

The Arc

of Bergen and Passaic Counties

An association for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families since 1947.

Parents' Voice

Volume 60, Number III

Summer 2008

61st Annual Membership Meeting/Founder's Day

More than 100 parents and friends of The Arc came to the Holiday Inn in Hasbrouck Heights on June 11th to learn more about the Residential Waiting List Crisis in New Jersey. A panel discussion by The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Assistant Executive Director Liz Shea and Director of Family Advocacy Denbigh Dixon provided the crowd with a history of the 8,000 person waiting list, its current status and the actions The Arc was taking to convince the State that a plan must be put in place immediately to address the crisis. The most moving part of the evening was the presentation by panel member and Family Ambassador Debbie Legutko from Passaic County, who told the story of her family and her two adult sons both of whom have disabilities and have been on the waiting list for many years. Debbie discussed her advocacy work as a Family Ambassador and how fighting for a good cause can be empowering even when the result of your actions is not immediately apparent. Debbie encouraged all Arc parents, families and friends to get involved because only with everyone working together will we be able to solve the waiting crisis.

The evening's events also included the annual presentation of awards to individuals and organizations for furthering the mission of The Arc to secure the rights and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. We congratulate this year's winners:

Hackensack Chronicle
Kappa Chapter - Delta Kappa Gamma
Elspeth Corrigan Moore
Denise Massin
Michele Budai
Mary Giorlando
Dr. Orrin Devinsky
Michael Maldonado

Media Excellence Award
Community Service Award
F. Clinton Spencer Volunteer Award
Teacher of the Year
Chepurko Award for Recreation
Professional of the Year
Health Care Professional Award
Bill Sackter Award



Michael Maldonado and his mom



Debbie Legutko

Calendar Raffle

Don't miss the opportunity to help The Arc **and** get your name in the Calendar Raffle drawing. Tickets must be received at the Hackensack office by October 31, 2008.

Ticket Price \$5.00 each

(They make great gifts – birthday, anniversary, graduation, holidays)

A total of \$4,000 in Prizes will be Awarded

(see ticket stub for dollar amounts for each day's drawing)

90 Chances to Win

(each time a ticket is drawn it is returned to the raffle drum for the remaining drawings)

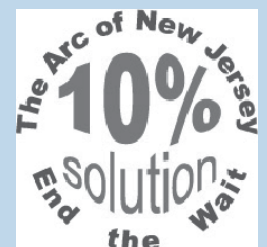
Contact Janet Masio at ext. 225

(The Arc accepts cash, checks, Visa and MasterCard)

Waiting List Funding Secured

The Arc's advocacy on the waiting list crisis was heard by the Governor and the Legislature. The Arc's Plan to reduce the waiting list by 10% per year called for an allocation of \$15 million. The Department of Human Services has committed to dedicating \$12.5 million this year to begin addressing the crisis. It is not everything we advocated for but it is just the beginning.

Join The Arc's Campaign to End the Wait. Call Denbigh Dixon at the Family Advocacy Program 732-246-2525.



President's Message



I have gone to too many wakes and funerals this year and am going to another tomorrow, the second this month. Illness and old age eventually catch up to all of us, but for the folks we serve it is happening more and more frequently. This year The Arc has lost a number of people whom we love due to natural causes. We miss them every day.

One of the drawbacks of being an organization which is 61 years old is that we know many people who are aging. Years ago people with disabilities didn't live until old age. Now luckily, the life span of an individual with a disability can be, for the most part, that of someone without a disability. But is New Jersey prepared for the burgeoning ranks of our senior citizens?

Like the rest of us, individuals who may have been somewhat independent in their middle years will need additional assistance as they age. Additional staff support, environmental modification, adaptive equipment, medical and therapeutic supports, special diets, medical procedures, family assistance etc. will be required to support people through their senior years.

Aging in place is the term used in the senior services community. This means that when you or I get older, ideally we should be able to remain in our homes and have the supports come to us, rather than needing to move to a nursing facility to get those supports. This should be the gold standard for folks with disabilities as well. Shouldn't they too be able to remain at home in their own room, with their own things and with the people that they love? Whether home is their family home, a group home or their apartment, this should be the goal and when this is not possible there should be community based places where individuals can receive full time nursing care without needing to go to the generic nursing homes which are ill prepared to support them.

