



# HERALD

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



Lauren Panarella

We are entering unprecedented economic times. As many of us are managing personal challenges, donations and financial contributions to nonprofits and charities have been significantly reduced. Budget constraints and stretched resources have served to strengthen our commitment to The Arc of Somerset County mission and the individuals we serve.

Recently we have focused more attention on cultivating relationships and enhancing partnerships with community organizations and corporations. Our collaborative relationships provide The Arc with invaluable resources, including—but not limited to—volunteer initiatives and enhancements to our resources and programs. I'd like to acknowledge just a few of our outstanding partners.

Thanks to donations from the following foundations and organizations, we have been able to build a new Health and Nursing Center for Camp Jotoni: Boye Foundation, sanofi-aventis, Schwallie Foundation, SJP Properties, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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## —CELEBRATING A LIFE OF CHOICES— Up Early and Off to Work

Many who choose to participate in Employment Services rise before the sun to shower and prepare for a busy workday. By 8 a.m., workers begin arriving at the four production centers in Somerset County. Contract Sales Manager Britt Blomgren is pleased to have so many projects waiting for them. "Our business partners

know that we have lots of skilled people on hand to complete high-volume projects, even if it's on short notice," he said. "Consumers bring their unique skills to work with them each day and take ownership of their projects, especially those that come in regularly."

"Naturally there is a learning curve," Britt admits, "but we reach maximum levels of production, usually within a day."



Cheryl Freeza (center), who lives with her family in Raritan, has worked at PitneyBowes for nearly 15 years.

Photos by Debbie Weisman



Latricher Morant arrives at the Branchburg Adult Training Center.

See "Celebrating a Life of Choices" on page 3

## A Message from Edmond A. Brown, President



Edmond A. Brown

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

As you know, our national economy is facing severe challenges. This translates into states receiving less money from the federal and local government entities to support vital programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Last year, the New Jersey DDD (Division of Developmental Disabilities), which is under the umbrella of the New Jersey DHS (Department of Human Services) funded 82.1 percent of our total revenue. This means that 17.9 percent of our total revenue needed to be obtained through tuition, fundraising, grant writing, corporate sponsors, and donations.

We have made it a priority to improve quality and service levels in our various programs which, in our case, translates into hiring more personnel. In order for us to continue to support programs like Camp Jotoni, Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, PACT (Parents and Children Together), Early Intervention, and Employment and Residential Services, we must rely on these alternate funding sources to offset rising costs.

We need help on many levels to achieve our goals. Here are several ways you can provide us with that help:

- Put pressure on our federal and state legislators to allocate funds to our causes
- Ask companies that you work for or do business with to donate money or group volunteer efforts

See President on page 10

## The Arc of Somerset County MISSION

The Arc of Somerset County supports persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in realizing their dreams by providing lifelong advocacy and quality services.\* We further support efforts towards the prevention of developmental disabilities.

\*The word families includes all family members, as well as friends, caregivers, guardians, and advocates.

### THE ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Arc of Somerset County  
141 South Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835  
Ph. 908-725-8544 Fax 908-704-0850

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www.aggieperilli.com

## "Tea With Honey" Fundraiser Supports Children's Programs



Tea With Honey Co-Chairs (left to right) Bridget Hansen, Alyson Binder, Lisa Dudzik, and Tara Abbott.

More than 160 people attended the 10th annual Tea with Honey fundraiser on February 8 at the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge, raising a net profit of nearly \$16,000. These earnings will help fund children's programs at the Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, Camp Jotoni, PACT (Parents and Children Together), and Family Support.

Children delighted in the presentation offered by Piccirillo Sciencetelling™, which uses science experiments to tell stories. Andrew Piccirillo allowed eager volunteers to participate in a science experiment featuring dry ice and other props.

Among the most popular silent auction items were tickets to the Bronx Zoo, a motorized Mini Cooper Ride-on Toy, a Razor Dirt Rocket Bike, and classic toys, such as My Little Pony and Play-Doh.

The raffle winner received a \$1,000 gift certificate to the spectacular Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, N.Y., a 265-room Victorian castle built on Lake Mohonk amidst acres of pristine forest and winding trails.

In honor of Valentine's Day, a "Gifts from the Heart Tree" was adorned with hearts decorated and signed by students at JDECC. Written on

each heart was a gift, such as Scholastic Books, and the associated cost. Each attendee who donated funds for the purchase of a gift received an animal trinket. The tree raised nearly \$1,000 in donations.

A special thank you to Chairpersons Alyson Binder, Lisa Dudzik, and Bridget Hansen, as well as Committee Members Claire Arrigan, Bern Barrett, Diana Butler, Carolyn Campione, Colleen Carolonza, Jodi Connors, Kim Cullen, Michele Fabbio, Lucy Hofert-Iselborn, Melissa Inzitari, Bridget Jaeger, Kathy Krell, Sharon Macak, Jen Mangini, Katie Mohan,

Lisa Olmstead, Ryan Parker, Janet Petrillo, Melissa Polito, Robin Prince, Beth Rosavear, Lynn Thompson, Colleen Viggiano, and Michelle Wester.



