



Families Engage with State Leaders as Part of Family Caregivers Month

In recognition of our dedicated family members who support loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Arc of New Jersey hosted its annual Family Caregiver Event on November 20, with representatives from the Legislature and the Administration. Although our event was virtual this year because of COVID-19, the changed format did not stop family advocates from making their voices heard with state officials.



Families talked about the challenges of care as it relates to the pandemic, special education in a virtual setting, the importance of Direct Support Professionals during COVID and always, virtual services, and the need for vaccinations for people with I/DD and the staff who support them. We thank Senate President Sweeney, Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson, Assembly Human Services Chairwoman Joann Downey and Assembly Transportation Chairman Dan Benson for updating us on ongoing legislative initiatives and the work of the Administration during this challenging time. In addition, we thank Governor Murphy for declaring November as Family Caregivers Month. To read the proclamation from the Governor, click [here](#). To continue reading, [click here](#). (Pictured above, Senate President Sweeney, bottom left, speaks with family advocates on Friday, November 20th.)

Executive Director Receives Advocacy Hero Award

Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored with the Advocacy Hero Award by The Arc Mercer at their Virtual Fall Gala on Friday, November 20th. Tom was recognized for his dedication and relentless advocacy efforts on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and Chapters of The Arc, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Maria Fischer, Board President for The Arc Mercer, presented Tom with his award which you can view by clicking the image to the right. Congratulations to Tom on this wonderful recognition as well as Senate President Steve Sweeney, who received the Leadership Award, and all of the other outstanding honorees.



Investors Bank Supports The Arc of New Jersey

The Arc of New Jersey thanks Investors Bank for their support of people with intellectual and developmental

disabilities, their families and our organization. Additionally, we thank Tina McLean, Assistant Vice President at Investors Bank in New Brunswick, for stopping by our office last month to present a donation and to take a socially-distanced photo with Executive Director Tom Baffuto. We appreciate your commitment to those we serve and we are grateful!



Help The Arc Recognize Extraordinary Heroes of 2020

2020 has been a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we live, learn, work and socialize. Keeping people with I/DD safe while supporting them to live a meaningful life has been an enormous challenge. But for many, it is a challenge that they have met head on with dedication, creativity, perseverance and empathy. These are the Heroes of 2020 and it is our wish to acknowledge, commend and thank them for their unwavering commitment to people with I/DD and their families. Do you have a Hero at your Local Chapter or supporting your family member with I/DD?

How to Submit a Nomination:

Download the fillable pdf form by [clicking here](#). [Click here](#) for the Heroes of 2020 Flyer and [click here](#) for the Sponsorship and Ad Order Form. Also, be sure to visit our Heroes of 2020 [website](#) for additional information.



Important Information Regarding Access to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



The Arc of New Jersey has been notified that New Jersey's United Healthcare Community Plan (UHCCP), one of NJ's Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), is ending its contract with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on December 1, 2020. In past years, there was talk of UHCCP ending its affiliation with CHOP, but, luckily, the contract between these two organizations remained intact in the past. However, this year is different, and we have been told that the contract will end on December 1st. Many families of children with I/DD and other significant healthcare needs are very concerned about this change in regards to accessing CHOP. Please [click here](#) for more

info about this important issue.

News You Can Use!

1. Program Directors at The Arc of New Jersey collaborated on the virtual presentation: **"Resources for Understanding and Navigating New Jersey's Service Systems."** This event was part of the Hinkle Prior & Fischer Virtual Parent Empowerment Conference. You can view the presentation video by [clicking here](#).
2. Last month, The Arc of New Jersey hosted a webinar on the 2021 Medicare Part D changes for

persons with I/DD who have both Medicare and Medicaid (The Dual Eligibles). For additional information on this issue, [click here](#).

3. If you are looking for emotional support for COVID-19 related mental health challenges, be sure to check out these upcoming virtual supports by/through NJ Hope and Healing. [Click here](#) for more information.



Take Advantage of Tax Deduction with Donation to The Arc

Under the CARES Act, part of the federal government's pandemic relief program that passed in March, individual taxpayers can take a deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations made in 2020 when they file their tax return in the spring. Please consider making a donation to The Arc of New Jersey before the end of the year and take advantage of this tax deduction incentive. For more information and additional details, [click here](#). To donate to The Arc of New Jersey, [click here](#).



Upcoming Virtual Events!



We've added additional webinars to help individuals with I/DD and their families during this difficult time. Register today and be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other upcoming events.

Webinars:

- December 9: [Navigating the Medicaid Maze](#)
- December 16: [PFAL Webinar Wednesday Series: Why Planning for Your Student's Future is Vital \(En Espanol\)](#)
- December 17: [The Americans with Disabilities Act, Disability Rights and the Legal System: An Introduction for Advocates](#)

College Tours:

- December 11, at 10 am: [Virtual College Tour: Kean and County College of Morris \(CCM\) College Steps Virtual Tour](#)
- December 15, at 6 pm: [Virtual College Tour: Kean and County College of Morris \(CCM\) College Steps Tour](#)

Stay Healthy at Home - a webinar series hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project - every Tuesday at 2 PM on GoToWebinar

The webinar series covers a variety of topics related to advocacy, life skills, employment, and civic engagement. Sessions are designed to be accessible to self-advocates, parents, and support staff. Live viewers can share comments, ask questions, and access resources.

- December 1: [So Relatable! Everyday Self-Advocacy](#)
- December 8: [Did You Know Your iPhone/iPad Can Do That?! Using iPhones/iPads to Promote Independence](#)
- December 15: [Overview of Supported Employment](#)
- December 22: [Mundane Objects, but Real Gains: At Home Workout Tips](#)
- December 29: [Still More to Come! NJSAP & NJSSAN in 2021](#)

Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE! - every Wednesday at 11 AM on Zoom

This interactive series of events is hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project and focuses on activities to promote health and wellness education for students and adults with I/DD. Live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in activities led by professionals *in real time*.

- December 2: [Food For Thought: Nutrition Guide and Winter Smoothie Recipe](#)
- December 9: [The Right Fit: Find Your Exercise with Adaptive Fitness](#)

- December 16: [Work it Out: Virtual Pilates Class](#)
- December 23: [Hindsight is 2020: Ugly Sweaters and New Year Nutrients](#)
- December 30: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)

NEW We also have Fitness Fridays at 1 PM: [Click here to register.](#)

A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

Thank You

Thank you to all our generous donors who, over the past few weeks, have made donations to support us. These critical funds will help us in our efforts to assist individuals with I/DD and their families, as well as our local county chapters, through the COVID19 crisis. To put your donation to work for individuals with I/DD and their families, [click here](#). If you have

questions or need assistance, our staff is here to help. [Click here](#) to access information about our Programs.

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

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

