



The Arc
of Essex County

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

The Guardian

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The Arc of Essex County Kicks Off Fiscal Year 17-18

With a New Three-Year Strategic Plan

With the transition to the fee-for-service model in full swing and the three year strategic plan developed in 2014 coming to an end, The Arc of Essex County and its Board of Directors have been busy evaluating its effectiveness and planning for the future.

While The Arc was able to accomplish many of the goals set forth in the first strategic plan, there is always room to innovate and improve. The Arc is pleased to unveil its new strategic plan for the 2017-2020 fiscal years. This plan will serve as a blueprint to guide the agency as it navigates new challenges and opportunities. The strategic plan is structured around five primary areas of focus:

1. Advance The Arc of Essex County's brand and value among its stakeholders and the community in order to increase participation and encourage investment.
2. Provide and expand quality services that are innovative, sustainable and flexible, meeting the needs of changing demographics and fiscal complexities.
3. Cultivate, sustain, and retain a qualified, knowledgeable workforce committed to The Arc of Essex County's mission, vision, and values.
4. Continuously evaluate and adapt The Arc of Essex County's business model positioning the organization to meet the needs of its stakeholders while sustaining fiscal strength.
5. Create improved Board engagement for the advancement of Board priorities and agency strategic objectives.

As the agency navigates the fee-for-service transition and funding complexities in today's political environment, this renewed strategic plan is more important than ever. It displays The Arc's commitment to its mission to provide comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families ensuring a lifetime of achievement with dignity and full partnership in the community.

Invest in our future. Consider a planned gift today. To learn more, [click here](#).



Camp Hope 2017 Underway

Create Play Campaign Momentum Continues

Phase one of construction concluded earlier this Spring and Camp Hope officially opened for its 61st season on July 5. Since then, the campers have thoroughly enjoyed each themed week and all of the new features added to camp as part of the Create Play Capital Campaign.



From water balloon baseball on the new recreation field, to science experiments and arts and crafts under the new outdoor activity pavilion, to summer fun on the new splash pad aquatic feature and playground, there is no shortage of excitement at Camp Hope.

The Arc of Essex County is delighted to share with you an update on the status of the Create Play Capital Campaign. The generous support of individual and foundation donors has brought the campaign total to an impressive \$139,451! Completed phase one projects include:

1. New Accessible-Friendly Playground
2. Construction of a Multi-Purpose, Outdoor Activity Pavilion
3. Installation of a New Splash Pad Aquatic Feature
4. New, Expanded Recreation Field
5. A Complete Revitalization of the Existing Pool Pavilion Building
6. New Basketball Court with Adjustable Height Backboards

The Arc of Essex County would like to thank the Dorothy B. Hersh Foundation for their recent \$10,000 contribution towards the splash pad aquatic feature. There are still a number of projects slated to be completed following the 2017 camp season. Donations will enable The Arc to complete the projects in advance of the 2018 season.

Will you help us reach our \$250,000 goal? The Create Play Capital Campaign focuses on the revitalization of campground recreation spaces and the addition of new recreational amenities. These newly created and enhanced spaces will provide the perfect backdrop for future summers packed with joyful memories.

To make a donation towards the Create Play Capital Campaign, visit www.arcessex.org/createplay or contact Senior Director of Development and Communication, Heather Comstock, at hcomstock@arcessex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1224.

The Arc to Launch New "Residential Corner"

Column in the September Edition of The Guardian

In mid-June, The Arc of Essex County hosted our Annual Membership Meeting and a free housing workshop focused on challenges and clear opportunities associated with planning for independent living. As a result of the overwhelming attendance and requests for information following the seminar, The Arc of Essex County will launch a "Residential Corner" column in the September edition of The Guardian.

This new column will provide families with information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, requirements for pursuing independent living with The Arc of Essex County, and open residential slots available for individuals interested in taking the next step. The column will be updated monthly to reflect current housing openings.

For additional information about The Arc of Essex County's residential services, [click here](#). To pursue an independent community living arrangement with The Arc of Essex County, or for specific enrollment requirements, please contact The Arc's Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso



The Shining Stars Debut

at Third Lyric Performing Arts Center Performance



Since late 2016, members of The Arc of Essex County's Day Programs have attended eight-week sessions of hip hop, vocal, music, and performing arts classes at West Orange's Lyric Performing Arts Center (PAC). The third round of classes wrapped in mid-July with a performance for friends and family on July 19th.