Andrew Piccirillo of Piccirillo Sciencetelling performs a science experiment with help from a member of his audience.

"We were very grateful for the support and guidance provided by long-time supporters, and happy to see so many new faces," said Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development. Thank you, all, from the entire Arc community.

## Support Services Changes Name to Clinical Services

Support Services changed its name to Clinical Services, reflecting the broad scope of services the department provides to participants of The Arc of Somerset County in the areas of physical and emotional wellness and positive social functioning.

# CELEBRATING A LIFE OF CHOICES

## Up Early and Off to Work

Continued from page 1

Whether the project consists of labeling bags, each to hold 50 pounds of Morton® Salt water softener, or placing 60,000 safety pins in holes on 15,000 Nike bibs for a promotion by Synergy Direct Marketing, employees learn as they go. And they become experts. Some are even contributing to the “Greening of America.”

Got2BeGreen.com, listed among Time.com’s 25 best blogs of 2009, featured employees working on the Stoelzle-Oberglas account. Stoelzle-Oberglas, L’Oréal, and The Arc were highlighted for replacing cardboard trays containing cosmetic bottles with reusable plastic to reduce unnecessary waste. Employees are charged with placing L’Oréal bottles in position for an automated labeling process.

Regardless of the nature of their work, employees thrive in the production center’s unique blend of autonomy and community. Some who have complementary styles end up working side-by-side for years. “As conscientious as employees are, a lot of socializing goes on,” Britt observed.

Britt, who has been with The Arc of Somerset County for nine years, revels in the lively hum of production. He knows



Photo by Debbie Weisman

Carol Berberich works on a project for Plexus Innovative Technologies.

that when the employees are contributing to the community, they feel good about themselves. The joy of one worker, who is 84-years-old, is reaching the established daily quota. At the end of every workday, she admits to feeling tired, but describes it as a “good tired.”

“For some, the paycheck is a motivating force,” Britt noted. “For others, it’s the camaraderie and teamwork. Above all, most employees derive their greatest reward from mastering a skill and knowing that a job has been well done.”

## Got2BeGreen.com Spotlights Arc Workers

**DID YOU KNOW...** that those working on a L’Oréal bottle project for Stoelzle-Oberglas were featured in Got2BeGreen, listed among Time.com’s top 25 blogs of 2009? Stoelzle-Oberglas and L’Oréal, with help from The Arc, are “Greening” production by replacing cardboard trays with reusable plastic trays to eliminate excessive waste. This project brings employees to the forefront of the Green movement.

**DID YOU KNOW...** that on a recent Friday, employees at all of the local production centers were busily engaged in a wide variety of projects: placing cosmetic bottles manufactured by Stoelzle-Oberglas in position for an automatic labeling process at L’Oréal; applying labels on plastic bags, each to hold 50 pounds of Morton® Salt water softener; packaging and applying wrap to components of Top Safety Product® first-aid kits; assembling repair kits and packaging components for Oticon; and assembling tube-and-connector sets for TRIMLINE Medical Products?

**DID YOU KNOW...** that we are always looking for work for employees at our production centers? If you need help with projects, please contact Britt Blomgren, Contract Sales Manager at 908-707-0920 or brittb@thearcofsomerset.org.



José Bermudez works on a Vitakraft® project.

**LEARN MORE...** The Arc of Somerset County employs more than 200 adults with developmental disabilities at four local production and training centers. Our diverse workforce provides services to an equally diverse customer base ranging from pharmaceutical, marketing and medical device companies to food service, pet products, financial services, hardware and sub-assembly, energy conservation, cosmetics, and direct mailing businesses.

Employment Services is committed to providing customers with a

reliable and cost-effective alternative to in-house assembly, packaging, mail handling, cleaning, and light office tasks. As an added benefit, companies that employ consumers increase the visibility of people with developmental disabilities within their community.



Carmen Candelaraia (seated) and Gloria Masucci enjoy a day at work.

Photos by Debbie Weisman

## Advocating to Improve Everyday Life

In January, members of “Advocates for Change” of The Arc of Somerset County, formerly known as the Self-Advocacy Group, elected the following officers: Phil Tellip as President; Evelyn Ramundo as Vice President; Dawn Prag as Secretary; Barbara Cornelius as Treasurer; and Brian O’Malley as Sergeant at Arms. The officers are presently visiting group homes and day programs to encourage other individuals with disabilities to participate in advocacy initiatives.

