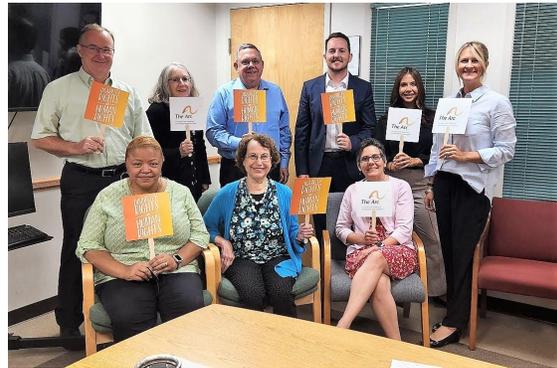




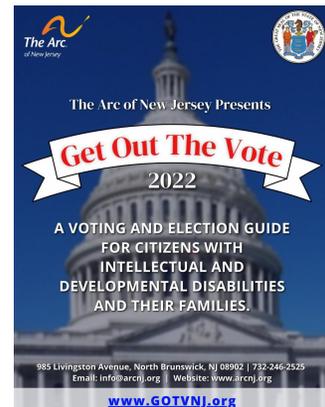
August Recess Advocacy Focuses on HCBS, SSI



During August Recess, lawmakers are home from Washington, DC and it's an important opportunity to weigh in on federal disability priorities. Toward that end, The Arc of New Jersey met with Bianca Markovski from Senator Booker's office to talk about investing in Home and Community Based Services, needed changes to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, and our support of the Keeping All Students Safe Act which would end seclusion and place significant guardrails around the use of restraint in schools. **Pictured left clockwise:** Senior Director of Governmental Affairs & Communications for The Arc of NJ Sharon Levine, Senior Projects Specialist for Senator Booker Bianca Markovski, Self-Advocate Diana Stolfo, Past President for The Arc of NJ Bob Hage and NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy President Evelyn Ramundo. **Pictured right:** Staff of The Arc of NJ hold signs declaring Disability Rights are Human Rights.

2022 GOTV Guide Now Ready for Download

Each year, The Arc of New Jersey puts together a voting guide to assist families and self-advocates as Election Day approaches. We are proud to share with you our 2022 GOTV Guide which outlines all the ways in which you can cast a ballot and which emphasizes the importance of voting and making your voice heard in the upcoming election. Also, we have created a companion [GOTV website](https://www.gotvnj.com) which includes the links to candidate pages, national voting resources and information about registering and how to find your polling location. In addition, we hear from a family member and a self-advocate about why voting matters and why it's a critical part of the democratic process. To download your copy of the Guide, make sure you visit www.gotvnj.com today to learn more about the voting process (drop-boxes, early voting, mail-in ballots!) and make your voice heard on Election Day!



Chapter Spotlight: Chris Corvino, Somerset

After more than 15 years with The Arc of Somerset County in a variety of roles, Chris Corvino recently took over the Chapter as the new Executive Director. We are excited about the path Chris will forge as he takes the reins of the agency and we want to introduce him to our community with a little Q&A.

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

I have worked in Social Services / Education near my entire working life, beginning as a camp counselor many years ago before transitioning to roles as a classroom TA and parent trainer supporting students and ultimately adults with IDD. For the past 15 years I have been with The Arc of Somerset County beginning as the Director of Employment Services and then, Associate Executive Director. For me this means that I am a service provider – a designation that in my mind should not and does not change with the title Executive Director. The many hours of direct service I have provided remain with me and inform this new role. To continue reading, [click here](#).



DSPs Celebrated During Recognition Week

This month, as we celebrate DSP Recognition Week, The Arc of New Jersey wants to acknowledge and thank all of the hardworking Direct Support Professionals who assist and support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Throughout the week of September 11, through September 17, The Arc of NJ will highlight DSPs from local county Chapters of The Arc who do incredible and important work. Please follow us on social media ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) to learn more about the workforce that does so much for our community. Our hashtag this year will be #NJDSPweek2022.



