



2022 Award Recipients, Event Details Announced

Each year The Arc of New Jersey holds an awards celebration which honors the best in individual, organizational, and corporate support for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Nominations come in from all over the State, highlighting the exemplary work of dozens of individuals and organizations. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Awards Celebrations for the past 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are thrilled to be returning to an in-person event this year. The event will take place on June 16, 2022 at the Imperia in Somerset. Click the image above to download the form for purchasing tickets, ads and sponsorships. Contact Celine Fortin at cfortin@arcnj.org or 732-733-6013 with any questions.



President's Award - Senator Steve Sweeney
Spirit of The Arc Award - Jonathan Seifried
Legislator of the Year - Assemblyman Daniel Benson

Professional of the Year - Karen Newburgh, CFO, SCArc, Inc.

Volunteer of the Year - Maria Fischer, Esq., Hinkle, Prior & Fischer, PC and President, The Arc of Mercer

Self-Advocacy Leadership Award - Kevin Curtis White, Chair, Council 1, NJSSAN

Community Impact Award - Tom Toronto, President, Bergen County's United Way

Martin Papish Award - Jeffrey Mattison, Executive Director, The Arc of Hunterdon

Educator of the Year - Robert Hult, Jr., Director, The Achievement Center at RVCC

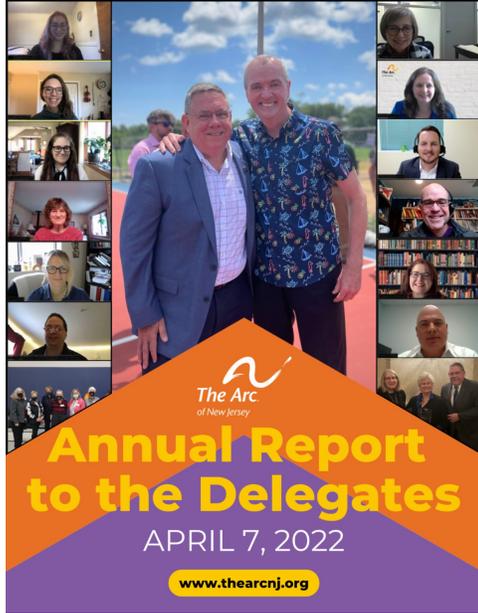
Executive Excellence Award - Lauren Fray, Executive Director, The Arc of Somerset

Legacy Award - Kathy Walsh, President & CEO, The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties and Immediate Past Chair NJCEArc

Visit our Awards Dinner [website](#) for additional details and information and to purchase tickets and ads online.

Read The Arc of NJ's 2022 Annual Report

On Thursday, April 7, The Arc of NJ was honored to have Deborah Cornavaca, Deputy Chief of Staff for Outreach for Governor Phil Murphy, deliver opening remarks at our Annual Meeting. Deborah provided attendees with highlights of recent achievements from the Administration, and an overview of the Governor's priorities in his second term. We thank her for speaking with our group and for her work to make New Jersey an inclusive place for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Deborah is pictured in the top left-hand box in the screengrab below.



Please take a few minutes to review our Annual Report which highlights our advocacy work from throughout the year. Click the image above to download the pdf.

Chapter Spotlight: The Arc Somerset Exec Retiring After More Than 30 Years Supporting People with IDD

Lauren Frary, Executive Director at The Arc of Somerset County, is retiring after more than 30 years with the organization. We celebrate Lauren's commitment and dedication to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we wanted to use this space to hear more about her journey in The Arc family.

1. How many years have you worked at The Arc of Somerset County and what originally attracted you to this field?

As a graduate student at Montclair University, I was studying to become a Licensed Clinician, hoping to work as a School Guidance Counselor. During my studies, I needed to work to pay for tuition and books and so I applied for and was offered a job as a Behavioral Support "technician" at the now closed North Jersey Developmental Center. As you can imagine, this was an eye opening experience an one that completely changed the course of my life. I immediately understood the urgency to advocate for individuals with disabilities and to promote community services. During this time, I was introduced to The Arc of Somerset County by a friend and was invited to join the Arc team after I finished my degree. I started on November 1, 1990 and my time at The Arc has been one of the most personally and professionally rewarding aspects of my life. To continue reading, [click here](#).



The Arc Mercer Honors Senator Sweeney, Re-Opens Arcade

Congratulations to The Arc Mercer on the Grand Re-Opening of their Special Needs Arcade. The Re-Opening took place on Wednesday, April 20, at The Arc Mercer headquarters. The event included a ribbon cutting ceremony, a basketball shootout, and a luncheon to honor Senator Steve Sweeney who received the Crusader Award in recognition of his tremendous support and dedication to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Pictured top is the ribbon-cutting ceremony which included local and state dignitaries, as well as board members from The

Arc Mercer. Senator Sweeney is pictured center with Senator Turner and former Senator Inverso holding the scissors. Pictured bottom is The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto shaking hands with Senator Sweeney after the Senator received the Crusader Award. For more information about the event, click [here](#).



The Arc of New Jersey Welcomes New TCS Director



The Arc of New Jersey is very pleased to welcome Andrea Buccelli as our new Director of Training and Consultation Services. Training and Consultation Services (TCS) provides staff training and technical assistance to supported employment providers, support coordinators, Self Advocates, families and schools throughout the state of New Jersey. Training is offered through a variety of settings; from larger classrooms, small groups, one-to-one consults, webinars, and teleconferences. Andrea started her new role in March and we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce her and learn more about her plans for TCS.