In April, Advocates for Change attended the semi-annual luncheon of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project of The Arc of New Jersey at L’Affaire in Mountainside. Among the issues on the agenda were the eradication of the words “retard” and “stupid” from public and

private discourse. Later this year, a symbolic shredding of the words will take place at the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) in Trenton.

Also on the agenda was an update of the Personal Rights of People with Disabilities (see box on next page) to protect those living in a community residence operated or paid for by the state. Included in the update is the right to say “no,” particularly to medications and travel.



Evelyn Ramundo

In April, Advocates for Change attended a Spring-Into-Action safety awareness conference in Union, as well as training on wheelchair accessibility and safety in the community. This spring, the group will also sponsor a car show to raise funds for members of Advocates for Change to attend The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project conference on September 12 in Somerset.

The mission of Advocates for Change is to encourage all people with disabilities to become more independent and productive: to know who they are, what they want, and what it will take to realize their potential. Advocates urge others to become knowledgeable about state and federal laws and how the government operates. Furthermore, they urge individuals to take the necessary first steps to pursue their dreams.

Sharing information and support is key. “Congratulations, Self-Advocates,” said Lauren Panarella, Executive Director. “We are counting on your leadership in advocacy initiatives.”



Standing, from left to right, are newly elected officers for Advocates for Change: Barbara Cornelius, Brian O’Malley, and Phil Tellip. Seated is Dawn Prag.

## Amy Blomgren Volunteers at Animal Shelter

Every Saturday, Amy Blomgren from the Commons Apartments in Bridgewater visits the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter to play with the cats living there. “I hold the cats and get them accustomed to being touched,” Amy explained. “I know that these cats don’t belong to me. I’m just helping them get adopted.”

## GOING OUT IN

### ENJOYING CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Over the winter months, residents enjoyed a variety of extracurricular activities, from dining out, to going to the movies, or participating in cooking classes at East Brunswick High School. Some took adult classes to hone up on basic skills such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. As for entertainment, highlights included the following:

- In January, residents from the Ardsley Group Home in Hillsborough visited the Villagers Theatre in Somerset to see the musical “Leader of the Pack.” The production was a celebration of the life and times of Ellie Greenwich, whose doo-wop songs (including “Doo Wah Diddy”) skyrocketed to the top of the pop charts in the early to mid-1960s. “Hardly

anyone moved throughout the entire performance,” reported Karen Stanchak, Individual Habilitation Program (IHP) Coordinator. “The residents were spellbound.”

- In early February, the Excursion Club sponsored a trip to the Camden Aquarium. Consumers and staff traveled in car pools to take advantage of a reduced group rate.



### Personal Rights of People with Disabilities

#### YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

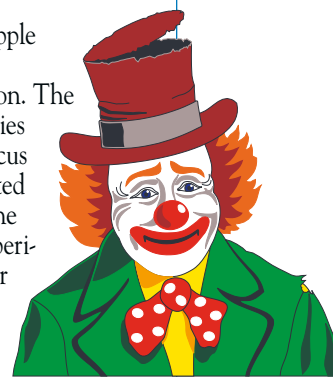
1. a safe, clean place to live, and a lifestyle similar to that of other New Jersey residents;
2. privacy and respect;
3. physical exercise and an opportunity to practice personal healthcare;
4. keep and use your own clothes, money and personal possessions; and store them in a secure place where no one else can use them;
5. associate with members of the opposite sex;
6. practice the religion of your choice, or choose not to practice any religion;
7. send and receive mail without it being opened or read by others, or, if you prefer, to receive assistance in reading or writing letters;
8. make or receive private phone calls during set times;
9. maintain a healthy diet;
10. have a voice in matters that affect you;
11. have visitors of your choice during set times;
12. work and receive payment commensurate to the type of work you do and how well you do it;
13. request release from a program or transfer to another program;
14. register and vote in all elections;
15. participate in developing a “Individual Habilitation Plan” (IHP) or Plan of Care that supports your needs and allows you to honor what is important to you;
16. have your IHP and all records about you kept private, unless you or your legal guardian gives someone else permission to see them;
17. freedom from restrictions of appropriate movement or behavior;
18. receive regular educational instruction, if you are between the ages of 3 and 21-years old, and participate in learning and recreational activities at any age;
19. receive special therapeutic services, if they are helpful to you;
20. receive guardianship services, if you are an adult and need them;
21. receive regular medical, dental, and nursing care to maintain good health, prompt treatment for health issues, and a “Preventive Health Program”— designed by your doctor—to prevent health issues from arising in the future;
22. be informed of the condition of your health, and be able to contact your doctor;
23. freedom from unnecessary medical tests or treatment;
24. freedom from physical restraints or isolation, unless in an emergency;
25. freedom from physical punishment.

