

the winds of change



The Arc has a new look and is “a-blowin” in new and exciting directions! The Arc of New Jersey is proud to unveil our new brand identity along with renewed energy and dedication to providing opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. You’ll see a dynamic new logo on all our communications and along with it a comprehensive new brand identity which will serve to unite affiliated chapters across the country under the banner **Achieve With Us.**

You’ll notice a bold color combination of orange and yellow chosen specifically because it is unique in the realm of nonprofit organizations and

can be exclusively associated with The Arc. This identity was developed over the course of a year that included in-depth research, professional brand consultants and a dedicated team of individuals (including an advisory group of chapter professionals) inside The Arc who understands our mission and goals.

With respect to our mission, the elements of the brand represent a strong, energetic organization working to provide opportunity for people with I/DD; opportunity for hope, opportunity for growth and opportunity for change. We know a thing or two about change as we have been on the front lines of a movement that has ushered in dramatic

are a-blowin’

changes in the law, in schools, in health care, in communities and in the lives of families and individuals.

As our new brand becomes widely recognized and promoted on a national level, our state and local chapters will benefit in terms of support from donors and volunteers and in the ease with which everyone will be able to identify with our mission. We invite you to **Achieve with us today!**

Are You Aware?

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Sound the trumpet and spread the word! Talk to friends and family, post it on your facebook page, send a letter to the editor of your local paper, find out what DD-aware happenings might be happening in *your* community, *your* schools, *your* library.

And as always, stay tuned to The Arc of New Jersey on the web at www.arcnj.org for the latest DD-related news and information.

And the winner is...



Closing out 2010 in one of our favorite ways, The Arc of New Jersey held its **Annual Awards Celebration and Dinner** in November. This yearly event is our chance to say a very big, very public **Thank You!** to the individuals and organizations that have 'gone the extra mile' in their efforts to support and empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, **The Arc of New Jersey's 2010 Award Recipients.**

Spirit of The Arc: **Daniel Altilio, President & CPO, United Way of Hudson County**
Legislator of the Year: **Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle**
Legislator of the Year: **Senator Robert Gordon**
Volunteer of the Year: **Marie Mortka**
Employer of the Year: **Sheraton Eatontown**
Professional of the Year: **Doretha Casey**
Bill Sackter Award: **Shirley Shafer**
Distinguished Community Service: **Bristol-Myers Squibb Helping Hands**
Community Media Excellence: **The Courier News**
Teacher of the Year: **Maureen Saporito**
Health Care Professional of the Year: **Ana Gomes, DO**
Martin Papish Award: **Gail Paradise**
Communicators' Award: **The Arc of Union Public Information Department**
Communicators' Award: **The Arc Gloucester Report**



Above: The Arc of NJ Executive Director Thomas Baffuto and Vice President Bruce Humphreys, with Self Advocate Shirley Shafer, winner of the Bill Sackter Award.

Below: Thomas Baffuto and Bruce Humphreys with Spirit of The Arc Award recipient, Daniel Altilio.



Above: Thomas Baffuto and Vice President Bruce Humphreys, with Marie Mortka, winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award.

25

That's how many impressive, successful years were celebrated in 2010 by the **New Jersey Coalition for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities**. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) prevention, lead poisoning prevention, brain injury prevention and other innovative health and safety initiatives have rounded out this program's statewide activities throughout its lifetime. And in 2011, just after the party hats were tucked away, the Coalition bid farewell to its Director of nearly fourteen of those 25 years, **Dr. Ann Wilson**, whose tireless efforts have moved the Coalition forward in new and exciting ways. *Thank you, Ann, for the time, talent and passion you have given to furthering the Prevention message!*

Progress is published three times per year and is the newsletter of **The Arc of New Jersey**
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Walter Bender, *President*
Thomas Baffuto, *Executive Director*
Diane Flynn, *Editor*

The Arc is committed to enhancing the quality of life of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, empowerment, education and prevention

Put a little **Spring** in your step!



Step Up For The Arc season is just around the corner, with the first local chapter event, in Essex County, scheduled for April 2, 2011.

The Annual Step Up For The Arc Walks are an ideal way to support the exceptional work being done by the local county chapters - not to mention a great opportunity to get out and have a great day of fun, socializing and stress-free exercise. For the most up-to-date information about the walkathon event happening in your local community, visit our special Walkathon web page at www.stepupforthearc.org.

Did You Know?

That donating stocks is a great way to support the advocacy efforts of The Arc of New Jersey?

To learn more, contact Celine Fortin at cfortin@arcnj.org or 732.246.2525, x25.

Earned Income Tax Credit: If you **EARN** it, **CLAIM** it!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families. Congress originally approved the tax credit legislation in 1975

in part to offset the burden of social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work. When EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund *to those who claim and qualify for the credit*.

To qualify, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they do not have a filing requirement. Please visit The Arc of NJ's Home Page at www.arcnj.org for more information.

the *family perspective*

The Arc of New Jersey conducted a six month survey from October, 2009 through March, 2010, hoping to get a clearer picture of *the family perspective*; to outreach families who may not have been familiar with The Arc and its Family Advocacy Program; and to gather some information on issues that are important to families.

The results of the **Family Needs Survey** were assembled and submitted to the Board of Directors on September 16, 2010, and represent a broad cross-section of participants and a truly fascinating collection of thoughts, perspectives, needs *and hopes*. If you would like to have a copy of the Family Needs Survey, please contact Family Advocacy Director Denbigh Shelton by email at dshelton@arcnj.org or by phone at 732.246.2525, x49.

the **Jersey Devil** meets **Mickey Mouse!**

In November, The Arc National Convention was held at the beautiful Hilton at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Several staff members and volunteers from The Arc of New Jersey and its local county chapters attended, where we learned lots more about the re-branding initiative. In addition, Barbara Coppens, President of the

New Jersey Statewide Self Advocacy Network and Board member of The Arc of New Jersey, was elected to serve on the National Board of Directors.

And finally, our very own Celine Fortin, Associate Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey, was presented with the National

Conference of Executives of The Arc's **Outstanding Professional Achievement Award**, a testament to the extraordinary work and dedication she brings to the organization and most especially, to New Jersey citizens living with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



The Arc

of New Jersey

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Achieve with us.

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For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

April 7, 2011

The Arc of New Jersey's Annual Meeting

The Arc of Monmouth, Tinton Falls, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

April 12, 2011

Equal Justice Conference

New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick, 8:30am - 3:30pm

April 30, 2011

Self-Advocacy Spring Into Action Luncheon

The Crowne Plaza, Monroe Township, 11:00am - 2:30pm

June 3, 2011

Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

The Westin Princeton, Princeton, 8:30am - 4:00pm



I WANT TO *Make A Difference!*

I'd like to be a part of The Arc of New Jersey's advocacy efforts by making a tax deductible contribution!

_____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$150.00 _____ Other

My Name is _____ My Email Address is _____

My Mailing Address _____

My check is enclosed and I am ***Making a Difference Today!***

Making A Difference!