



visited the State Theater New Jersey in New Brunswick for B-The Underwater Bubble Show. Transformed into a dreamlike, underwater atmosphere, attendees enjoyed a lavish musical production featuring dancers and acrobats, original music, and fantastic stage effects including lasers, low ground smoke, flying foam, and soap bubbles. This autism-friendly, relaxed showing was the perfect way to spend an early spring day.



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.



RUN. WALK. PLAY.

Exciting Additions

for Building Tomorrows 2019

The Arc of Essex County's 21st Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk, and Fun Fest is just 3 weeks away! You won't want to miss all of the excitement in store including donuts and chair massages for all 5K runners and a visit from Batman, including his Batmobile!

Join us on Saturday, April 27th as we run, walk, laugh, and play to raise money and awareness for children and adults with Autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Register or donate now at www.runorwalk.org.

Looking for a fun day spent with family and friends? Start a walk team in support of The Arc of Essex County! Raise \$25 or more and receive an Event T-shirt and free admission to the Fun Fest. Walk and Fun Fest features include:

- **NEW!** McLoone's Gift Cards for Top 3 Fundraisers
- **NEW!** Bayer's "Making Science Make Sense" Program
- **NEW!** Meet-and-Greets with Rapunzel and Bat-man (and his Batmobile!)
- **NEW!** Kid's Workshop by The Home Depot

- Slime Experiments from L3 Academy
- Lego Spin Art and Paper Crinkle Crafts by Bricks 4 Kidz
- Kid's Cookie Decorating Station by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- Sand Art
- Face Painting by Face Art by Jan and Gina's Facetag
- Photo Booth from Goodwin's Good Time Photo Booth
- Pet Rock Creation by Lyric Performing Arts Center
- Live Music and more!
- Discounted post-event admission to the Turtle Back Zoo

Are you a runner? Enjoy the beautiful, tree-lined course around the South Mountain reservoir and race features including:

- Free event t-shirt and admission to the Fun Fest
- **NEW!** Runners will receive a gourmet donut courtesy of [Off the Wall Donuts](#)
- **NEW!** Medals & prizes for top 3 overall male and female finishers including [gym](#) and [yoga](#) memberships
- Medals for top 3 male and female finishers in each age group
- Food, drinks, live entertainment, & activities for all ages
- Discounted post-event admission to the Turtle Back Zoo

The entry fee for all ages is \$30 (early-bird rate is \$25 prior to April 17 with code "EARLY"). Post-run refreshments, such as water, coffee, bagels, and fruit, will be provided by Starbucks, Livingston Bagels, Fresh Pro Food Distributors, and Shop Rite.

Timeline: The 5K will kick off at 9 a.m., followed by the Family Walk at 10:15 a.m. and the Fun Fest from 10:30am -1:00pm.

There's something for everyone at the 21st Annual Building Tomorrows Event! Help support The Arc's mission of providing supports and services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Northern New Jersey and sign up today: www.runorwalk.org!

For questions and inquiries, contact Maria Meizoso, Special Events and Development Coordinator, at mmeizoso@arcsex.org or at (973) 535-1181 x1227.

For sponsorship inquiries, contact Heather Comstock, Senior Director of Development and Communications, hcomstock@arcsex.org or at (973) 535-1181 x1224.

Red Bulls to Visit Camp Hope

this August

The Arc of Essex County is excited to announce that Camp Hope will welcome the New York Red Bulls' Freestyle Crew for a trick show performance and interactive soccer clinic this August! Combining street style with the gracefulness of soccer, the New York Red Bulls Freestyler Crew will push the boundaries of what's possible, and will teach our campers to do the same. Stay tuned for more information.

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. 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.

Interested in seeing the Red Bulls in action? The team will host an Autism Awareness match on Saturday, April 27th versus FC Cincinnati at 7 p.m. Sensory Sacks and a Quiet Room (located in 1935 near section 112) will be available for families looking to take a break from the game. Each sensory sack will include a stress ball, a wristband with the child's seat information, and headphones/hearing safe protectors. For additional information, [click here](#).

