



DHS Comm. Celebrates DSPs Recognition Week

Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson and Jonathan Seifried Acting Assistant Commissioner visited The Arc of Somerset last month to celebrate Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. The Commissioner spoke with many individuals with I/DD who receive services from The Arc of Somerset and talked with staff and DSPs as she toured the center. Commissioner Johnson bestowed a proclamation from Governor Murphy declaring the week of September 9-15, 2018 in honor of DSPs. To read the proclamation [click here](#). The event also included remarks from The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto and The Arc of Somerset's Executive Director Lauren Frary as well as a DSP and an individual who attends The Arc of Somerset program.



One of the program participants speaks about his experiences with DSPs.



The Commissioner with The Arc of Somerset's Executive Director, Lauren Frary and a program participant.



DSP Rashad Watkins receives the Governor's Proclamation from Commissioner Johnson.

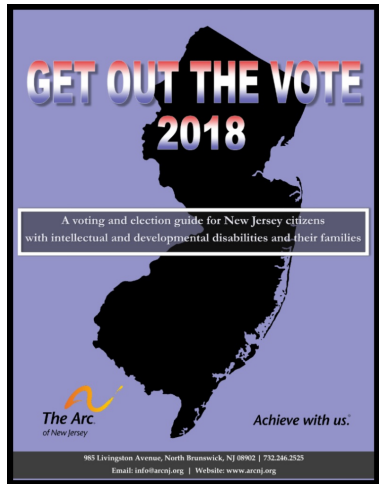
Hundreds of Self-Advocates Attend Conference

More than 300 Self-Advocates from across New Jersey attended the 35th Annual Self-Advocacy Fall Conference on Saturday, September 29, to learn more about the issues they care about. The event included opening remarks from Carole Johnson, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services and Claire Manning, Director of Advocacy and Mobilization for The Arc US. In addition, the conference included workshops on transportation, supported employment, healthy

relationships and dating, support coordination and independent living skills and emergency preparedness. The event was held at the Westin Princeton in Forrestal Village. Pictured here is Evelyn Ramundo, President of the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Advisory Board, addressing conference attendees this past Saturday.



Get Out the Vote Guide Now Available!



This November, New Jersey residents will head to the polls to elect a US Senator and a member of Congress who will represent your local district. Before you head to the polls, make sure you check out our 2018 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide. This publication is a great resource for families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Inside you'll find important dates, information on how to register to vote and the process for voting by mail, as well as external resources you should explore in order to learn more. The Guide is now complete so click the photo to the left to download your copy today. Also, check out our [GOTV website](#) in advance of Election Day (November 6, 2018), for other voting resources and information.

Quick Voting Facts

- Voting starts at 6 am and ends at 8 pm
- Tuesday, October 16th is the registration deadline to vote
- This year's ballot asks voters to decide on a public question

The Arc to Celebrate Honorees at Awards Dinner

The Arc of New Jersey is excited to honor and celebrate an outstanding group of individuals and organizations who their efforts on behalf of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families at our Annual Awards Dinner on October 18. The event, which will be held at The Imperia in Somerset, will include a cocktail reception followed by dinner and the awards presentation. The full list of honorees is as follows:

- **President's Award - Primepoint LLC**
- **Spirit of The Arc Award - Carmen Bannon**
- **Legislator of the Year - Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin**
- **Professional of the Year - Melissa Soules**
- **Healthcare Professional of the Year - Linda O'Connell**
- **Volunteer of the Year - Shuffle**
- **Employer of the Year - Green Vision, Inc.**
- **Bill Sackter Award - James Storti**
- **Distinguished Community Service - Heather Childers**
- **Community Inclusion Award - Special Needs Alliance for Pride (SNAP)**
- **Martin Papish Award - Alice Siegel**

For additional information, as well as sponsor and ad journal opportunities, [click here](#). You can also purchase a ticket for the event by [clicking here](#).



Pictured Above: The Arc of New Jersey Board President Joanne Bergin with 2017 award winner Christopher Corrigan and The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto.

SCARC Hosts Annual Pat Romano Sr. Golf Classic



Congratulations to SCARC on their 2018 Pat Romano Sr. Memorial Golf Classic. Each year the Chapter hosts the event in honor of the memory of Pat Romano, a dedicated SCARC supporter, board member, and advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. The event was held on Wednesday, September 19th at the Newton Country Club Farmstead Golf and Country Club. Pictured left is SCARC CEO Richard Lecher, The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Lakeland Bank Executive Vice President

David S. Yanagisawa, and State Senator Steve Oroho who represents Sussex County.