## THE COMMUNITY

- In March, residents accepted an invitation from drama teachers to attend a dress rehearsal for the musical “Me and My Girl” at Somerville High School. The teachers wanted their students to become accustomed to performing before a live audience. Afterwards, the teachers asked students to mingle with the audience to develop a sensitivity and appreciation for people with developmental disabilities. Remarked Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, “The open rehearsal was a win-win for everyone involved. The students were able to play to an enthusiastic audience, and, by interacting with consumers before and after their performance, develop an acquaintance with individuals who have developmental disabilities. For their part, Arc residents experienced the thrill of not only seeing an exciting stage

performance, but witnessing activities that go on behind-the-scenes and socializing with the young stars.”

- Also in March, 50 residents attended the Big Apple Circus at the TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, compliments of the Big Apple Circus organization. The circus has a mission to invigorate the communities it serves with the joy and wonder of classical circus through a unique shared experience and dedicated outreach programs in healthcare facilities and the community. “The event created a wonderful experience for our folks,” said Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services. “And, we are deeply grateful to the generosity of the Big Apple Circus organization for making this possible.”



See *Enjoying Culture and Education* on page 6

# GOING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

*Enjoying Culture and Education, continued from page 5*

Remarked Chris, "With all of the responsibilities of work and home life, it's important for residents to have outside recreation, too. Residents don't take these pleasures for granted and are most appreciative."



*Mary Semambya, Manager of Steven Lane Group Home/South Street Supervised Apartments, celebrates with Lori Ellis (left) and Mary-Lou Servidio.*

## DINING AND DANCING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

About 30 residents participated in a Valentine's Day dinner dance at the Valley Park Adult Training Center on February 20. "It was a very festive occasion and a pleasant escape from the rigors of another work week," said Karen Stanchak, Individual Habilitation Program (IHP) Coordinator.

## RESIDENTS PREPARE AND SERVE SUNDAY BRUNCH

On the third Sunday of every month, a group of volunteers from the Excursion Club prepare and serve brunch to consumers and staff at the Valley Park Adult Training Center. Said Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, "This is a fun way for residents to improve their cooking skills while sharing a delicious meal and socializing with friends."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO BOWLERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY

Congratulations to the following athletes who participated in the Special Olympics New Jersey 2009 Central Bowling Sectionals on March 7 at the Strathmore Lanes in Matawan.



*Clifford Pierre*

Clifford Pierre placed 2nd; Robert Burgess, 3rd; Sharon Booker and Evelyn Ramundo, 4th; Tracey Crockett and Brian O'Malley, 5th; and Elliott Zuckerman, 6th.

Those who came in 2nd and 3rd went on to compete in the 2009 Spring Festival on March 29 at the La Martinique Lanes in Stratford, where Clifford and Robert tied for second! "Everyone already knew I was a champ," said a pleased Clifford Pierre.

"Way to go!" said Laura Maliani, Assistant Director of Residential Services. Laura attested to the pride bowlers take in mastering the game. "Participants look forward to the bowling tournaments all year," she reported.

Brian O'Malley wished his score was higher, but noted that he won a gold, two silver, and two bronze awards in



*Robert Burgess*

the Special Olympics swimming competition on March 5 at Raritan Valley Community College. Sharon Booker reported general satisfaction with her scores overall: 89 in the first game, 142 in the second, and 90 in the third.

Congratulations to all of the participants and winners!

## RESIDENTS HOLIDAY IN HATTERAS

From November 15 to 23, six residents of The Arc's group homes and apartments vacationed at a condo donated by the Laffoon family on the outer banks of Hatteras, N.C. While on holiday, residents gave each other nicknames like Bubba, Emma Lou, Petunia, and Sassafras, and decided to regard each other as family. "We joked around and laughed a lot," relayed Karen Stanchak, Individual Habilitation Program (IHP) Coordinator. "Barbara Blair of South Street Apartments said she



*Enjoying Cape Hatteras are, left to right, Lori Ellis, Martin Balzdinski, Patricia Gill, Barbara Blair, Jill Carlson, and Elliot Zuckerman.*

never laughed so hard in her life." Vacationing with Barbara were Jill Carlson, Patricia Gill, and Elliott Zuckerman from the Ardsley Group Home, Martin Balzdinski from the Claremont Group Home, and Lori Ellis from the Stevens Lane Group Home.

Staff members who accompanied Karen and the residents to Hatteras were Karen Sutphen, Assistant Manager of the Ardsley Group Home, and Glenn Wisner, Acting Manager of the Griggstown Group Home.

The group visited the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Manteo Aquarium, and National Memorial, where the Wright Brothers made the first successful airplane flight. The group also took their van on a ferry, then drove to the end of the island, where they marveled at the wild horses living there. Mostly, though, the residents enjoyed shopping in little stores, eating at different restaurants, and having their pictures taken. "Every year we take people who would otherwise not be able to afford a vacation," Karen said. "Residents had such a good time that they are already talking about going back to Hatteras."

