



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Arc of NJ Voices Support on Legislation

During the month of December, The Arc of New Jersey testified at the State House in support of multiple bills impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our organization supported legislation that would expand the background check procedure for staff employed by community providers. Our Executive Director Tom Baffuto spoke in favor of the bill when it went through the Assembly Human Services and Senate Budget Committees and it has since passed by the full Senate. In addition, The Arc of New Jersey supported legislation that would decrease the use of restraint techniques on students with disabilities. The bill was approved by the Assembly Health Committee and now awaits further action. Also in December, we supported a bill that would eliminate certain motor vehicle fees for non-profit organizations providing services to individuals with I/DD. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Hundreds Turn Out to Celebrate The Arc Bergen & Passaic



Chapter Hosts 70th Anniversary Event

Congratulations to The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties who celebrated their 70th anniversary on December 13. The anniversary celebration was held at the Venetian in Garfield and was a wonderful opportunity to highlight this outstanding milestone and recognize the founders of the organization and their vision for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Pictured from left to right: The Arc Bergen and Passaic's President Kathy Walsh, Chair Carolyn Hayer, Senior Vice President Alice Siegel and The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto.

Here's How You Can Catch Up On Recent Webinars

If you've missed one of the recent Equal Justice Talks Webinars, hosted by our Criminal Justice Advocacy Program (CJAP), then be sure to visit their [web site](#) to access the archives. Pictured from left to right: CJAP Director Jessica Oppenheim and Presenter Vincent J. Giardina who discussed ethical decisions and preventing the abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with I/DD during the November





Self-Advocates Keep in Shape with Healthy Lifestyles Activities & Events

Throughout the month of December, Self-Advocates were busy learning how to keep in shape and make healthy choices related to diet, with a number of Healthy Lifestyles Project (HLP) events. HLP is a program of The Arc of New Jersey that receives funding through a grant awarded by the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. Activities in December included rock climbing at Gravity Vault in Middletown, pictured top left. Also in December, Self-Advocates participated in an adaptive yoga session, pictured bottom left, followed by a stress management workshop. This included a tea tasting, guided meditation and aromatherapy. The event, held at The Arc of Union County, was an opportunity to learn about all the different ways of relieving stress. Interested in attending an upcoming HLP event hosted by The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project? Email Ashley at ARithey@arcnj.org.

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars

Webinar: Early Intervention and Preschool Services [Tuesday, January 9 at 6 pm](#)

An Early Intervention evaluation may be the first step to find out about a child's developmental strengths and needs - whether the child is losing previously acquired skills or just does not seem to be progressing in his/her development. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law, attendees will learn eligibility requirements, what children and their families are entitled to and how to prepare for transition from Early Intervention services.



Webinar: Equal Justice Talks: Counterfeit Deviance: What is it and What Does the Research Tell Us?

[Thursday, January 25 at 1 pm](#)

"Counterfeit Deviance" is a term that was coined twenty years ago to help explain sexually inappropriate behavior by a subgroup of people with developmental disabilities that can shed light on behavior that appears to be sexually deviant may not, in fact, be so. This one hour webinar will provide an overview of what this term means, it's relevance for families, caregivers, support providers and the criminal justice system, and other factors that are important to understanding this issue. This review will be provided by Dr. Jeffrey Allen, PhD, PSYHealth Associates, LLC.

Webinar: An Overview of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund [Tuesday, February 6 at 12 pm](#)

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund is a financial assistance program for New Jersey families whose children have an illness or condition. For those eligible, it reimburses families and guardians for expenses incurred not otherwise covered by health insurance or State or Federal programs.



Support the World's Largest Workplace Giving Campaign

Military and Federal employees are eligible to participate in the [2017 Combined Federal Campaign](#). This federal workplace giving tradition has raised more than \$8 billion since its beginning in 1961, making it the world's largest workplace giving campaign. The campaign runs through January 12. To pledge your workplace giving to The Arc of New Jersey, select The Arc of New Jersey (CFC #92741) from the charity list.

Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

- **Visit our website** to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- **Join our advocacy network** to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Visit our website

Join an Advocacy Network

The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | info@arcnj.org | www.arcnj.org

STAY CONNECTED

