



December 2016

Adam Kubler Takes Over as New Project HIRE Director



Adam Kubler started as the Director of Project HIRE in mid October.

program and we look forward to seeing Project HIRE grow in the years to come.

Congratulations to Adam Kubler who was named as the Director of The Arc of New Jersey's Project HIRE in October. Adam has been with Project HIRE for 2 years, first as an Employment Training Specialist and then as a specialized job developer. Under Adam's direction, Project HIRE's services for individuals who are blind and visually impaired grew exponentially. He brings a great deal of enthusiasm and ideas for new initiatives to the

Support Critical Caregivers by Joining Coalition

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are valuable and critical partners in the support of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. New

Jersey, like many states across the country, is facing a serious DSP workforce crisis. Low wages have made it very difficult to recruit, hire and retain qualified DSPs to

UPDATE FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Families Highlight Caregiving Challenges at State House



Assemblyman Gordon Johnson presents a joint Senate/Assembly resolution to family caregivers on November 14th

To highlight and celebrate November as National Family Caregivers Month, family caregivers and The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute visited the State House the week of November 14th. Family members spoke with more than 40 legislators about the challenges associated with caring for a loved one with I/DD. This event gave families the opportunity to speak with elected officials about the importance of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in the lives of their loved ones, and the growing DSP workforce crisis. Thank you to Assemblyman Gordon Johnson for presenting our families with a joint Senate/Assembly resolution recognizing family caregivers and this important awareness month. To see more pictures from the annual Family Caregiver event, [click here](#).

to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across New Jersey.

To address the growing crisis, the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage: Valuing Workers Who Support People with Developmental Disabilities, has been formed. The Coalition is made up of a cross-section of stakeholders who are concerned about the current workforce crisis facing those who rely on DSPs to facilitate community based lives.

Please join the Coalition and help us achieve our goal to increase the hourly wages of DSPs.

Sign Up Now!

In the materials below, you will find a description of the Coalition, our purpose and member responsibilities. Please take a minute to read these materials as we urge you to join the Coalition and support this important cause. Once we have your agreement to participate in the Coalition we will communicate with you about next steps and ongoing activities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please reach out to [Thomas Baffuto](#), Coalition Chair.

[One page Fact Sheet about the Coalition](#)
[Sign-up Form](#)

DD Awareness Month is Just Around the Corner



One of the 2015 awareness month contest winning schools

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month and plans are already underway for The Arc of New Jersey's awareness month activities. This year's theme is **"Developmental Disabilities Awareness: It Matters To Me"**.

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and to educate others on the spectrum about the abilities people with I/DD possess. For example, some disabilities are visible (a person who uses a wheelchair or crutches to ambulate), while other disabilities may not be easily recognized or seen by the eye (cognitive impairments that affect the way a person speaks, learns, or interacts with others). For more information about our Statehouse event in March, our annual contest for students in grades 3-12 or our family ambassador activities, [click here](#).

The Arc of NJ to Bestow Honors at Annual Dinner December 6



Pictured above: Members of the Community Living Education Project who were honored at the 2015 Awards Dinner.

It's not too late to get your tickets to The Arc of New Jersey's 2016 Annual Awards Dinner taking place on Tuesday, December 6th at 6 pm at the Imperia in Somerset New Jersey.

Our wonderful honorees include:

It's Not Too Early to Register for Spring Parent Information Expos

The Planning for Adult Life program will once again host FREE Parent Forum and Opportunity Expos, starting in March

2017! These events, which focus on the needs of youth age 16-21 with I/DD as they transition to adult life, are held throughout the state. They 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 and recreation providers, additional information and referral services. Families will have an opportunity to be introduced to opportunities in their area as well as interview potential services to hire. 2017 dates include:



March 4 in Newark
 April 8 in Lawrenceville
 May 20 in Clifton
 June 3 in Camden

[Click here](#) to see more information and to register.
 Space fills quickly so register today!

- **President's Award - The Special Needs Ambassador Program at Saint Barnabas Medical Center**
- **Spirit of The Arc Award - Betty E. Hoehne**
- **Spirit of The Arc Award - Thomas Peterson**
- **Legislator of the Year - Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D-37)**
- **Professional of the Year - Elizabeth Manley**
- **Professional of the Year - David Vinokurov**
- **Volunteer of the Year - Pamela Corrigan**
- **Employer of the Year - Ortho Diagnostics**
- **Bill Sackter Award - Andrew Monti**
- **Distinguished Community Service - Brookdale Community College**
- **Martin Papish Award - Laura Williams**
- **Educator of the Year - Katherine Cascioli**

For more information about purchasing tickets, email [Celine Fortin](#) by Monday, December 5th.

Check Out Webinars, Events Throughout December

Raritan Valley Community College Tour - Somerset County

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 the college experience. The Achievement Center program 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.

[Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 am](#)

Webinar - Conversation on Services in the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Join us as Celine Fortin, Associate Executive Director and Jerisa Maseko, Director of Planning for Adult Life program will discuss and explain the differences between adult services and children's services. This webinar is geared for students, their families, and professionals in the field.

[Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00 pm](#)

Webinar - The Request for an Assessment of Risk: What does it Mean and How Can It be Accomplished for Individuals with I/DD

Please join us to hear Dr. Jeffrey Allen, a clinical psychologist, with many years of experience working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who engage in criminal behavior. Courts, Prosecutors and Programs often ask for assessments of an individual's future risk to reoffend. Dr. Allen will discuss the questions that should be asked: What are the risk factors? What are the protective factors? What can be done to manage behavior for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities? This hour long webinar will provide an overview of the assessment process as it applies to this population, including a review of the ARMIDILO-S assessment and management tool.

[Thursday, December 22, at 1:00 pm](#)

PLANNED GIVING CORNER

Living Trusts vs. Wills

As you think about your estate plans, you might want to consider whether those plans include a Living Trust or a Will. There are a number of factors to consider as to the benefits of establishing a Living Trust versus a Will.



To learn more about these two options, [click here](#). And, as always, if you have questions about planned giving, please contact [Celine Fortin](#) at The Arc of New Jersey.

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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