Chapters Step Up For The Arc 2018

The Step Up For The Arc walks are 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. Make sure to [check out this page](#) for details about an upcoming walk near you! The Arc of Hunterdon's Arc Family Picnic and Walk-A-Thon was held on Saturday, September 15th at Alexandria Township Park. Pictured here is The Arc of New Jersey's First Vice President Kevin Sturges with members of his family and The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto. The Arc of Ocean and The Arc of Gloucester will host their walks on Oct. 13th and The Arc of Atlantic will host their walk on Oct. 20th. [Click here](#) for locations and start times.



Rutgers Healthcare Appreciation Day to Benefit The Arc

October 6th is Healthcare Appreciation day at Highpoint.com Stadium as Rutgers Football team takes on The University of Illinois. All members, employees, family & friends of The Arc of New Jersey are invited to come out and enjoy a great day and by attending this game you will also be supporting The Arc of New Jersey. That's because a portion of all the proceeds will be donated back to our organization to help support Autism Awareness. [Click here](#) for more information and to buy tickets to the game.

A screenshot of a website announcement for "Healthcare Appreciation Day: Arc of New Jersey". The text includes: "High Point Solutions Stadium, 1 Scarlet Knight Way Piscataway Township, New Jersey 08854, Sat, Oct 6 TBA, From \$35". It also states: "October 6th is Healthcare Appreciation day here at Highpoint.com Stadium as Rutgers Football team takes on The University of Illinois". A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to The Arc of New Jersey to help support Autism Awareness. To purchase tickets, simply select the "Buy Tickets" button below. Upon your purchase you will be able to send out your link to all your friends and families. GO RUI. The image also shows a Rutgers football player in a red uniform.

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

**College Tour: Turning Point at Bergen Community College
Friday, October 5, at 11 am**

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of The Turning

Point Program at Bergen Community College. The Turning Point Program is a two-year post-secondary experience for young adults with intellectual disabilities interested in continuing their education. The program utilizes student-centered planning, enhanced academic and peer mentoring support to provide an inclusive college experience. Areas of study include: career skill development and vocational opportunities, academic enrichment, increased ability for self-advocacy and independence, Social and recreational opportunities. During the tour perspective students will have an opportunity to visit the campus and learn about the different aspects of a college experience while families will learn about the Program and its educational, vocational and campus life supports.



Free Parent Forum and Opportunity Expo

[Saturday, October 6, at 9 am and Saturday, October 27th at 9 am](#)

These events are held throughout the state and consist 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, recreation providers, and information & referral services. Families will have the chance to learn more about the resources in their communities and will also have the opportunity to speak with and interview potential service providers.

Free Sibshop: For Siblings of Children with Special Needs

[Saturday, October 6, at 10 am](#)

Sibshops provide brothers and sisters of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to share and connect with peers who "get it." Attending a Sibshop allows siblings a chance to meet one another in a relaxed setting. Children will have the opportunity to participate in fun activities such as "Dear Aunt Blabby," and group discussions designed to help children express the joys and concerns of being a sibling of a child with special needs. Sibshops acknowledge that brothers and sisters of people with special needs, like their parents, may need support. Sibshop events are free.

Webinar: Inclusion works! With Fred Buglione from NJCIE

[Wednesday, October 10, at 6 pm](#)

Please join us as we talk about inclusion with Fred Buglione, Executive Director at The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE). Fred will give us an overview of what inclusion is and will offer tips and information that will ensure a more inclusive placement for your child. NJCIE is the state's only organization solely dedicated to helping families and schools in their quest to create neighborhood schools where children with disabilities and learning differences are welcomed as classmates, valued as learners and empowered to succeed.

Lunch & Learn Webinar Safety Series: Emergency Preparedness for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

[Wednesday, October 17, at 12 pm](#)

The importance of preparing for disasters is universal. Emergencies can happen anywhere and everyone must take action to prepare for something unexpected. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for being prepared when a loved one has an intellectual and developmental disability. Attendees will learn what to consider when planning for a disaster and what emergency shelters have in place to support people with disabilities.

Supported Employment 101: Learning About the World of Work for Students with Disabilities

[Wednesday, October 17, at 6 pm](#)

Join The Arc of NJ's Planning For Adult Life Program as we explore the world of work for individuals with disabilities. Wesley Anderson, Director, Training and Consultation Services, will discuss the basics of supported employment including what it is, how individuals are supported, options available, and what steps high school students can take to prepare for employment.

Webinar: Understanding Trauma Informed Care for People with I/DD

[Thursday, October 18, at 2 pm](#)

Research is overwhelming that it is imperative to consider trauma when working with people with I/DD. Karyn Harvey will review the topic and provide invaluable insights for anyone working with this population.

Free IEP Reviews with the Attorneys of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law

[Thursday, October 25, at 6 pm](#)

Navigating through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process can seem overwhelming, but that's where The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute can help. 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 or Elizabeth Piston at (609) 896-4200 to reserve your time slot.**

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

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