

# Celebrating 70 Years of Advocacy 1949-2019



November 21, 2019 | Volume 8 - The 2010's

For eight weeks, The Arc of New Jersey has related its rich history with a series of weekly emails celebrating the people and events that have made The Arc the strong vibrant organization it is today.

This is our last edition, bringing us to the present, and we hope you have enjoyed reading the emails as much as we have enjoyed writing them.

To see the first seven volumes, the 1940's through the 2000's, [click here](#).

## Advocacy is Still Our #1 Priority



Rallying against the r-word

### 2010

After a rousing Rally for Respect in March, Self Advocates spend the next several months advocating for passage of legislation mandating replacement of the R-word with the term "intellectual disability" in all state documents and statutes. The campaign to end the r-word includes public events, testimony at hearings, and 2500 signed pledges. The bill is

unanimously passed by both Houses in June and signed into law by Governor Christie on August 16.

Governor Chris Christie signs the Caregiver Abuse registry bill, forming a registry for individuals who have committed substantiated incidents of abuse or neglect against a person with I/DD.

### 2011

The Arc undergoes a massive rebranding effort on the national, state and local levels. The new logo, tagline and brand identity of The Arc is launched on March 1.

The Governor announces the proposed closure of Vineland Developmental Center by 2013. A Legislative Review Panel is convened along with a Developmental Center Closure Task Force which determine to focus on other developmental center closures as opposed to Vineland.

The Arc of NJ launches the "Restore Our Safety Net" campaign with a message to the Governor requesting that appropriate funding for community-based supports and services be included in the FY 12 budget.



### 2012

Organized by The Arc of the U.S., more than 150 leaders of The Arc from around the country attend a policy briefing at the White House. An impressive lineup of speakers addresses the group and responds to our questions and concerns. The highlight of the day is a surprise visit from President Barack Obama.

The NJ State FY 2013 budget includes more than \$50 million in new funding for people with I/DD.

The Arc of NJ receives a grant from the NJCCD for an

Atlantic County pilot program, The Arc CARES, which focuses on individuals with I/DD who are re-entering society after prison.

### 2013

In January, services for children between the ages of birth and 21 with I/DD are moved to the NJ Department of Children and Families, Children's System of Care.

The NJ State FY 2014 budget includes more than \$83 million in new funding for services for

people with I/DD. The Arc of NJ receives a major grant to launch the Planning for Adult Life Program. PFAL works with students in special education aged 16-21, and their families, to plan for their life after high school.

## 2014

In January, The Arc creates The Arc of NJ Family Institute. The goal of the Program is to become the “go-to” place for families needing help to care for their loved one with I/DD. The State FY 2015 budget includes \$100 million in new state and federal dollars for I/DD services. The last residents leave Woodbridge and North Jersey Developmental Centers.



The Horizon Foundation for NJ awards The Arc of NJ a grant to initiate a Healthy Lifestyles Program. The goal of the program is to educate individuals with I/DD about living a healthy life. The program would continue to be funded for the next 6 years. The ABLE Act is signed by President Obama, giving individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create special savings accounts which will not endanger their entitlements.

## 2015

The State of New Jersey begins the transition from contracted services to Fee For Service. The State FY 2016 budget includes \$96 million in new funds for services for people with I/DD. The Arc of NJ provides significant comment on the State’s proposed Home and Community Based Services Transition Plan. The Arc of NJ’s advocacy is instrumental in DDD developing a new term -- “non-DAC” -- to describe individuals who are not able to obtain Medicaid, due to the retirement, death, or disability of a consumer’s parent, which occurred before the consumer was able to apply for SSI.



## 2016

The Arc of NJ goes green and all its newsletters go digital. The State FY 2017 budget includes \$79 million in new money for services for people

with I/DD, including 500 I/DD specific housing vouchers. The Arc of NJ launches an advocacy campaign leading to two important amendments to the State’s Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver. As a result of these amendments individuals with I/DD who are medically fragile and require private duty nursing can receive PDN from NJ’s Managed Long-Term Services and Supports system and can also receive DDD services. Secondly, certain individuals with I/DD who were not Medicaid eligible now have a pathway, through DDD’s new Supports Waiver, to be Medicaid eligible. The Arc of NJ works with numerous community partners to form the Coalition for DSP Living Wage. The Coalition plans and implements a campaign to draw attention to the crisis around low wages for DSPs and the difficulty service providers have in hiring DSPs.

## 2017

Project HIRE is selected to be a Project SEARCH provider, a national program that replaces the last year of high school for students in special education with a year of intensive internship. The Arc of NJ joins The Arc of the US in a massive nationwide campaign to “Protect the Lifeline”. The campaign focuses on federal public policy and draws attention to proposed changes to entitlement programs which will have devastating effects on the lives of people with I/DD. The State FY 2018 budget includes \$89.7 million in new funds for services for people with I/DD.

## 2018

The Arc of NJ launches the DD Training Resources website, an interactive website and calendar putting information about training regarding DD issues all in one location. After increased publicity around the horrific statistics regarding the prevalence of sexual violence against people with I/DD, The Arc of NJ holds a summit on sexual violence. Recommendations from the summit result in the publication of a white paper – Addressing Sexual Violence Against People with I/DD: Blueprint for an Empowered Future and the reconvening of the NJ Partners in Justice Taskforce.



The State FY 2019 budget includes \$20 million for increasing DSP wages, plus \$28.3 million in additional funds for new services. The Arc of NJ participates in a transportation research project with Rutgers University, examining the significant issues around transportation for individuals with I/DD.



2019

The Arc of NJ receives funding for a pilot program placing individuals with I/DD in apprenticeship programs with law enforcement agencies in Monmouth County. The State FY 2020 budget includes \$20 million in new funding to increase wages for DSPs. The Arc of NJ successfully advocates for the passage of Legislation forming a NJ Taskforce on the Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Persons with I/DD. Congress passes, and the President signs, the Autism

CARES Act, which will help individuals with autism across the lifespan, increase early detection and provide funding for research.

**November 21, 2019 – The Arc of New Jersey celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

**Fun Fact:** Since its inception in 2002, the annual Step Up For The Arc Walkathon is still being held in 14 counties. In 2019 the estimated income for the chapters was more than \$500,000. In total, the event has raised close to \$10 million to support local county chapter services.

**Will we see you tonight?**

We hope you made your reservation and will be joining us tonight for our 70th Anniversary Celebration at The Imperia in Somerset, NJ.

We are expecting 200 guests to attend this great event filled with food, drink, remembrances and six exceptional award winners:

- 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
- Martin Papish Award**  
Linda Cancro Lucas

**Community Impact Award**  
The Porzio Family of Companies  
(Porzio, Bromberg & Newman P.C.,  
Porzio Governmental Affairs LLC,  
Porzio Compliance Services LLC,  
Porzio Life Sciences LLC)

The Imperia is located at 1714 Easton Ave, Somerset, NJ 08873. **The event begins with a cocktail reception at 6:00 pm and the program to start at 6:45 pm.**

**The Arc of New Jersey 70th Anniversary Campaign**

As you can see, The Arc of New Jersey has had a wonderful history of advocacy and service. To continue our wonderful work, *we need your help!*

In honor of our 70th Anniversary, The Arc of New Jersey is launching a special 70th Anniversary campaign to raise \$70,000.

Every donation has the power to make a significant difference in the life of someone with I/DD and their family.

**Please donate today to help us reach our goal!**

**DONATE NOW!**