Music classes where participants learn to play various musical instruments have become popular since the start of the program. During the July performance, Day Program attendees and Lyric PAC staff were excited to unveil their musical creations and debut *The Shining Stars* - The Arc's first band featuring drummers, guitarists, and a keyboardist. During the performance, the band performed popular hits including Bruno Mars' "Just the Way You Are".

Other performances included hip hop dances as well as an original video creation by the performing arts students. The partnership between The Arc of Essex County and Lyric PAC will continue throughout the summer and fall.

Do you have a loved one interested in the performing arts and attending 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 Support Program Services, Melissa Soules, to learn how you can enroll - msoules@arcsex.org or (973) 535-1181 ext. 1262.

Stepping Stones Students Learn the Value of Money and Enjoy a Sweet Treat

Thanks once again to the generosity of The Candle Lighters, students from the Stepping Stones School and Camp Hope were treated to ice cream from the Towne Scoop Ice Cream Truck. During this annual visit, students and campers learn the value of money and how to make change while selecting their favorite frozen treat.

Established as a 501(c)3 organization in 1974, The Candle Lighters are dedicated to raising resources for The Arc of Essex County's unfunded and under-funded programs. Benefiting programs include Camp Hope, the Stepping Stones Early Intervention program, and recreation programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Uncorked & Uncapped Returns For Its Fourth Year Essex County's Must-Attend Event

Craft beer, wine, spirits, and food - what more could you want? All of these things and more will be

featured at The Arc of Essex County's 4th Annual Uncorked & Uncapped: Wine, Beer and Food Fest, an event sure to satisfy your every taste bud! Vendors include returning crowd favorites like Piattino, Verona Inn, Magnify Brewing Company, and A-List Wines to exciting, new vendors like McLoone's Boathouse, The Office, and Jersey Girl Brewing Company.

Besides all the delicious tastings, The Arc will once again host a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Prizes include unique experiences and tickets to professional sporting events.

A night filled with delicious food like meatball lollipops with herbed ricotta and made-to-order mini donuts can only be accompanied by the appropriate libations. NEW to the scene are craft cocktails from Tommyrotter Distillery, hard cider by Jersey Cider Works, and rum, whiskey, bourbon, and gin tastings thanks to Jersey Spirits Distilling Company.

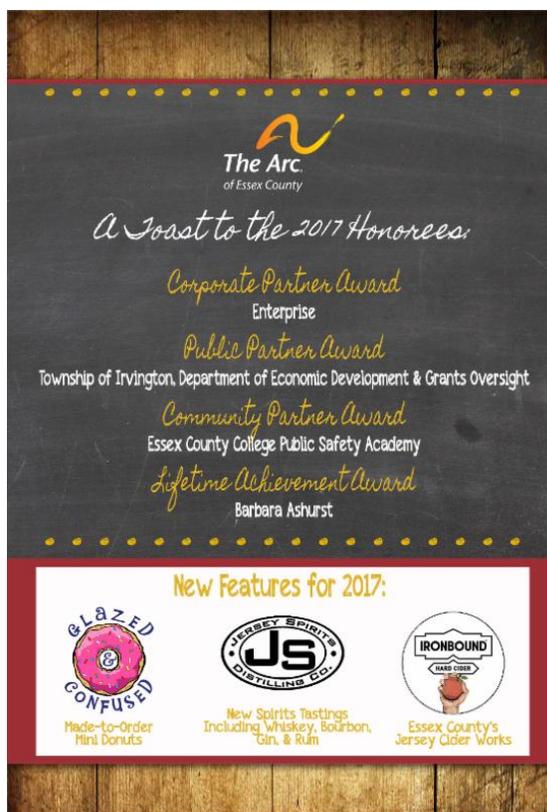
The Arc is proud to shine a light on the 2017 honorees who have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to The Arc and those we serve. 2017 Uncorked & Uncapped honorees include:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Barbara Ashurst, longtime Stepping Stones teacher
- **Corporate Partner Award:** Enterprise
- **Public Partner Award:** Township of Irvington, Department of Economic Development & Grants Oversight
- **Community Partner Award:** Essex County College Public Safety Academy

Uncorked & Uncapped 2017 will take place at The Westminster Hotel in Livingston on Thursday, September 28th. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$100.

