

Achieve with us!

We're making a difference in lives all over Hunterdon County, join us!

Moving Forward

Vol. 2 No. 2

Arc of Hunterdon

June 2017

Then & Now

For 20 years, Jude and Judy have been a staple in each other's lives and a well-known dynamic duo in Hunterdon County. The bond that Jude and Judy have developed is undeniable and is very clearly a friendship rooted in love for one another. The two share a connection, that when looked at from the outside, is undoubtedly based on mutual respect and care for one another. They are each other's biggest supporter and have become family over the years.



Jude and Judy, two peas in a pod

Prior to meeting Judy, Jude would not have been described as a fan of dogs. However, once introduced to Zoey, Judy's dog, Jude was smitten. To this day, Jude has a picture of Zoey hanging in his room for safe keeping. He talked about Zoey daily, visited her often, and was with her until she passed.

Over the years, Jude and Judy have become well known at various destinations across Hunterdon County. They spend at least three days a week together, exploring and visiting friends. Both individuals have an infectious presence that brightens a room. The pair has built relationships not only with each other, but in their community as well. Jude and Judy are known as a unit at various places, such as local stores, and 89.7 WDVR radio station where Jude and Judy would frequently be on air as guests. Jude has also stolen the hearts of many of Judy's friends at Sergeantsville United Methodist Church where he would visit for lunch weekly. In fact, if the pair didn't show up together, they would often be asked where the other was.

The Arc brought these two together. Jude and Judy will always share an unbreakable bond.

When Life Hands You Lemons...

YOU MAKE SNOWBALLS! We didn't let the snow get us down this winter. We had a great time.

Valentine's Dances, skiing, trips to the Poconos, adventures in Hershey, shows at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse... every day is something new!

That's not to say we aren't ready for this beautiful weather. Bring it on! We have picnics and cookouts to attend! Pools, beaches, friends, and family are calling to us. Have a safe and warm summer vacation.



Sandy, and her sister Cathy, out for a snow day adventure



Shaping Our Tomorrow

Our first *Bring Your Child to Work Day* was a huge success! Sixteen children between the ages of 4 and 16 spent the day learning about individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Each child stepped into an autistic perspective and worked on some sensory activities in a round table format. We even offered a basic first aid and CPR class so they could be well versed in emergency preparedness.

Kid's learned to write their name in braille, designed their own artwork with a pretend visual impairment, and used wheelchairs to maneuver around the building. Many activities were eye-opening for the participants and they were shocked how much more effort was needed to complete everyday tasks with a disability.

Our day ended with an adorable graduation ceremony where each child was presented with a Certificate of Excellence. They had an incredible time and we can't wait for next year!

Fundraising SUCCESS!

So who won at the Tricky Tray this year? LOTS OF PEOPLE! We had hundreds of happy winners around North Hunterdon this April as our annual event was a huge hit! We raised over \$50,000 that goes directly to supporting our neighbors with developmental/intellectual disabilities.

Not only did all of our wonderful guests support *The Arc of Hunterdon* but our partnership with *Family Promise* was just as successful. An entire truck load of household supplies were donated to the local organization on our event night.

Thanks to all who showed support, especially our corporate sponsors: PNC Bank, Nisivoccia LLP, Provident Bank, Fanuele Financial Group LLC, and Wells Fargo Advisors.



Gift Cards, Year Round

Did you know we have gift cards for sale for hundreds of businesses? You can order your gift cards with us, have them shipped right to you, and shop just as you typically would... all while supporting a great cause!

We place orders monthly, so call our main office (908.730.7827) to get your order in. Tons of stores, any denomination! Buy cards for your everyday shopping, upcoming Dad's & Grads, year-round gifts, and more!

Disability in the Mainstream

There are some powerful advocates with social media accounts who are well worth the follow!

[Carly Fleischman](#): She's a non-verbal woman with autism who runs her own talk show filled with fun guests!



[Asperger's Are Us](#): A group of 4 gents who formed a comedic tribe and travel the country performing together.

[Blake's Snow Shack](#): He's a Texas business owner who doesn't let Down Syndrome hold him back from anything.

**MONTHLY
PLEDGE**



Make your monthly pledge to impact the life of a neighbor near you by visiting [our website](#).

