



The Arc Praises Autism CARES Act with Sen. Menendez

To highlight and celebrate the recent passage of the Autism CARES Act, Executive Director Tom Baffuto spoke at a press conference last month hosted by the law's author Senator Menendez. The event, which took place in Paramus at ECLC of New Jersey – Bergen P.R.I.D.E. Center, was an opportunity to promote the new law which aims to shape federal autism policy and which creates an investment in research, early detection, and the development of new treatments and therapies for those with autism and other developmental disabilities. The Arc of New Jersey praised the passage of the legislation and specifically brought attention to the law's intent of helping individuals across the lifespan, increasing early detection efforts and funding for research.



Cadet Training Program Kicks Off in Monmouth County



The Growth Through Opportunity (GTO) Program kickoff event, hosted in Freehold last month, received a very positive response and a strong showing from law enforcement, elected officials and members of the community. The GTO Program, which gives job skills training in law enforcement agencies to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was organized by The Arc of New Jersey. It provides GTO cadets training for 4 days a week over a 16 week period. After completing the training, individuals will have transferable job, life and social skills. The program also aims to strengthen personal safety, confidence and community connectivity for program participants while enhancing disability awareness in the community and with members of law enforcement. The event last

month included the swearing in of 5 cadets by the Monmouth County Prosecutor. Those cadets are working with police departments in Red Bank, Eatontown, Holmdel, Marlboro and one is at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. This program is being coordinated by our Criminal Justice Advocacy Program and cadets will be supported by Project HIRE, The Arc of New Jersey's supported employment program. We are pleased to be coordinating this outstanding program with a grant from The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disabilities and funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD). ***Pictured above from left to right: Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni, State Senator Vin Gopal, Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director Jessica Oppenheim, Monmouth County's First Assistant Prosecutor Lori Linskey and Executive Director Tom Baffuto.***

Chapter Spotlight: The Arc of Burlington Looks Within, Finds New Leader

Joanna Nevadomski now leads The Arc of Burlington County as the Chapter's Executive Director. And while she may be new to the ED role, she has worked for the organization for the past thirty six years! Joanna, who was previously the Assistant Executive Director, officially took the helm on October 1. We check in with her this month to learn more about her past and what she sees as the future for [The Arc of Burlington County](#).



Question 1: Tell us a little bit about your background and how you're using your past experiences in your new role:

My formal higher education is a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from The College of New Jersey. However, I think my informal education is equally as valuable to me in my new position. I've been with The Arc of Burlington County since 1983 --- that's 36 years now --- and have "come up through the ranks," as they say. I was hired as a part-time Residential Group Home Aide/Trainer (DSP), at our very first community group home, which by the way is still going strong. What I also learned was how much was expected and required of our direct care staff even back then on very meager salaries. Salaries are somewhat better today but we still expect a great deal and still don't pay these important people what they deserve. [To continue reading, click here.](#)

Tom Baffuto Honored with Executive Excellence Award

The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto received a wonderful and well-deserved honor last month when he received the NCE Executive Excellence Award at The Arc's National Convention in Washington, DC. Tom has served as The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director for 21 years, advocating fiercely for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families living throughout the State. New Jersey was also well-represented at National Convention as a number of Chapters were selected to give presentations during the three-day event. This included The Arc of NJ's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director Jessica Oppenheim who co-presented on "The Aftermath of #MeToo: Solutions from Around the County," and Chris Hemmer (SCARC) and Heather Comstock (The Arc of Essex) who co-presented on "Building Corporate Partnerships and Sustainable Fundraising Streams." ***Pictured above: Representatives from Chapters across the State gathered together for a group photo at the NCE Awards Luncheon on October 12, 2019.***



Save the Date for The Arc of NJ 70th

Congratulations to the following individuals and organizations who will receive awards next month:

President's Award
Todd Polyniak, Sax LLP

Advocacy Matters Award
S. Paul Prior, Esq.

Volunteer of the Year
Ralph Mastrangelo

Bill Sackter Award
Evelyn Ramundo

70 ANNIVERSARY

The Arc of New Jersey is turning 70 years old in 2019! 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. As part of our 70th Anniversary festivities, The Arc of NJ is planning a **70th Anniversary Dinner for Thursday, November 21 at The Imperia in Somerset**. Registration for tickets and ads for the 70th Anniversary ad journal are now available at [The Arc of NJ 70th!](#).