The generous Laffoon family provided residents with more than the means for rest and rejuvenation: They provided them with memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you!

# THE COMMUNITY COMES TO THE ARC

## Students Volunteer for Residential Services

Residential Services is providing students from Raritan Valley Community College with opportunities for on-the-job experience. From March through May, eight students are spending approximately 20 hours each, volunteering their services in group homes and supervised apartments under the

tutelage of managers at The Arc of Somerset County. Said Chris Gunning, Director of Residential Services, "Not only is this a great outreach experience for the students, but it is a tremendous opportunity for residents to develop their social skills by interacting one-on-one with the volunteers."

## Rutgers Students Rally to Paint Old Stirling Group Home

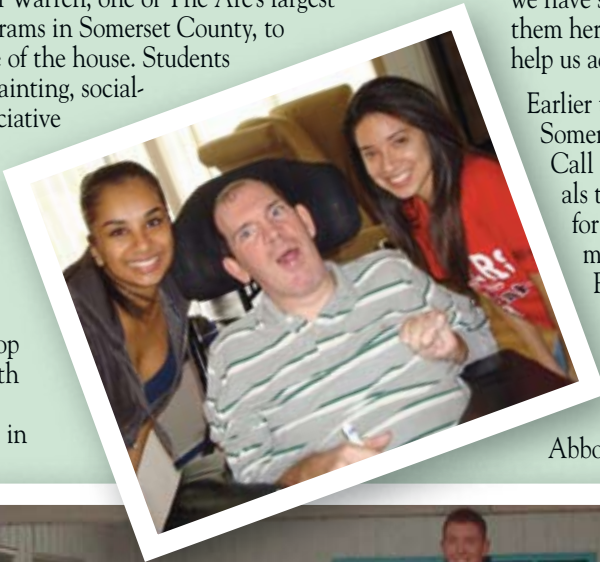
In March, Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, met with Rutgers University's Student Volunteer Council to appeal for community service assistance at The Arc of Somerset County. Within weeks, 45 students flocked to the Old Stirling Group Home in Warren, one of The Arc's largest residential programs in Somerset County, to paint the inside of the house. Students who were not painting, socialized with appreciative residents, most of whom use wheelchairs.

"What's exciting for me is that we had sought to develop partnerships with students at the various colleges in

the area," remarked Tara. "Students have so many innovative ideas. They are energetic and enthusiastic about giving back to the community. And we have so many opportunities for them here—issues that they can help us address."

Earlier this year, The Arc of Somerset County issued a Call to Young Professionals to form an advisory group for the promotion of the agency's mission and programs. Tara is hoping the Rutgers students will be inspired to get the advisory group started.

Young philanthropists and volunteers who are interested in supporting individuals who have developmental disabilities are encouraged to contact Tara Abbott at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.



## Grant Funds Van with Wheelchair Access

In October, The Arc of Somerset County received a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation to purchase a much-needed van valued at \$45,000. Jim Richart, Director of Finance, Gabe Trepiccione, Director of Maintenance Services, and Jason Schieb, Vehicle Fleet Manager, had applied for the grant in February 2006. The 2008 Chevrolet Uplander, which accommodates five people and a wheelchair, is being used by residents in the Stevens Lane Group Home in Martinsville. “The residents love it,” noted Jason. “The 2006 Chevy Impala we were using was nice, but it didn’t meet the needs of all of our residents, one of whom uses a wheelchair.”

In total, The Arc of Somerset County has a fleet of 52 vehicles, including cars and vans that are mini or passenger in size, and wheelchair accessible. “Many of our vans date back to 1999 and have more than 100,000 miles on them,” Jim remarked. “In any given year, our vehicles can cost The Arc up to \$80,000 to \$100,000 in repairs.”

As both the fleet and the residents age, Jason is anticipating the need for similar vehicles in the future. To help meet this need, Chris Corvino, Associate Executive Director, is applying



Photo by Debbie Weisman

Staff member Rachel Kuria assists Lori Ellis (center), as Mary-Lou Servidio looks on.

to the state for an additional grant, to cover the cost of another wheelchair-accessible van. “Some of our existing vehicles are becoming obsolete,” Jason observed. “New technology is helpful, but expensive. We do our best to keep The Arc’s fleet up-to-date.”

## Sampson G. Smith School Honors The Arc and Donates \$500

On March 2, the Sampson G. Smith Intermediate School in Somerset recognized The Arc of Somerset County and, in particular, Amy Burns, Assistant Manager of Employment Services, for advancing values that were advocated by Martin Luther King, such as diversity, integration, and service to others. The school also donated \$500! An awards presentation honoring The Arc followed a program of songs, dances, and poetry performed by 5th- and 6th-grade students.

“The award was completely unexpected,” said Amy, clearly delighted. “It inspires me to see that children are so eager to learn and help others. Everyone at the school was incredibly gracious and kind.”