Introduction to Brain Injury

Presented By: Chad Thompson

Brain Health Network Training Coordinator for the
Brain Injury Alliance of NJ



Workshop Objectives:

Participants will learn the basic facts about the brain and brain injury, including the causes and consequences of brain injury, living with a brain injury and its effects, and how professionals can assist people with brain injury and their family members.

Resource materials will be provided to everyone attending.

**THURSDAY JULY 27, 2017
6PM TO 8PM**



Arc of Hunterdon County
1465 Route 31 South
(By Beaverbook Concourse)
Community Room
Annandale, NJ 08801
Questions: 908.223.1191
To RSVP: aruiz@fso-hsw.org



FREE Information Session

Come learn about brain injuries and speak with professionals in the field.

Thursday, July 27th from 6p-8p
at our main office.

This is open to the public.

To register your spot,
email aruiz@fso-hsw.org

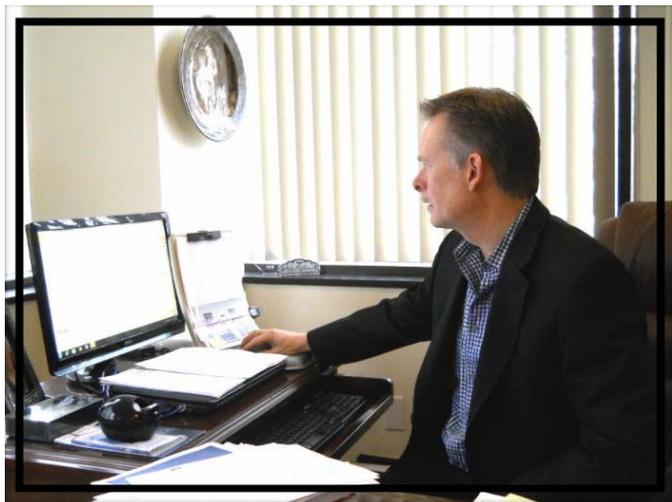
Small Gestures Have A Huge Impact

The Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Whitehouse Station has built quite a relationship with the gentleman at one of our Flemington group homes. They visit often to tell stories, sing holiday carols, and have picnics year round.



Residents John, Michael, and Ed with Knight friend, Mark D.

They saw the guys' beautiful deck and knew it was missing something. The Knights just donated a brand new patio set and umbrella to the house and the guys love it! Just in time for all the summer holidays, it will be enjoyed by all! Thanks so much for your thoughtful gift.



-From the Corner Office

Update from *The Arc of NJ* -
- On June 1st, more than 50 members of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage, dressed in green Coalition t-shirts, swarmed the halls of the State House to urge legislators to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals in the FY18

budget. The group was comprised of families, self-advocates, providers and DSPs who spoke with at least 50 elected officials, including the Senate President, members of both Budget Committees, and Senators and Assembly people from across the State.

Representatives from the Coalition moved throughout the State House, sought out legislators, provided them with literature on this issue, and impressed upon them the critical need to take action. Coalition members used this opportunity to stress the urgency of this matter and illustrate for legislators who are most impacted by the budget.

Simultaneously, a Twitter Thursday Campaign was initiated to coincide with the delivery of the message at the State House. This was another way of reinforcing the message with the Senate President and the Speaker of the Assembly. Using the hashtag #PayFair4DirectCare, the word is being continuously spread on this issue. To view photos from the event, visit the [DSP Coalition Facebook Page](#).

Shaping A Career

Written by Debbie Lloyd

Profound, Severe, Moderate, Mild. Male. Female. That's how the cottages were categorized at this 'State School for the Mentally Retarded'. It was 1972. The year Willowbrook was exposed. I was 15 and a volunteer. My strongest memories are of many hands hungrily grabbing for me, the stink of urine and bad food, and a cacophony of moans, screeches and *Soul Train* at full volume.



Debbie and Daniel, problem-solving

Where I worked, the women in the cottage spent time in a cement block day room ringed with hard plastic chairs. The television was always on. There was no other stimulation so residents rocked, sat and stared, or self stimulated by waving fingers in front of their eyes, biting themselves, and undressing. When I asked what they did during the week, I was told they sometimes went to school. Many had been placed there as very young children and had little or no contact with their families. All were desperate for love and attention, all without a voice.