SCARC Connects to Community at Local Fair



The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was delighted to stop by the SCARC table while attending the Sussex County Fair last month. SCARC representatives were on hand to share information and connect with residents of the community! Pictured from left to right is Kate Imparato, Executive Assistant at SCARC, and Tom Baffuto.

The Arc of Cape May Brings on New CEO, Appoints New COO

The Board of Directors of The Arc of Cape May County is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Gaffney, pictured right, as the agency's new Chief Executive Officer. Laura joined the agency on August 1. Robin Watson, The Arc of Cape May County's current Chief Program Officer, has been appointed Chief Operating Officer and will assume this new role under the leadership of newly appointed CEO, Laura Gaffney. We welcome Laura and Robin and look forward to working with them. Read more on this announcement by [clicking here](#).



NJBIA Webinar Showcases Benefits & Process for Hiring People with Disabilities

The Arc of New Jersey was proud to be a participating organization in the recent NJ Business and Industry Association webinar entitled, "Hiring People with Disabilities: On-the-Job Training for Individuals with Disabilities," which was held Thursday, August 18. The webinar focused on the benefits and process of hiring and training individuals with disabilities and how they help a company



The New Jersey Statewide Self Advocacy Network will host a virtual Fall Conference on Saturday, October 1, 2022. The event, which is an opportunity for Disability Advocates to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and attend professional development workshops, will take place via Zoom and is free to attend. To register, [click here](#).

for people to save money and get out of poverty. **TAKE ACTION:** Urge your U.S Senators to support people with disabilities and their families by cosponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act ([S.4102](#)) which would raise these asset limits.

PFAL Director Overviews Program and Future Offerings

Planning for Adult Life program director Jerisa Maseko discussed the offerings of her program and how she will utilize new grant funding from the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, at the Council's meeting on August 11. The grant will allow our organization to focus on competitive employment for high school students receiving special education services once they leave school. The **Employment First Initiative** will be implemented by the Planning for Adult Life Program as an additional offering focusing on all the tools students with disabilities will need as they leave school and enter the world of work.



Upcoming Virtual Events!

Click below to register for one of our many upcoming virtual events/webinars. And be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other future events.

Mondays with Michael:

Every week at 10 am, catch a brief update from Michael Pearson Jr., Assistant Director, Children's Advocacy, on a topic or featured resource related to special education. Click [here](#) to view upcoming dates/topics. Mondays with Michael are Facebook Live events.

Virtual Events:

- Tuesday, September 13, at 6 pm: [The Journey to Community Housing with Supports / A Road Map for Individuals with Disabilities and their Families](#)
- Tuesday, September 20, at 6 pm: [Fireside Chat with Amy Taklif from NJ Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund](#)
- Wednesday, September 21, at 6 pm: [Understanding the Steps of Applying for DDD](#)
- Wednesday, September 28, at 6 pm: [What You Need to Know About the SSI Application](#)
- Thursday, September 29, at 1 pm: [Zoom with Us: What's in Your Child's IEP and How to Plan for Transition](#)



- Thursday, September 29 at 6 pm: [Fairleigh Dickinson University COMPASS Program - Virtual Information Session](#)
- Friday, September 30, at 2 pm: ["Exploring a Closer Look: Case Studies - An Analysis of Dual Diagnosis in Adults with Mental Illness and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities"](#)

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. Live transcription is available.

- September 6: [Disaster Preparedness – Be Prepared and Ready](#)
- September 13: [REPLAY: Handmade Tale: DIY Gift Making Guide](#)
- September 20: [How May I Assist You? Benefits of Assistive Technology](#)
- September 27: [REPLAY: So Relatable! Everyday Self-Advocacy](#)

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*.

- September 7: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- September 14: [Music Together with Blue Light](#)
- September 21: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- September 28: [Zumba: Dance-based Fitness Class](#)

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 number of months, have made donations to support us. These critical funds will help us in our efforts to assist individuals with IDD and their families, as well as our local county chapters. To put your donation to work for individuals with IDD 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.



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