Amy developed the SEEDS Program (Student Education and Experience for Disability Sensitivity) in 2008. Last fall, she presented the program to the entire student body—more than 1,000 5th- and 6th-graders—over a four-day period. The



Amy Burns, Assistant Manager of Employment Services

SEEDS Program is designed to plant seeds of understanding and cultivate sensitivity toward people who have disabilities that are developmental, physical, cognitive, and/or learning-related. “I ended up losing my voice,” Amy recalled. “But the kids still talk about it. When I walk down the hall, I can hear them say, ‘That’s her!’”

Bill Grippo, School Principal, and the Black History Month Committee, praised the SEEDS Program and The Arc of Somerset County for demonstrating the principles they would like to impart to their 5th- and 6th-grade students.

Noted Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, “The teachers praised Amy’s wonderful program and the impact it had on their

students. And they invited us back for next year.”

“Congratulations to everyone who supported Amy’s creativity and initiative,” she added. “And congratulations to Amy for her continued dedication to The Arc of Somerset County, our mission, and the community we serve.”



## The Arc Recognizes Business Partners



Photo by Hal Brown

From the February 27 Awards Ceremony, in the front row (left to right): Joe Scodari of Lincoln Services, Inc. (standing); Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli; Executive Director Lauren Panarella; Diana Sieberg of the Somerset County Business Partnership; Sandra Kiser of Ethicon; and Associate Executive Director Christopher Corvino. In the second row: Klaus Valsted and Tom Falvey of Oticon; Ken Kallish of Top Safety Products; Stuart Balch of VIA Data & Marketing Services; Rich Snieder of Top Safety Products; Ed Fasulo of Morton Salt; Richard Jacobson of TRIMLINE Medical Products; Adrian Manolache of Oticon; Fred Hessenthaler of Chubb & Son; Paul Gentz and Rich Moran of TRIMLINE Medical Products; Dave Desai of Stoelzle-Oberglas; and John Ryan of Synergy Direct Marketing, Inc.

On February 20 and 27, The Arc of Somerset County honored more than 50 business partners at receptions in Hillsborough and Branchburg, respectively. Business partners who employ consumers to meet their needs are helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families realize a dream of independence and productivity. “The disability community has a vital and competent group of individuals who are willing and ready to work,” said Christopher Corvino, Associate Executive Director. Added Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, “Our workers take pride in earning wages and paying taxes like everyone else.”

The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded business leaders with a Citation for supporting economic development in the community. Said Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli, “We applaud each one of you for all that you do.”

Tom Falvey, Vice President of Operations at Oticon, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of hearing aids and an Arc employer for more than 11 years, described working with The Arc as a positive experience. “We have a similar mission,” he said. “At Oticon, we believe in helping people live the life they want with the hearing they have. Similarly, The Arc assists individuals in achieving their highest potential.”

Employment Services trains and places qualified individuals in jobs at supermarkets, hospitals, retail stores, pharmaceutical firms, and other businesses—and provides hundreds of others with assembly, packaging, and other projects five days a week at four production centers throughout Somerset County. And over the winter, The Arc launched a secure, full-service shredding operation.

“We’ve worked with The Arc for several years, and appreciate its reliability and dependability,” said Fred Hessenthaler, Vice

President and Branch Manager of Chubb & Son, another business partner.

**Honorees included:** ACCSES NJ; AMC Theaters; American Jewelry Supply; Argyle Industries Inc.; Associated Mailing & Printing Services LLC; Bair Financial Services LLC; Baldwin & Obenauf, Inc.; Bernards Township Library; Brandywine Assisted Living at Middlebrook Crossing; Bridgewater Wholesalers, Inc.; Chubb & Son, Inc.; Cooperative Housing Corporation; Courier News; Delia Associates; The Discovery Orchestra; Ethicon, a Johnson & Johnson company; EWA; HealthCare Institute of New Jersey; Kings; Lincoln Services, Inc.; Local Yellow Pages, Inc.; Mara Shipping Inc.; Masters of Marketing Inc.; Micro Fasteners; Montgomery High School; Morton® Salt; New Jersey Water Supply Authority; Niagara Conservation; Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, a Johnson & Johnson company; Oticon; Pathmark® in Hillsborough; Pathmark® in Hopelawn; Pathmark® in Middlesex; Pathmark® in North Plainfield; PitneyBowes; Plexus Innovative Technologies; Professional Management Associates, LLC; Rapps Pharmacy; Raritan Valley Community College Foundation; Shell Packaging Corp.; ShopRite® of Branchburg; Somerset County Business Partnership; Somerset Medical Center; Somerset Patriots; Specified Technologies Inc.; Stoelzle-Oberglas; Stop&Shop® in Piscataway; Stop&Shop® in Raritan; Stop&Shop® in Somerset; Synergy Direct Marketing, Inc.; Target in Watchung; Tenpin Lanes; Top Safety Products®; TRIMLINE Medical Products Corporation; VIA Data & Marketing Services; Walmart in Whitehouse Station; and Wegmans in Bridgewater.