My job was to help feed lunch, a horrible smelling purée of something. A 15 year old with no experience and no instruction. It's a wonder no one aspirated. Yet, I don't know how the attendants would have gotten it done without volunteer help. This institution made me mad, and it decided my career path.

In 1979, after graduating with my Bachelor's degree, I went to graduate school and became a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. My internship, practicum, and first job were at a multidimensional agency, but I was employed first as a Vocational Evaluator then a Rehabilitation Counselor working with adults in their sheltered workshop.

De-institutionalization was slowly taking place and agencies were forming group homes. Our primary goal for clients was sheltered employment. Individuals in sheltered employment generally perform repetitive manufacturing tasks on a piece-rate basis. That is, they receive a percentage of the going rate for the job (usually minimum wage) based on the number of pieces they complete compared to a factory employee doing the same job. They were not asked what they wanted to do and plans varied little from person to person. Some clients were bored with the repetition, some thrived on it. Competitive employment was very rare.

Fast forward to 1982, I was a Supervisor of Job Placement. People were rapidly being placed in boarding houses across the state. The 'sheltered workshop' became their chief source of community support. We taught

adults, who had never seen a public street, how to take buses, handle money and avoid becoming a victim. I taught classes in Community Awareness and Problem Solving, sexuality, along with job readiness. Employment began to steadily move out the workshop as well. I introduced the first job coaches and developed work trials. Services became more individualized as coaches worked one-on-one with clients.

People with developmental disabilities also started to be placed in non-manufacturing jobs for the first time. We were coaching stock clerks in stores, office workers, food service employees, and maintenance staff. Some agencies also started their own businesses for office cleaning, recycling, and thrift stores, where clients were earning a competitive wage and integrating into the community.

My career continued through the 1980s and 90s as the Director of Vocational Services at two rehabilitation hospitals. The *Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospitals* had just ruled that a facility had to have a vocational department in order to be considered a rehabilitation hospital. Now people were not just helped with their medical and therapeutic needs, but returning to work after disability was recognized as important. I worked primarily with persons who had experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and was able to add job-coaching to the menu of services they would receive for the first time. I also started a home based employment project for persons for whom traveling was difficult due to mobility or fatigue.

In 1990, the *Americans with Disabilities Act* was passed prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and governmental activities. Employers were also required to provide "reasonable accommodation" to a job or work environment to make it possible for a person with a disability to perform job duties. This meant that persons with disabilities were empowered to not only enter the job market, but to request what they specifically needed to do their best. Tax incentives were also provided to help employers integrate persons with disabilities into their workforce.

Then in 2010, President Obama passed *Rosa's Law*. This law removed the words "mentally retarded" from all federal health, education, and labor policy and replaced it with "intellectual disability". Following suit, in 2013, the DSM-5 made the same change in its manual. That's the year I joined *The Arc of Hunterdon County*.

I am currently Manager of Self-Directed Services. Just my job title alone reflects how far we have come. Forty-five years ago many of the people we support would have been (and some were) warehoused and given just custodial care. Today, individuals with developmental disabilities are fully acknowledged as adults with all the same rights of other citizens. They control their own lives, hire their own staff, and make their own decisions. We no longer "take care" of them. Instead we support their hopes and dreams. We also provide support to their families. We teach people to self-advocate, explore, learn and have new experiences. We recognize each individual's inherent worth and we celebrate it.

Start Your Own Babysitting Business

We'll be hosting our annual *Special Sitter's Certification* this June. It's a 2-day course held over one weekend, June 24th-June 25th from 10am-2pm both days.



Young adults ages 12-17 will not only be trained in American Red Cross CPR and First Aid, they'll learn the skills needed to support special needs children, and they'll build their own portfolio to start a business for summer work. The skills are invaluable and can be used throughout their lifetime.

Seats are limited, registration costs \$30 and includes all supplies, light refreshments, and certification. To confirm your spot, please call 908.730.7827 ext. 237 or email denise@archunterdon.org.

The Arc of Hunterdon County | 908.730.7827 | www.archunterdon.org

See what's happening on our social sites:



The Arc of Hunterdon County
Concourse at Beaver Brook
1465 Route 31 Suite 23
Annandale, NJ 08801

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