



March 2016

The Arc of NJ to Host Sprout Film Festival



The Arc of New Jersey is thrilled to announce that we are hosting our first [Sprout Film Festival](#) on Saturday, June 4th in Piscataway, New Jersey. The Sprout Film Festival offers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to be on screen and behind the scenes in a wide range of video projects. Each film has a varied run-time and the genres can alternate from

comedy and drama to documentary-style. The goal of the Festival is to break down stereotypes and offer accurate portrayals of people with disabilities. The event will take place on the [Busch Campus at Rutgers University](#) and the auditorium is accessible for people with disabilities. Keep a look out for additional details as well as ticket-buying information in the very near future. Also, you can visit www.sproutnj.org for updates or send additional questions to Celine Fortin at Cfortin@arcnj.org. We hope to see you there!

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Mayo Takes the Reins at The Arc of Monmouth

This month we turn the Spotlight on Linda Mayo, the new Executive Director at The Arc of Monmouth County. Linda worked with people with I/DD in a number of capacities before taking over this Central Jersey Chapter. Read below to learn more about how she got here, as well as her vision for The Arc of Monmouth.

1. Can you tell us a little bit about your background and your previous work with people with I/DD?

I have been truly fortunate throughout my career to have been trained, taught and mentored by talented, smart and dedicated professionals in the field of disabilities. These exceptional people were extremely generous in sharing their knowledge and skills - whether it was at my first job as a camp counselor serving youth with special needs; my social work education at Rutgers or management training in New York University; grant writing and technical assistance work in New York City, or my service at Easter Seals New Jersey and at the national Easter Seals offices in Washington, D.C. and Chicago. My drive and passion for creating and sustaining organizational excellence was informed by my work as a direct service professional. I quickly learned



that I could only do my best work if I was supported by strong, thoughtful and innovative leaders

Budget News and Legislative Rundown

Governor Christie unveiled his proposed FY17 State Budget in February and The Arc of New Jersey is very happy to see that funding levels support a commitment to community living and the well-being of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Specifically, there is a big increase in the number of proposed housing vouchers and funding to address the Waiting List. The Governor's proposed State Budget also includes



money to assist community providers as they transition to the new fee-for-service system. Here is a detailed breakdown: (Click [here](#) to continue reading.)

'Step Up' for 2016 Walkathons



thoughtful and innovative leaders who provided the organizational resources required to advance the mission.

2. What attracted you to the position of Executive Director at The Arc of Monmouth?

As a nonprofit leader in the field of serving people with disabilities, I've had a long-standing respect for The Arc. I've loved its steadfast commitment to person-centered supports, self-determination, and strong advocacy for full community participation. So, last Fall, when I made the decision to return back to my home state of New Jersey it was serendipity that the executive director position had just been posted. I can unequivocally state that I am thrilled to be home, and even more thrilled to have joined The Arc of Monmouth!

To continue reading this month's Chapter Spotlight, [click here](#), and to learn more about the programs and supports offered at The Arc of Monmouth, be sure to visit their [web site](#).

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Celebrate Throughout the Month of March

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to promote awareness of the strengths and achievements of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Throughout the month of March, The Arc of New Jersey will celebrate this important occasion and we invite you to as well. Self-Advocates are heading down to the State House on the 14th to talk with legislators and to discuss the importance of people with I/DD in communities across New Jersey. During that event we will also reveal the winners of this year's Bulletin Board Contest. The theme for this year is, "We Can - Just Like You." For more information about DD Awareness as well as resources and ideas for how you can help celebrate this month, click [here](#).





Pictured Above: Walkers enjoying a beautiful day while supporting The Arc of Ocean County.

Now that March has arrived, spring is just a few weeks away and that means it's time to grab your favorite pair of sneakers and Step Up for The Arc 2016! Step Up For The Arc is an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by every county Chapter. It's a fun, healthy and easy way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Walks are being scheduled throughout the State so if you want to participate or make a donation at the local county level, be sure to check out the [Step Up web site](#) for additional details and information. Check back often as more dates will be added in the near future.

Step Up for The Arc Walk 2016 Schedule:

- **April 9 - [The Arc of Monmouth](#)**
- **April 16 - [The Arc of Essex](#)**
- **May 7 - [The Arc of Gloucester](#)**
- **May 14 - [The Arc of Middlesex](#)**
- **May 15 - [The Arc of Burlington](#)**
- **May 15 - [The Arc of Camden](#)**
- **May 22 - [SCARC](#)**
- **June 4 - [The Arc of Somerset](#)**
- **June 5 - [The Arc of Salem](#)**
- **June 5 - [The Arc of Bergen & Passaic](#)**

Helping Families Navigate Through the IEP Process

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute is proud to present: "An IEP Review with the Attorneys of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer. As you may know, navigating the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process can seem



Pictured Above: Self-Advocates were given a tour of the Assembly Chamber by Assemblyman Gusciora as part of our 2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month event at the State House.

The Arc of NJ Hosts Upcoming Webinars

Register today for these important information sessions:

Guardianship and Surrogate Decision-Making

Presented by Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer Attorneys at Law, and hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute, this webinar will discuss guardianship issues for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The issue of guardianship for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can be complex and confusing. Join us for this informative webinar which will discuss the various methods of "surrogate decision-making," how to balance a person's independence with a need for assistance, and how to make the best informed decision possible for your family member. The webinar will be presented by S. Paul Prior, Esq.

[Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm](#)

Webinar Wednesday Series: Accessing Natural Supports and Services

Everyone has the right to be involved in their community and there are many supports for people with disabilities to help them do just that. This webinar will discuss services for accessing the community and it will also include conversation on how to navigate some of the challenges associated with accessing services. This webinar is hosted by Planning for Adult Life.