The Arc of Bergen and Passaic has worked very hard to support people in their living environments as they move into their senior years. We have gone to great lengths to keep people out of nursing homes but so far we are working with a small percentage of our overall residential population. What will happen when the majority of folks need these additional supports? Where are the resources?

New Jersey must prepare now for the near future. We must be vigilant to ensure that the community infrastructure includes the necessary medical, staffing and therapeutic supports to sustain people through their senior years in a way that helps them to continue to be healthy, vital and happy. And we must help people's housemates, co-workers, families, and direct support staff prepare for and eventually deal with, the grief that comes with the loss of those we love.

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223 Moore Street • Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 343-0322
e-mail: arcbp@aol.com
www.arcbergenpassaic.org

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Statement of Community Mission

To provide enhanced opportunities for all citizens of Bergen and Passaic Counties with mental retardation and other disabilities and their families through advocacy, community education, direct services and customized supports to help these individuals attain and maintain fulfilled and independent status within their own communities and to initiate actions to prevent the occurrence of disability whenever possible.

South Bergen ATC News

Participants Lend a Helping Hand

The Arc's South Bergen Adult Training Center has been a member of the Rutherford community for over 25 years. As a community member we believe that we should actively join in efforts which will benefit the town's citizens. In keeping with this philosophy, South Bergen has begun working with the Rutherford Community Food Pantry as its latest volunteer venture.

Each week Arc participants walk over to City Hall and volunteer at the Food Pantry. They clear out the shelves, dispose of outdated food and then stock new items back onto the shelves. It is an enjoyable experience and everyone who volunteers is happy to lend a helping hand.

The Rutherford Community Food Pantry is a volunteer organization, started in 1998 with a mission to provide food and hygiene items for the citizens of Rutherford who fall on hard times. The Arc is pleased that we can be part of the organization's volunteer membership and that in doing so we can give back to our community in this special way.



CREW LABOR AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

TRANSITIONS

As times change so do we at Crew Labor and Supported Employment. Change is often good and can provide a rich source of growth!

Janet Feltman knows first hand about change. She had been a volunteer at Pascack Valley Hospital for nearly 5 years when it closed its doors in November 2007, leaving a void for Janet as well as for the community. But Janet did not let this get her down, she went out and secured a new volunteer position, this time at Bergen Regional Medical Center in Paramus. This is in addition to her job at Arc's Elmwood industries. Janet was able to apply many of the skills she had mastered at Pascack Valley in her new position at Bergen Regional. She is enjoying her new volunteer venture and keeps asking if she could spend more time there! Bergen Regional has likewise gained a dedicated and productive volunteer. Quite a successful transition.

The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties expresses sincere thanks the Human Resources Department at Bergen Regional Medical Center for their continued support of our consumers and programs. Volunteering provides our participants the opportunity to make great contributions to the community, while honing their skills and talents.

Rainbow Summer Day Program

This summer marked Camp Rainbow's 58th season of sun, fun and friendship. Campers and counselors alike look back with fond memories of lazy summer days filled with swimming, music, arts and crafts, field games, hikes, special projects and the big end of session shows. But most of all they remember the laughter which filled every day until it was replaced with the tears of good bye as the last bus pulled out of camp concluding another season of Rainbow, until next year...



The CRS Report Card!

It was a busy spring for the Community Residential Services Department, as licensing inspectors from far and near descended upon the Department! The Tenafly Group Home (licensed by the Division of Mental Health Services) passed both their Residential Licensing inspection and their Medicaid Audit with flying colors. The rest of the Department's Group Homes, Supervised Apartments and the Supported Living Program (licensed by DDD) were next, and they also did beautifully with some programs experiencing 100% ratings! Three cheers!