1. **Where did you work before joining The Arc of New Jersey and what attracted you to the role of Training and Consultation Services Director?** Before joining the Arc of New Jersey, I was a Program Manager of Employment Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, with experience working as an Employment Specialist and Vocational Evaluator. One of my favorite parts of my role was educating my team, my clients, and their support systems about the services available to them and how to best utilize them, and was excited to take this passion to the next level at The Arc of New Jersey as the Director of Training and Consultation! [To continue reading, click here.](#)

Registration Now Open for Healthcare Webinar Series

The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care Program is delighted to announce a four-part Healthcare Webinar Series to be held on **four Tuesday mornings in May: the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th at 10:30 am**. Each webinar will feature a 60 minute presentation, followed by up to 30 minutes for Q & A. **The webinars are available at no charge, but registration is required.**

- **May 3, 2022** - Transitioning to a Post-COVID World: Clinical and Behavioral Considerations
- **May 10, 2022** - Living Well after the COVID Pandemic Ends. Panel Discussion
- **May 17, 2022** - Grieving Lives Lost and Loss of Lives
- **May 24, 2022** - Medical and Dental Ramifications of COVID for Individuals with IDD

**Healthcare Webinar Series
May 2022**

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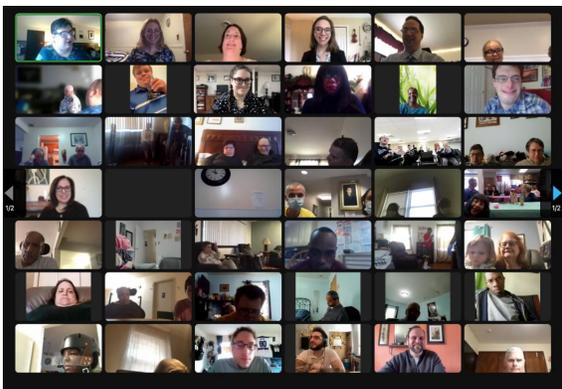
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You will see a "Register for the Webinar" button below the information on each webinar. Please use that link to register for each webinar separately.

Self-Advocates Gather for Annual Luncheon



More than 175 Self-advocates from across the State gathered virtually for the 16th Annual "Spring Into Action" Luncheon on Saturday, April 9. The event include an award presentation, remarks from the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) Council Chairs, and an Exhibitor Hall. Speakers included NJSSAN President Evelyn Ramundo, The Arc of NJ's Board President Kevin Sturges, Executive Director Tom Baffuto and NJ Self-Advocacy Project Director Ashley Ritchey.

The Arc of Essex County Hosts West Orange Walk

Congratulations to The Arc of Essex County on their 24th Annual #BuildingTomorrows5K Run and Family Walk which took place on Saturday, April 9, at the Clipper Pavilion in West Orange! Pictured from left to right: The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of Essex County's Chief Operating Officer Kathy Hinnigan-Cohen, The Arc of Essex County's Chief Executive Officer Linda Lucas, The Arc of Essex County's Immediate Past President Bruce Bird and his wife Lynn Bird.



The Arc of Gloucester Bestows Awards and Celebrates

Congratulations to The Arc Gloucester NJ on their 65th Annual Gala which was held on April 2, at Auletto's Sunset Ballroom in Deptford. The event included food, dancing, a basket and silent auction, and awards. Pictured from left to right: The Arc of Gloucester's Executive Vice President Suzanne Dalton, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of Gloucester's Chief Executive Officer Lisa Conley and Treasurer Pamela Corrigan.



NJ Legislative Disability Caucus Roundtable Includes The Arc of NJ's Mainstreaming Medical Care Director

Beverly Roberts, Director of the Mainstreaming Medical Care Program, spoke last month at the NJ Legislative Disability Caucus Roundtable about the lack of doctors and dentists treating people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the need for more behavioral health and psychiatric services for people with IDD and mental health

challenges. To read Beverly's full remarks, [click here](#).

Funding Now!

It's time for a HISTORIC investment in disability funding, so everyone can get the support they need to live in their community - instead of in institutions. People with disabilities rely on home and community-based services (HCBS) for everyday things like employment supports, getting around the community, dressing, bathing, taking medication, and much more. But there isn't enough money in the HCBS program to support everyone. Too many people are stuck on waiting lists and not getting the services they need. Direct care workers are underpaid, which leads to high turnover, critical staffing shortages, and compromised care for many people with disabilities. Now it's time for the Senate to act so this bill can be signed into law! [Contact your Senators now](#) because #CareCantWait!



True community means **EVERYONE** has the opportunity to live, work, and build the life they want.

It's time to put community first for disability services!



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.

Zoom With Us:

- May 10 at 6 pm: [What Are ABLE Accounts and How Can They Help My Loved One With IDD?](#)

Webinars:

- May 18 at 6 pm: [Navigating State Services for Students Under 21](#)
- May 19 at 1 pm: [An Overview of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund](#)
- May 26 at 6 pm: [Supporting Students with ADHD](#)

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.

- May 3: [How to Practice CPR: Providing Services with Courtesy, Professionalism and Respect](#)
- May 10: [Working Hard or Hardly Working: Maintaining Your Well-Being and Productivity While Working From Home](#)
- May 17: [Step by Step: Small Changes That Can Lead You To a Healthier Life](#)
- May 24: [Let's Stick Together: Navigating the Web of Online Communications for Staff and Self-Advocates](#)
- May 31: [There's No Place Like Home: Online Resources To Keep You Engaged](#)

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*.

- May 4: [Art Workshop](#)
- May 11: [Zumba: Dance-based Fitness Class](#)
- May 18: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- May 25: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)

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 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](#)

[DONATE NOW!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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