[Wednesday, March 16 at 6 pm](#)

Equal Justice Talks: Navigating the Criminal Justice System for People with Developmental Disabilities

For families, direct support providers, self-advocates and anyone else who is looking for information and strategies to improve communication between criminal justice professionals and the developmental disability community, this webinar will provide you with a valuable overview. For members of the community who have disabilities, their loved ones and support providers, an interaction with law enforcement and the court system can be done safely and

(IEP) process can seem overwhelming, but that's where The Arc of New Family Institute can help. That's why we are offering regional IEP reviews for families who may have questions or concerns about their child's plan. Families will have an opportunity to sit down with an attorney from [Hinkle, Fingles, Prior, & Fischer](#) to review their child's IEP, ask questions and discuss any concerns they may have about their school district.

Space is limited and registration is required to attend. Families will receive a free 30-minute IEP review. Contact Kristina Tosti at (609) 896-4200 to reserve your time slot. Scheduled dates are as follows:

- **March 8 - The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties**
The Arc Center
17 Wallace Street, Elmwood Park, NJ, 07407
- **April 12 - The Arc of Atlantic County**
6550 Delilah Road, Suite 101,
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234,
Use main entrance door
- **May 4 - The Arc of Monmouth County**
1158 Wayside Road,
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(Please note: Families registered for the May 4 event will receive an hour long review session.)

Fill Your Calendar with these Upcoming Events

Do you like to plan ahead? If so, here are a number of upcoming events happening at The Arc of New Jersey that you can add to your calendar. We hope to see you there!

- **Friday, March 11, 2016** - Whether you're a case manager, transition coordinator, principal, school personnel or a member of the child study team, you will benefit from touring the Keep Achieving (Kach) at Brookdale Community College with The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute. The Arc of Monmouth County has collaborated with Brookdale Community College to address the needs of transitioning young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 18 - 26. Kach provides a variety of classroom and experiential learning at the college and in the community. The tour will take place from 10 am to 12 pm. Click [here](#) to register.



enforcement and the court system can be done safely and with positive results. Join us for some tips on communication strategies. *Jessica Oppenheim, Esq., Director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, will be the presenter for this one-hour overview.*

[Thursday, March 17 at 1 pm](#)

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

Protect Your Family & Help The Arc of NJ

If something were to unexpectedly happen to you tomorrow, would your family survive financially? This is a question that needs to be considered by every young couple raising a family. However, it is even more important for the parents of a child with a disability who may need a lifetime of support that goes beyond the limited benefits provided by the government.

Many people who have a child with a disability use life insurance to address this concern and may use it in conjunction with a special



needs trust to protect means-tested government benefits. But whether you have life insurance for that specific purpose or simply for the future welfare of your family, consider who will receive the benefit of the insurance if they predecease you. Or if you put it into a trust and there is later a remainder when the beneficiary passes away, where do you want that money to go?

Consider making a gift of that insurance policy by listing The Arc of New Jersey as a secondary beneficiary or as a remainder beneficiary of the trust. This type of gift does not deprive you or your family of the funds and it can be used to further protect the rights of people with disabilities through the important work of The Arc of New Jersey. For more information about making this type of gift, please contact Celine Fortin at 732.733.6013 or cfortin@arcnj.org. You can also visit our new [Planned Giving Webpage](#).

Upcoming DDD Webinars

Live Supports Program Q&A

The Live Supports Program Q&A Sessions provide an opportunity for individuals, families, support coordination agencies, and providers to ask questions, share issues, and get the latest news related to the Division of



Pictured above: Families visit Brookdale Community College with The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute.

- **Saturday, April 2, 2016** - The [11th Annual NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Spring into Action Luncheon](#) will take place at the Imperia in Somerset from 10 am to 2 pm. Space is limited so we encourage you to register early. The registration deadline is March 18, 2016. For further information, contact Dennis Donatelli at 732-743-8345.
- **Friday June 3, 2016** - The Arc of New Jersey's [27th Annual Conference on Medical Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) will be held at the Westin Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey. Conference brochures will be available soon. For further information, contact Jenn Lynch at 732-784-6397.



Pictured Above: Speakers at the 2015 Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference.

- Our **Planning for Adult Life Program** will host five **Opportunity Expos** in different locations across the state between March and June. During the Expos, you will hear from experienced parents and professionals on the following topics: support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expos will also feature a variety of exhibitors that will include state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support and recreation providers, and additional information and referral services. For the specific dates and times, and to register for an Opportunity Expo, [click here](#).

and get the latest news related to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Supports Program with the Director, Supports Program and Employment Services. In addition to answering questions related to the Supports Program, these live webinars will be utilized to gather feedback and input on Cohort 2 and ensure that common issues are addressed along the way. Available dates are as follows:

- **Friday, March 4, 2016**
- **Friday, March 11, 2016**
- **Thursday, March 17, 2016**
- **Thursday, March 24, 2016**

All sessions are scheduled from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM and participants are welcome and encouraged to attend as many dates as they would like. To register, click [here](#).

Help Us Keep The Arc of NJ Strong!

The Arc of New Jersey relies on charitable contributions to continue our strong advocacy. Please help keep our efforts moving forward by making a donation to The Arc of New Jersey.

There are several ways you can help us:

1. Make a donation at www.arcnj.org.
2. If your company has a matching gift program, be sure to register your gift so you can double your contribution.
3. Make your donation count all year long by becoming a monthly Sustainer. All you have to do is note on your online donation that you would like it to be a monthly contribution.
4. Donate a vehicle by calling (877) 272-2270.
5. Shop through Amazon Smile. Simply select The Arc of New Jersey from the charities at [Amazon Smile](#), and shop like you always do at Amazon.

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