Special Young Adults Claims

Bulletin Board Contest Victory

The Arc of Essex County's Adult Day Programs celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month throughout March with a bulletin board contest. Each Day Program designed a bulletin board with the theme "Everybody Belongs" in mind. Voting opened on Facebook on Monday, March 18th where attendees, staff, families, and the general public voted for their favorite display. After two weeks of voting, The Arc's Special Young Adults Day Program based in Nutley claimed victory with more than 220 votes. For their efforts, they will receive a celebratory breakfast party.



The final standings are:

1. Special Young Adults
2. Main Street Hub
3. Bridges
4. Opportunity Zone
5. West Caldwell Hub
6. Orange Hub

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 & Adult Day Services, Laurie Best, to learn how you can enroll - lbest@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.

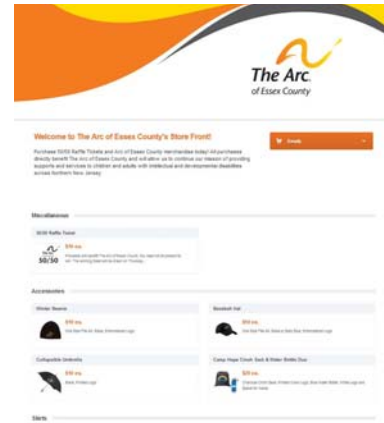
The Arc of Essex County

Launches Online Store



Want to rock apparel from The Arc of Essex County, Camp Hope, or Stepping Stones all year round? Check out The Arc's [new online storefront](#) where you can pick up all of your apparel and merchandise favorites.

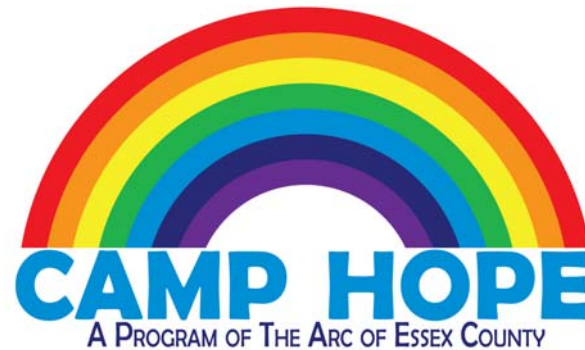
While you're there, try your luck by purchasing a 2019 50/50 ticket – the winner will be pulled on Thursday, October 3rd at the 6th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer, and Food Fest. The winner need not be present to win.



Important Camp Hope

Information

The Arc of Essex County is currently accepting applications for the 2019 Camp Hope season which will run from June 26 - August 16, 2019. If you have not received your application in the mail, please visit the [Camp Hope website](#) to download a printable copy. Applications will be processed as they are received – limited availability remains for some weeks. For questions and to find out availability for desired weeks of attendance, contact Laurie Best at (973) 535-1181 ext. 1264.



Funding Assistance:

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families, which serves children and youth **up to age 21**, is accepting requests from families for financial assistance toward the 2019 summer camp session. Completed applications for both Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition and One-to-One Aide Services for Summer Camp must be postmarked or received by PerformCare **no later than Tuesday, April 30, 2019**. For additional information and to download DCF's Financial Assistance Application, [click here](#).

Camp Hope is an approved service through the Supports Waiver for individuals over the age of 21. If your loved one is interested in attending Camp Hope this summer, contact your family member's Support Coordinator to have camp added to their service plan.

Spring/Summer 2019 Adult Recreation Catalog

Now Available

Is your loved one interested in educational programming, community experiences, seasonally-themed events, and weekend group respite



programs? If so, The Arc of Essex County's Spring/Summer 2019 Adult Community Inclusion, Recreation, & Respite Catalog is right up their alley!