For a reliable and cost-effective alternative to in-house assembly, packaging, mail handling, cleaning, and light manufacturing or office tasks, please contact Jim O’Rourke at 908-707-1112, ext. 22, or [jimo@thearcofsomerset.org](mailto:jimo@thearcofsomerset.org).

## 2009 Gala Reception To Honor Brian W. Bosenberg

Plans are underway for the 2009 Arc Angel Gala Reception scheduled for November 6 at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills. The Arc of Somerset County is proud to announce this year's honoree: Brian W. Bosenberg, President of B.W. Bosenberg & Company, a landscape architectural firm specializing in residential, corporate and municipal landscape site planning for individuals, private developers, state agencies, corporations and institutions, with offices in Far Hills and Damariscotta, Maine. A Certified Landscape Architect in New Jersey, Registered Landscape Architect in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and Maine, Brian's landscape experience spans more than two decades. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University, and was awarded the Certificate of Honor for Excellence in the Study of Landscape Architecture from the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Brian W. Bosenberg, President of B.W. Bosenberg & Company, Co-Chair of the 2008 Arc Angel Gala

Noted Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, "Brian Bosenberg has been an ardent supporter of The Arc of Somerset County for many years. A past board member for more than ten years, and former First and Second Vice Presidents, his inspired leadership and advocacy for individuals with disabilities are examples for us all. Brian's sister, Donna, who has lived at the Union Avenue Apartments in Bridgewater for nearly two decades, is a cherished member of *The Arc Family*."

The Arc of Somerset County is also pleased to announce the return of Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli as Gala

emcee for the second consecutive year. Said Alfie, "Freeholder Ciattarelli has created opportunities for the population we serve and recognized our business partners for their initiatives. His support of individuals with disabilities benefits the entire community."

"While the economy may be uncertain, we have never been more certain about the bold steps needed to support The Arc's vital programs and services," Alfie added. "It is inspiring to witness the many contributions to our community by individuals with developmental disabilities, as a result of support from donors."

Attendees are encouraged to buy their sponsorships early: Chairman's Circle for \$10,000, Vice Chairman's Circle for \$7,500, Benefactors for \$5,000, and Sponsors for \$3,500. Tickets sell for \$175 per person and \$300 per couple.

Remarked Alfie, "This year's event will be less formal than black tie, but just as elegant." To sponsor the Gala Reception and/or purchase tickets, please call Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.



Somerset County Freeholder Jack M. Ciattarelli

Brian has helped promote the profession by serving as President of the NJ Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. As a frequent lecturer he has spoken in the Master Gardener series at Longwood Gardens, Holly House at Rutgers University, and garden clubs throughout the tri-state area.

*President, continued from page 1*

- Volunteer time by joining our board committees, fundraising events, or outreach activities
  - Become a member of The Arc of Somerset County
- The bottom line is that if our government makes cuts to our existing budget we may have to turn away those very people who need our services. Just imagine if your loved one had a developmental disability. Would you want them to be turned away in their time of need? If your answer is no or you feel strongly about this issue, please contact your local legislators with a personal request to ensure

that funding for services for our most vulnerable citizens will not be cut. Contact information for your legislator can be found on our website at: [www.thearcofsomerset.org](http://www.thearcofsomerset.org).

In addition, please feel free to contact Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, to discuss what you can do to help The Arc of Somerset County and make a difference for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Best regards,

*Edmond A. Brown*

President

*Executive Director, continued from page 1*

In March, we had the distinct honor and pleasure of formally acknowledging 57 business partners during two Business Partnership Awards Ceremonies. The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders presented participants with the additional acknowledgment of a Citation of Appreciation. (See "The Arc Awards Business Partners" on page 9.)

Also in March, The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities of The Robert Wood Johnson Medical School provided more than 50 employees from The Arc of Somerset County with a two-day training on "Person-Centered Thinking." This training supplied us with the knowledge and tools to ensure that our services

are aligned with The Arc's vision and mission. We look forward to attending additional training sessions in the future.

The strong and committed partnerships we share with local organizations, companies, and educational institutions allow us to continue building The Arc of Somerset County as we weather this economic storm.

Thanks to all for your ongoing support!

Best regards,

*Lauren Panarella*

Executive Director

## EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

### Earning Credentials, Appointments, and Promotions

Lauren Panarella, Executive Director, is proud to announce the following advanced educational degrees, appointments, and promotions earned by Arc staff members.

