



***Camp Jotoni has served as our partner over the 17 summers our son has attended summer camp there. The organization has made a huge difference to our family, ensuring we could have the time and space we need to care for the son and brother we all love so much.***

***“Stress on a marriage and on a family when you have a child with a disability is very overwhelming. If you don’t find time for one another, it makes it so difficult to develop the capacity to care for that child in partnership with your spouse and other children.***

***-Kate N., Mother of Paul N.***

## **BACKGROUND**

Until you’ve walked in the shoes of a family with a child or adult with an intellectual or developmental disability, it is hard to imagine the impact caregiving has on the fabric of that family’s life. Parents, siblings, and friends often feel overwhelmed by the unending level of care required to meet their special loved one’s needs. It can literally challenge a family’s ability to cope with life.

In New Jersey alone, 103,000 families care for a loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability. For families seeking an opportunity for a brief respite from their care giving, and their loved ones an opportunity for travel, growth and recreation, Camp Jotoni is the solution. Camp Jotoni offers a rewarding camping experience that accommodates each camper’s unique set of needs while providing families with a much-needed break from their care giving routine. Camp Jotoni offers tailored recreational-based programming, arts and crafts, field trips and opportunities for social interaction not readily available to this special population. For families seeking time to recharge, entrusting their child to Camp Jotoni assures them the peace of mind that can only come from the knowledge that camper safety and security is our highest priority.

Since 1979, The Arc of Somerset County has provided unwavering support to families with responsibility for providing a special level of care to loved ones, from birth through the senior years of life. We offer a wide range of programs and services to more than 1,400 children, adolescents and adults, and their families in 33 locations including 27 group homes and apartments, four employment centers, The Jerry Davis Center for Children and Families, and Camp Jotoni.

## **OUR CHALLENGE**

As comprehensive as our resources are, demand continues to outstrip our capacity. We know from our families that their number one need is for more respite care. Whether it is a Friday night out or a weekend get-away, the opportunity to experience a much-needed break from their 24-hour a day caregiving responsibilities can be highly restorative, if not transformative. It can mean the difference between the ability to maintain a supportive, stress-free approach to care of a child with a disability as well as to the needs of other family members **AND** reaching the breaking point. For many families in New Jersey, respite and/or camp are the **ONLY** services available to them to help with their disabled loved one.

**The demand for Camp is rapidly rising.** During the summers of 2016 and 2017, Camp Jotoni saw a 40% increase in enrollment, with the attendant need for medical, physical and behavioral care services. Our immediate goal is to residentially accommodate anyone, regardless of the nature or complexity of their disabilities by undertaking phased crucial upgrades to Camp Jotoni’s physical campus so that we will effectively meet the pressing need for greater respite care capacity.

## **WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING - OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

It is with the need for additional respite care services in mind that we envision our ability to assist our families in a manner that helps them meet their own responsibilities with grace and without a sense of limitation. We intend to accomplish this by focusing on initial and immediate needs that support the upgrade and expansion of Camp Jotoni's physical capacity to ensure we can accommodate all who require access to respite care services and to continue our summer offerings to our campers, ages 5 to 80 years old.

Camp Jotoni's cabins were constructed in the 1930's and their age is beginning to show. Significant upgrades to the cabins are necessary to meet the requirements for effective respite care.

We started the immediate phase of the Campaign in 2014, understanding that there was a tremendous amount of preliminary grounds, site and administrative work that would be required to pursue the ultimate goal of updating our cabins and other facilities. Work accomplished thus far includes:

- Secured a complete set of Architectural drawings for our Cabins and Lodge
- Addressed all of the engineering needs including (storm water management, grading of the land, electrical, plumbing and sewage plans, impervious coverage plan etc.)
- Assessed all potential environmental and wetlands barriers
- Developed a landscaping plan to preserve as many trees and natural features of the property
- Partnered with legal counsel to support site plan application
- Completed and submitted a site plan application to Warren Township, in which we received final approval!
- Initial Landscaping work including our memorial garden and several natural garden areas
- Preliminary work on more accessible and paved pathways throughout the Camp
- Completed a feasibility study to determine the fundraising capacity for our project
- Secured proposals/ estimates for the facility upgrades improvements
- Received letter of intent from a financial institution for financing

**AND NOW WE ARE POSITIONED TO BREAK GROUND...WITH YOUR HELP!**

### **THE DIFFERENCE YOU WILL MAKE**

With your help, we will expand our respite service options and frequency

To realize the vision of enhancing and modernizing Camp Jotoni, we are seeking \$450,000 in philanthropic support to underwrite the costs of our first camper cabin.

Through partnerships with individuals, foundations and businesses, families will have the newfound chance to experience rejuvenating free time that has eluded them for so long. In the process, our campers will have unfettered access to an enhanced Camp Jotoni that effectively meets their needs.

An investment in Camp Jotoni is a hand up to all those families seeking respite from the rigors of caring for a loved one with extensive intellectual or physical limitations. We hope you will join us in investing in our campers, our families and our future.