11
 Annual Rainb
 May 1
 Thank you to all our
 for helping us raise
 programs a





Health Bow Walkathon 18, 2008

*sponsors and walkers
\$35,000 for The Arc's
and services!*



COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS

Received between April 9, 2008 & July 31, 2008

In Memory of:

August "Brother" Hoehne <i>Ms. Betty Hoehne</i>	Ann Montesano <i>The Arc of Bergen & Passaic</i>
Sam Agust <i>Ms. Sarah Cherrin</i> <i>Ms. Rose Hoffherr</i>	June H. Plihal <i>Ms. Betty Hoehne</i>
Doris Barboni <i>Mr. & Mrs. Edward Barboni</i> <i>Ms. Nancy Daher</i>	Ziggy Prokop <i>Interim Healthcare</i>
John Goodwine <i>Mrs. Joan McCaffrey</i>	Donald Tausendfreund <i>Mr. & Mrs. John Palsi</i>
Joseph Krone <i>Mr. & Mrs. Butch Louny</i> <i>Ruby Tuesday</i>	Donald Thoren <i>Mr. & Mrs. Eric Thoren</i>
	Mrs. Wein <i>Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Bartner</i>

Thank You

From the Development Office:

A special **Thank You** goes out to the many individuals, businesses, foundations and corporations who were generous to The Arc's fund raising efforts:

Annual Appeal – Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008 the Annual Appeal raised a total of \$34,600.

50/50 Raffle – Three prizes were drawn on May 16, 2008 and the winners were:

3 rd Prize	Ticket # 4031	George Kramer	\$569.50
2 nd Prize	Ticket # 8653	Dorothy Oswald	\$1,139.00 *
1 st Prize	Ticket # 5683	Anthony Raffaele	\$3,977.75

* Dorothy Oswald generously donated \$570.00 back to The Arc.

Rainbow Walkathon – Sponsorships and walkers raised a total of \$35,000 for this event.

Golf Classic – Will take place on October 6, 2008 at Preakness Hills Country Club. Anyone interested in sponsoring or golfing can contact the development office at ext. 225 for more information. To date money pledged and paid total \$23,000.

Calendar Raffle 2008 – This is the first time The Arc has offered this type of raffle. Each ticket holder has 90 chances to win a prize; drawings will take place each day beginning November 3, 2008 and ending January 31, 2009; a total of \$4,000 in prizes will be given away.

The Arc is appreciative to its many friends who have helped us continue the legacy of our founder, Laura Sparks Blossfeld, by making a **tax-deductible** donation through these events. For more information on The Arc's fund raising programs or how you can continue your support through a Planned Gift or a donation in your Will, please contact the development office.

Janet Masio, Director of Development

THANK YOU!

for the ongoing generosity of the following Community Organizations:

Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Chapter	\$ 50.00
Knights of Columbus:	
Presentation Council #6033	\$4,500.00
St. Thomas More Council #2188	\$2,000.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Council #10206	\$1,890.00
St. Francis of Assisi Council #4524	\$1,548.54
Coronation Council #1863	\$1,100.00
St. John's Council #1345	\$1,100.00
Paramus Council #5680	\$1,000.00
Council #14483	\$ 787.50
St. Joseph's Council #3814	\$ 675.00
Chief Justice White Council #2586	\$ 540.00
St. Anthony Council #11585	\$ 500.00
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Council #3644	\$ 486.69
E.G. Alberque Sr. Council #2229	\$ 100.00
Lions Club of:	
Wood-Ridge	\$3,000.00
Hackensack	\$ 750.00
Saddle River Valley	\$ 600.00
Rutherford	\$ 500.00
Leonia	\$ 400.00
Bergen Hispanic-American	\$ 250.00
Fairview	\$ 250.00
Masons 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Districts	\$1,600.00
Woman's Club of:	
Wyckoff	\$ 100.00
Carlstadt	\$ 50.00

The Arc gratefully acknowledges our own "Arc Angels" for their generous donations.

Rosalyn Krown for chairs and lamps

Betty Hoehne for a George Forman Outdoor Grill

Ann Murray for tickets to the Liberty Science Center

Betty Hoehne for Nets tickets with parking passes

Joyce Stueben for Corelle dishes and coffee cups

Marlin Dickman for fabric, trim, binding and buttons

Wes Engles for a computer monitor and accessories

Eleanor Mercun for a set of assorted dishes

Ralph Mastrangelo for a CD organizer, assorted CD's and a Grey's Anatomy DVD collection

The Masons for tickets to a Jackals Baseball Game

Prom Night

Prom is the quintessential high school event. This past spring, along with many of the teenagers in Bergen and Passaic Counties, these fine young folks were picking out the perfect suit or gown and planning for their special evening. Have you ever seen a group of more handsome, beautiful and mature individuals? We congratulate all these young adults on their formal debuts.