- Elizabeth Miranda-Hatto, Teacher Assistant at Jerry Davis Early Childhood Center, received a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential from the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., on November 1, 2008, in honor of her outstanding work with young children.
- Elaine Giannascoli, Nurse at The Arc of Somerset County, received a Masters of Science (MS) degree in human nutrition from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, on December 14, 2008.
- Mary Atchey, Director of Family Support, was appointed to the Advisory Council of Disability Issues for a one-year term by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders during a swearing-in ceremony at the Somerset County Courthouse on January 9.
- In Residential Services, Thelma Odoi was promoted from Acting Manager of the Commons Apartments in Bridgewater to Manager on January 12; on January 26, Marie Gallo was hired as

Manager of the Mobus Group Home and Katherine Piegdon was hired as Manager of the Respite Group Home; and on March 22, Adepeju (Peju) Adeoba was hired as Manager of the Cambridge Group Home.

- Beverly Eschbach was promoted from Manager of the Cambridge Group Home to Quality Management Coordinator, headquartered on the second floor of the Branchburg Adult Training Center, effective March 3. She is also a Certified CPR and First Aid Instructor. Beverly brings 14 years of experience working with individuals who have developmental disabilities, having served as a Direct Care staff member and Supportive Living Coordinator for Delta, formerly DRC (Developmental Resources Corporation) in Raritan.



*Mary Atchey, Director of Family Support*

Said Lauren, "Congratulations to all of those who have furthered their education and accepted new assignments or promotions. Your experience and enthusiasm will be a great asset to all of us at The Arc."



Where people with developmental disabilities learn to live their dreams.<sup>SM</sup>

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## Save the Date!

### CARING FOR MOTHERS AND OTHERS ON MAY 2

To honor those who care for children with disabilities, a day of pampering has been scheduled for May 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn, 195 Davidson Avenue, Somerset. Included will be free childcare, a buffet lunch, recreational activities, and time for relaxation and rejuvenation! Please note that registration is required. To register, or for more information, please contact Sharon McClellan, Director of Support Services, at 908-725-8544, ext. 635.



### STEP UP FOR THE ARC ON MAY 23

The 2009 Walkathon is scheduled for May 23 at Duke Island Park on Old York Road in Bridgewater. Registration begins at 10 a.m., followed by the walk at 11 a.m. Potential sponsors who would like to purchase space on The Arc of Somerset County T-shirt, and walkers who wish to organize teams, are invited

to contact Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 610. To register as a walker or create your own fundraising page, please visit [www.firstgiving.org/thearcofsomerset](http://www.firstgiving.org/thearcofsomerset).

### SCREENING OF BILL SACKTER STORY ON MAY 28

A screening of the feature-length documentary about Bill Sackter, a man with disabilities who escaped lifelong institutional confinement and went on to lead a fulfilling life in Iowa City, is scheduled for May 28 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Raritan Valley Community College, Route 28 and Lamington Road in North Branch. With the help of a young college student, Bill ended up running Wild Bill's Coffee Shop at the University of Iowa School of Social Work—forever changing society's perception of people with disabilities. Don't miss this inspirational documentary created by Emmy Award winning filmmaker Lane Wyrick. This event is free and open to the public; donations will be accepted. For more information, please call Alfie DeMoss, Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.

### ANNUAL EXPO AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON JUNE 22

This year's Annual Expo and Membership Meeting is scheduled for June 22 at the Bridgewater Manor on 1251 Route 202/206 in Bridgewater. The Expo will open at 5:15 p.m. with exhibits of each of The Arc's departments and programs. Following at 6:00 p.m. will be the membership meeting to summarize key initiatives and an awards ceremony to honor Arc consumers and partners. The meeting is open to the public at no charge. Refreshments will be provided. RSVPs are required. Please RSVP by June 12 to Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.

### CAMP JOTONI OPENS JULY 5

Applications from people with developmental disabilities, ages 5 through adult, for Camp Jotoni in Warren are now being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Campers are encouraged to sign up early. Beginning July 5 and 6, the Residential and Day Programs will run for six weeks, respectively. Also available are Action and Adventure Week and Travel Week. For information and applications, please contact Karina Alvarado at 908-725-8544, ext. 672.



### SOMERSET COUNTY PATRIOTS FUNDRAISER ON AUGUST 15

All proceeds from the Somerset Patriots baseball game on August 15 will be donated to The Arc of Somerset County. The game will be followed by an exciting fireworks display. Potential sponsors are invited to contact Tara Abbott, Assistant Director of Development, at 908-725-8544, ext. 610.

### 2009 ARC ANGEL GALA RECEPTION ON NOVEMBER 6

The 2009 Arc Angel Gala Reception is scheduled for November 6 at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Far Hills. (See "2009 Gala Reception To Honor Brian W. Bosenberg" on page 10.) To sponsor the Gala and/or purchase tickets, please call Alfie DeMoss at 908-725-8544, ext. 613.