Martin Papish Award

Linda Cancro Lucas

Community Impact Award

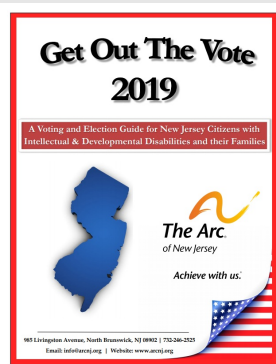
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2019 Get Out the Vote Guide Available Now

Election Day is **TOMORROW** Tuesday, November 5, 2019 and The Arc of New Jersey wants to help you prepare before you head to the polls. That's why we've created this 2019 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide for you to download and share. (Click the image to download your copy) The Guide includes an FAQ about voting, important dates and deadlines, and submissions from self-advocates and a family member about why everyone should make sure to cast a ballot on Election Day. Also, don't forget to visit our website, www.gotvnj.org, for additional online resources.

Chapters Fundraise with Celebrations



The Arc of Union County celebrated their 70th Anniversary at the Stage House Tavern on Oct. 3. Pictured above is Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin, Kathy Caragher and her husband, The Arc of Union County's Executive Director, Frank Caragher.



The Arc of Essex County held their 6th Annual Uncorked and Uncapped event, a wine, beer and food tasting experience, on Oct. 3, at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange.



The Arc of Middlesex County celebrated their 70th Anniversary at the Pines Manor last month. A number of dignitaries attended the event, including legislators representing the 18th District. pictured above.

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!)

Friday, November 8: Keep Achieving (Kach) at Brookdale Community College - Monmouth County

Friday, November 15: College Steps program at the Community College of Morris

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](#).

Free IEP Review

Wednesday, November 6 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.**

Webinar: What You Need to Know About Education Rights for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Tuesday, November 12 at 12 pm

This webinar will discuss federal and state education laws. Parents will gain a better understanding of the IEP process, who makes the decisions and how it's implemented.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Social Security Income and Medicaid: Things You Need to Know

Wednesday, November 13 at 6 pm

There are many different ways to initiate the Medicaid eligibility process and so it is important to make sure you have all of the necessary information. This workshop will help parents and caregivers understand how to access health care services for their loved one with IDD from the current health care system.

[Register here!](#)

Facebook Live College Tour: Dream Program - Mercer County Community College

Thursday, November 14 at 10 am

Learn more about different college programs in NJ for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Make sure to "Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook to receive a notice once we go live. For step-by-step directions, [click here](#).

Webinar: The 2020 Medicare Part D Changes for Persons Who Have Both Medicare and Medicaid (The Dual Eligibles)

Thursday, November 14 at 1 pm

Beginning on January 1, 2020, there will be some changes in Medicare Part D, the federal drug benefit that is used by most dual eligibles (persons who have both Medicaid and Medicare) to obtain their prescription medications. This webinar is for everyone who wants to know about Medicare Part D for the dual eligibles, including employees of provider agencies serving people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), staff from DDD, family members, and health care professionals. The webinar will discuss the details of the changes and how they will affect individuals with developmental disabilities who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Meet & Greet with NJ's Ombudsman For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

Wednesday, November 20 at 6 pm

Join us for an online Meet & Greet with Paul Aronsohn, NJ's Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families. Mr. Aronsohn will provide an overview of the Ombudsman position and how he can help you and your loved one with an intellectual and developmental disability. There will be a live Q&A at the conclusion of his presentation.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Internet Crime and Culpability

Thursday, November 21 at 2 pm

Dr. Cohen has a 20 year history of working with children, adolescents, adults and families in the diagnosis and treatment of ASD. In particular she has consulted with attorneys on issues related to ASD and internet crime, including forensic evaluations of individuals with ASD and providing expert testimony since 2009. She will bring this experience to bear in this hour long discussion of the particular issues faced by the criminal justice system, people with ASD and families in child pornography and other misuses of the internet occur.

[Register here!](#)

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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