For additional details, to view a full listing of wine, beer, spirits, and food vendors, and to purchase tickets for the buzzed-about Uncorked & Uncapped community event, visit the event website at www.uncorkedanduncapped.com.

For inquiries about becoming a vendor or sponsor, contact Heather Comstock at 973-535-1181 x 1224 or hcomstock@arcsex.org.



West Caldwell Group Home

Gets a Makeover

As part of The Arc of Essex County's ongoing capital improvement plan, the agency's West Caldwell group home recently received a curb appeal facelift. Originally acquired in 1995, the exterior of the Beechtree Road property received a complete fresh coat of paint utilizing funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program.

Improvements at the group home will continue with interior renovations including kitchen upgrades, bedroom and bathroom remodels, flooring replacement, and HVAC improvements. These projects, expected to begin in the fall, are made possible by reserve and replacement funds also available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program.

Are you or a family member interested in pursuing community living options with The Arc of Essex County? Check out The Arc's residential services brochure, [here](#). For questions or specific enrollment requirements, please contact The Arc's Director of Residential Service, Rebecca Lorusso via email at rlorusso@arcsex.org or by calling (973) 535-1181 ext. 1270.



Back-to-School Shopping On Your Mind?

Use AmazonSmile to Benefit The Arc!

The school year will be here before you know it, so why not get a head start on your shopping? Pens, pencils, notebooks, and more! Make it easier on yourself and buy all of your back-to-school essentials on Amazon.

But first - visit www.smile.amazon.com and select The Arc of Essex County as your preferred charity. **Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to The Arc of Essex County.** It's that simple and there is no cost to you! Every little bit counts when it comes to helping your favorite charitable organization.



Verona Knights of Columbus Names The Arc of Essex County

as a beneficiary of its Special Citizens Drive

On Thursday, July 27th, the Knights of Columbus Father James J. Kelly Council #3632 of Verona and Cedar Grove concluded its Special Citizens Drive with a check presentation ceremony. The Arc of Essex County was delighted to attend to accept a portion of the proceeds toward its unfunded and underfunded programs like Camp Hope at Stepping Stones Early Intervention.



The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in the United States in 1882 by Father Michael McGivney in Connecticut, it is named in honor of Christopher Columbus. The Arc of Essex County is grateful to the Knight of Columbus Father James J. Kelly Council #3632 and other chapters in Short Hills, East Hanover, Fairfield, Livingston, and Montclair for their commitment to the Special Citizens Drive and The Arc of Essex County.

The Arc Remembers

Frank Lodeserto and John Cook

Francesco "Frank" Lodeserto, was a long time attendee and resident of The Arc of Essex County, living in the Belmont group home since 1982 and attending a variety of day programs over the years (including Avenues, Caldwell CRC, and, most recently, Livingston CRC). Frank formed many lasting friendships, both at Belmont and through The Arc's Day Programs.

A real baby boomer, Frank enjoyed listening to 1950's music and watching I Love Lucy and the Honeymooners. Although very soft spoken, he could make someone's day with his infectious smile. Frank was very close with his family, including his sister, brother-in-law, and three nieces and nephews.

John Cook began his journey with The Arc nearly 40 years ago. John spent his early years in various developmental centers throughout the state, among them Vineland, New Lisbon and Woodbine. At one of those placements, he met Frank Mattson who would become his lifelong best friend and roommate at all the many homes he resided in with The Arc.

John was known as the "Marlboro Man", as he loved to smoke, had a rugged appearance, and loved horses and country music. John enjoyed taking a cab down to South Orange with Frank to spend the day having lunch and frequenting local thrift stores or garage sales. He would often come home with old TV's, radios, DVD's, and other items which he and Frank would use to decorate their extremely eclectic apartment. He would spend hours watching Walker Texas Ranger.

If you'd like to make a donation to The Arc of Essex County, in Frank or John's memory, please visit www.arcessex.org/donate. Please note who your donation is in memory of - at the Lodeserto family's request, all donations in memory of Frank will be designated to the Belmont group home. An acknowledgement of your tribute will be sent to Frank or John's respective family members.

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The Arc of Essex County

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