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.

Group Homes Receive Kitchen

and Bathroom Renovations

The Arc of Essex County's property management team continues to focus its energy on strategic capital improvement updates. During the month of March, kitchen renovations were completed at the Ashwood and Oakwood group homes, modernizing the community spaces and optimizing functionality for residents and staff. This spring, the Washington and Belleville homes will also receive kitchen makeovers, while the Verona supervised apartments will undergo bathroom renovations.



If you or a loved one are interested in pursuing an independent living placement with The Arc of Essex County, 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. For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#).

The Arc of Essex County's Residential Corner

April Openings

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

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

Tributes

from Winter 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 Felicia Raines

Mr. Robert Petzinger and Ms. Cristina Moran

In Honor of Sean Patraic McGlynn

Ms. Elizabeth O'Sullivan

MEMORIALS:



In Memory of Wilhemina “Billy” Coldren

Ms. Laurie Barnett
Ms. Cathy Cassell
Ms. Patricia Digenova
Ms. Ione Perry

In Memory of Paul Falcone, Jr.

Mr. Frank Carpenter
Ms. Erin Starzyk
Mr. Rick Bushnell
Mr. Paul Murphy
Mr. Gary Ratkin
Mr. Christopher Arends
Ms. Diane Bono
Ms. Patti Ehrenkrantz
Mr. Charles Tahaney
Mr. Arthur Meyer
Ms. Jane Compagnone

In Memory of Kathy Fryhoff

Mrs. Lee Bergman

In Memory of Kathy James

Mr. Andrew Blumetti

In Memory of John Schettine

Ms. Rose Schaaf

In Memory of Thomas J. Sheridan

Ms. Ruth Hudson
Ms. Joan McTeigue
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sileo
Ms. Peggy Becker
Sister Honora Werner

In Memory of Marion Simpson

Mr. Neal Cheramie
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hubbard
Mr. Sergio Mucci
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maikisch
Ms. Janice Kovalik
Ms. Michele Mezzina
Ms. Zina Michajliczenko
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Van Winkle
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Amoresano
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Champy
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Klotzbier
Mr. and Mrs. Leone
Ms. Linda Simpson
Mr. and Mrs. Rocco Musella
Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeKoyer
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Callahan
Mr. Robert Chiodo
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graham
Mr. James Jones

Ms. Georgiann Huber
 Ms. Carol Stamm
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Milioto
 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Gere
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Engelhardt
 The Transition Center at Wood-Ridge
 The Skokandich Family

Supporters can host Facebook Fundraisers for birthdays and celebrations to raise money on behalf of The Arc of Essex County. We are very grateful to the following individual who fundraised January – March 2019:

Vasilios Hatzimanolis' Birthday Fundraiser

Liz Braun Cartaina
 Kristin DeCapua Giordano
 Tim Ghiselli
 Vasilios Hatzimanolis

Remembering John Schettine

John Schettine joined The Arc of Essex County family more than 10 years ago when he moved into the Claremont supervised apartments. A Barringer High School graduate, John volunteered at Mountainside Hospital for 12 years and was voted Volunteer of the Month too many times to count.

He enjoyed making ceramics and had a number of his pieces on display at a friend's studio. Extremely proud of his Italian heritage, John prepared specialty foods, especially around the holidays. He was a faithful parishioner and choir member at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Montclair.

John joined The Arc of Essex County's Advisory Board in 2011, advocating for himself and his peers strengthening The Arc of Essex County's commitment to those we serve. He was loved and respected by his fellow Board Members. John is survived by an aunt and several cousins, as well as his housemates and staff at Claremont.

The Arc of Essex County conveys its condolences to the Schettine family and John's extended Arc family during this difficult time. The family has requested donations in lieu of flowers to The Arc of Essex County in John's memory. Please visit www.arcessex.org/donate and note that your donation is in memory of John – an acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to family members.



Stay Connected!



