

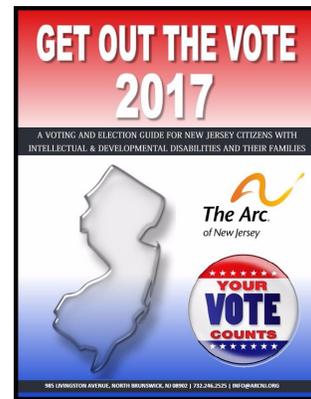


## Remember to Vote on Tues., Nov. 7

New Jersey will select a new Governor on Tuesday and for the next four years, this person will make a number of important decisions regarding supports and services for people with I/DD. Don't skip this opportunity to make your voice heard. If you haven't done so already, check out our annual Get Out The Vote Guide, which you can download by clicking the image to the right, and read through the candidate questionnaire as well as other resources and information about Election Day.

If you encounter disability-related voting problems on Tuesday, contact Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) at **800-922-7233** or **609-633-7106**. DRNJ will have attorneys available by telephone to answer your questions.

Not sure if you're registered to cast your ballot next week? [Click here](#) to find out.



## The Arc of New Jersey Raises Awareness Throughout October for National Disability Employment Month



In honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), The Arc of New Jersey highlighted individuals throughout October who are working in integrated community settings across the State. If you missed our series but are interested in viewing these highlights, click below.

[Week 1 - Todd Genshimer](#)

[Week 2 - David Schneider](#)

[Week 3 - Darren Creran](#)

[Week 4 - Kevin Archambault](#)

Also during NDEAM, Project HIRE Director Adam Kubler authored a letter to the editor about the importance of employment for people with I/DD. Check out his piece by

[clicking here](#). Finally, Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin, Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens and the Senior Executive Officer of Development & Marketing at The Arc of the US Trudy Jacobson, celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month at Prudential's National Headquarters in Newark earlier this month. Prudential's annual event, "Inclusion Drives Innovation," included a half day seminar in recognition of NDEAM and focused on having an inclusive workplace.

## The Arc Celebrates Awardees at Annual Dinner

The Arc of New Jersey honored self-advocates, legislators, businesses and all



those who better the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at our Awards Dinner on Monday, October 16, 2017. The event, held at the Imperia in Somerset, was a celebration of accomplishments of outstanding awardees. Check out photos from the event by [clicking here](#). For a full list of honorees, [click here](#).

## The Arc US Seeks Stories About Life in the Community

During the recent fights to save the Medicaid program from devastating cuts and fundamental restructuring, the home and community based services (HCBS) that individuals with disabilities and their families rely on were in greatest jeopardy. These services include everything from residential supports, day supports, and employment services, to personal attendant care. This is because under federal Medicaid law, HCBS are OPTIONAL while other services such as institutional services

are MANDATORY. So if the cuts included in the recent health care bills would have made it down to the state level, HCBS would have been the first thing on the chopping block. This new reality would have been devastating to individuals and families. Those HCBS dollars are the ones that, over the last several decades, have funded the desperately needed shift from institutional placements and segregated services for individuals with disabilities to a full life in their communities. We need to show that life in the community is possible for ALL! The best way to send that message is to share stories about why community matters in YOUR life, and what your life looks like in the community. To participate, [click here](#).



### The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Receives Humanitarian Award

Executive Director Tom Baffuto received the 2017 Humanitarian Award from ASAH on October 27, at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City. ASAH is a non-profit association of private schools and agencies serving students with disabilities. Tom was honored at the organization's annual conference. We congratulate Tom on this wonderful recognition!

### Executive Director of The Arc, Ocean County Chapter, Receives Ann Klein Award





The Arc, Ocean County Chapter Executive Director Laura Williams was honored last month with the 2017 Ann Klein Advocate Award from the Community Health Law Project. This is an outstanding achievement and a great acknowledgement of Laura's hard work and advocacy on behalf of people with I/DD and their families. We congratulate Laura on this outstanding honor.

## Thought You Should Know... Making a Gift to The Arc of NJ is Easy!

If you are 70 ½ and have an IRA, you can make a gift of your annual Required Minimum Distribution to The Arc in three easy steps,

1. Before December 31, 2017, advise your broker/ financial institution to gift your IRA required minimum distribution to The Arc.
2. Your broker or financial institution contacts The Arc.
3. You receive a heartfelt THANK YOU.

***It's that simple!***

For more information, contact 732-733-6013 or [cfortin@arcnj.org](mailto:cfortin@arcnj.org).



## Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

**Planning for Adult Life FREE Parent Forum and Opportunity Expo at New Road School of Somerset**  
**Saturday, November 4 at 9 am**

These events are held throughout the state and consists of a Parent Forum that includes workshops (45-60 minutes) on specific topics including support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expo features a variety of exhibitors including: state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support and recreation providers, additional information and referral services.



### **Webinar: Grandparents: Planning for Your Grandchild with Disabilities**

**[Tuesday, November 7 at 6 pm](#)**

A grandparent's support is invaluable to a family caring for a child with a disability. As the financial and legal issues facing the family change over time, grandparents can help bolster a long-term plan for the grandchild's care that will have long-lasting positive effects on an entire family.

Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law, attendees will learn how extended family can help plan financially for a loved one's future.

### **Workshop: The Sibling Experience**

**[Thursday, November 9 at 6:30 pm](#)**

In partnership with Supportive Initiatives for Brothers & Sisters in New Jersey (SIBS NJ) The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute presents this free workshop for families. This workshop will help parents understand and navigate the unique challenges and strengths that come with being a typically developing sibling of someone with an intellectual and developmental disability or mental health condition. This workshop will also help older siblings develop a better understanding of how to navigate their ever evolving role as a sib.

### **Raritan Valley Community College Tour (Somerset County)**

**[Saturday, November 11 at 10 am](#)**

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC); a partnership program of The Arc of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties and RVCC. You will have an opportunity to visit the campus and learn about the different aspects of a college experience. The Achievement Center is student centered, with a recommendation of core skills classes important to future success. Students and families will learn about the curriculum, support methods and individualization for each student's needs and goals.

### **Webinar Wednesday: Getting to Know What Disability Rights of New Jersey Assistive Technology is All About**

**[Wednesday, November 15 at 6 pm](#)**

The Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) serves as New Jersey's federally funded assistive technology project through a sub-contract with New Jersey's Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Its purpose is to assist individuals in overcoming barriers in the system and making assistive technology more accessible to individuals with disabilities throughout the state.

### **Webinar: Promoting Self-Advocacy Among Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

**[Tuesday, November 21 at 12 pm](#)**

Join us as we discuss the importance of self advocacy and planning for adult life.

### **Webinar: Doing the Right Thing: Making Ethical Decisions and Preventing the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disabilities**

**[Wednesday, November 29 at 1 pm](#)**

Professionals, Families and Advocates who work with people with developmental disabilities can exercise power and authority over people's lives. It is incumbent upon them to learn appropriate boundaries, exercise respect and understand limits of that power. Please join us for this one hour important discussion about the interplay of ethics and relationships when support providers and families work to ensure that the person they support receives appropriate services and is not subject to abuse, neglect or exploitation. Our speaker, Vincent Giardina, is a retired, long time employee with the Department of Human Services and brings a wealth of knowledge to this complex subject.

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## **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](#)

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STAY CONNECTED

