



The Arc of NJ Celebrates 70 Years of Advocacy!

More than 200 people came out to help The Arc of New Jersey celebrate 70 years of service to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Thursday, November 21st at the Imperia in Somerset. Incorporated in 1949, The Arc of NJ was started by families of individuals with I/DD with the goal of establishing a statewide organization committed to improving the quality of life of children and adults with I/DD, and their families. The event included an award presentation (honorees pictured right) and a number of dignitaries and honored guests spoke throughout the evening to mark this important milestone. Speakers included: Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr., Department of Human Services



Commissioner Carole Johnson, Ombudsman for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families Paul Aronsohn, The Arc US Executive Director Peter Berns and The Arc US Board President Fred Misilo. To read more about The Arc of NJ's 70 years of advocacy and service to the I/DD community click [here](#). **Pictured Above: Back row from left to right: Executive Director Tom Baffuto, with Award Winners Todd Polyniak, Ralph Mastrangelo, Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr., and Paul Prior. Front row from left to right: The Arc of NJ's Board President Joanne Bergin with award winners Linda Lucas and Evelyn Ramundo. To view additional photos from the event, [click here](#).**

The Arc of NJ Weighs in with Legislators, Decision-Makers Throughout November





Family members speak with Senator Turner at the State House in Trenton during National Family Caregivers Month.

The Arc of New Jersey advocates with Dental Director Dr. Hayes and State Dental Hygienist Yvonne Mikalopas at the Department of Health.

As part of National Family Caregivers Month, a group of families visited the State House on November 18, and spoke with more than 30 legislators about caring for a loved one with I/DD, and the challenges they face due to the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce crisis. This annual event gives law makers insight into a family's life and helps elevate the issues we care about. Legislators heard first-hand from families about how DSPs support people with I/DD, how important DSPs are to individuals and families, and the impact felt by individuals and their families when there is so much turnover in the workforce. **To continue reading, [click here.](#)**



Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto speak at a press conference in Trenton in support of increased wages for Direct Support Professionals.



The Arc/Morris and The Arc of NJ meet with Congresswoman Sherrill's staff about issues impacting people with I/DD and their families.

Chapters Mark Important Milestones, Celebrate



Local County Chapters of The Arc of New Jersey hosted wonderful events throughout the month of November. On the first of the month, The Arc of Hudson County held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new location of their headquarters (pictured top left).



The Chapter can now be found on Bergenline Avenue in Union City. Also on the first of the month, The Arc of Somerset County held their "Galloping into the Future" Arc Angel Gala at the Bridgewater Marriott (pictured top right). And finally, on November 15, The Arc of Mercer celebrated their 70th Anniversary at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, (pictured bottom left).

Take a College Tour With Us!



Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families!

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute invites you and your student to tour the different college programs offered throughout the state for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Fall 2019 Tour Dates (More dates being added!)

Thursday, December 5: Adult Center for Transition College Tour (Gloucester County)

Thursday, December 12: Turning Point Program at Bergen Community College Tour

Friday, December 13: LACE (Learning At College Experience) at Sussex County Community College - Information Session

[Click here](#) to see more information and to register for one of the tours. These events are **FREE** but you need to register to attend.

Webinars & Events Throughout November!



Register today for one of the many events hosted by The Arc of New Jersey. Looking for more? Check out our [calendar](#).

Webinar: Understand the Affordable Care Act in New Jersey Monday, December 2 at 12 pm

Health insurance is vital to our health and self-care. As a caregiver are you covered? This webinar will help caregivers understand the Affordable Care Act (ACA or also known as Obama Care) and New Jersey's state requirements. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Mariela Santana, Director of ACA Enrollment at New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund, this webinar will also discuss ACA health insurance options, health insurance lingo and what is covered under your ACA health care plan.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Lifespan Advocacy Issues for Children and Adults with Autism Tuesday, December 10 at 12 pm

This webinar will provide an overview of things caregivers should be aware of as their loved one with autism enters different stages of life..

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: NJ State Protections for Workers Caring for a Loved One with an Intellectual & Developmental Disability Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm

When serious illness, family emergencies or other important appointments take place, many workers face a painful choice between caring for children, siblings, parents, spouses and partners or showing up for work and earning a day's pay. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by staff from the New Jersey Time To Care Coalition, this webinar will discuss the various programs and protections in place to help support New Jersey's working caregivers.

[Register here!](#)

Free IEP Review at The Arc of Cape May Wednesday, December 11 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 FREE 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, 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.**

Use Your Amazon App to Support The Arc of New Jersey

If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support The Arc of New Jersey, Inc. in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
3. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon shopping App, update your App. Click [here](#) for instructions.



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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DONATE NOW!