Trayvon
Gaskins



Michael Kahn



Derek Legutko



Sammie Work



Frankie Legutko

Arc's Family Partners, Educational Advocacy Program... Helping Parents Secure An Appropriate Education For Their Child

If you have a child with special needs who requires services the school system may not be in a hurry to provide, feel free to contact us. Arc's Family Partners Educational Advocacy Program helps parents advocate for an appropriate education for children aged 0 to 21. We can assist you with making sense of the maze that is special education in NJ.

- ◆ If you are not sure what evaluations your child requires, what his or her needs currently are or how best to meet them,
- ◆ If you think your child could benefit from related services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy,
- ◆ If you think your child needs to be taught in a smaller classroom with fewer distractions and/or more supports,
- ◆ If you believe that your child's school placement is not working and s/he may need to go to an out-of-district school in order to make meaningful progress,
- ◆ If you are having trouble setting up an inclusive educational placement,
- ◆ If you are concerned that your child does not have a meaningful transition plan,
- ◆ If you believe that your child should be in an extended school year program,
- ◆ If you have any questions about your rights in special education...

The Arc can help.

Simply contact Program Coordinator, Natasha Schneider M.A., M.S.W. Natasha has a background in Education and Social Work and spent years working with children on the autism spectrum before joining The Arc's staff in 2006. She is also the proud mother of children with special needs.

According to Natasha "I can understand very well the frustration that parents often feel when their concerns are not being taken seriously by the school. I believe in establishing good working relationships between schools and families, in working together to meet the children's needs in the most comprehensive fashion possible."

The Family Partners program can be reached at 201-343-0322. Natasha is often out of the office attending meetings with parents so if she is not in, please ask for Joyce Stueben, Secretary at ext. 270.



Get Ready for a Round of Golf!

The Arc's 18th Annual Golf Classic will take place on
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008 at
PREAKNESS HILLS COUNTRY CLUB in Wayne.

We would like to thank Richard Fellingner, President of Mectronics Corporation, for once again being the **Event Sponsor** for the tournament. Other major sponsors already committed are: Tom Corbin – **Dinner Sponsor**, George Kramer/E&K Associates –



– **Cocktail Hour Sponsor**. Sponsorships are still available ranging in levels from \$100 up to \$4,000. Registration fee for the day's activities, which include golf fees, caddy, cart, lunch, cocktails, dinner and prizes is only \$300. *This cost is very reasonable compared to other tournaments at similar golf courses.*

If you are unable to attend, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to The Arc and pass this information along to any golfers you may know.

For more information, or an invitation please call Janet Masio, Director of Development at ext 225.

In Memoriam



The Arc mourns the loss of Sigmund Prokop, affectionately known as "Ziggy", longtime participant in the Crew Labor Janitorial Program. Ziggy passed way on July 19, 2008. As a daily member of the janitorial crew, Ziggy hardly missed a day of work in the more than 20 years of his tenure, a fixture and truly the patriarch of the very close knit family. Loved and respected by all, Ziggy displayed a strong, positive character, an optimistic philosophy, and a solid work ethic. He was a fine example for his coworkers, staff, family and friends, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with him.

Ziggy's sociable personality, and friendly conversation was not reserved for work acquaintances only. He was well known throughout his home community in Garfield, where he lived most of his life. Active in church and other community affairs, Ziggy was always a pleasure for company.

An avid sports fan, the Yankees were a daily topic of conversation for Ziggy, and even there, his optimism always prevailed. The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties will always remember the "Iron Man" of the Crew Labor Program, Sigmund Prokop, and wishes to express sincere sympathy to his family for their loss.

The Arc

of Bergen and Passaic Counties
223 Moore Street
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United Way of Bergen County
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