

NEWSLETTER



Goodbye 2025!

From exciting Recreation trips to community events and fundraisers to the day to day memories being made, we welcome you to rewind with us and take a look at what the last three months of 2025 have looked like at The Arc of Hunterdon County. We are thankful for a year full of wonderful memories and are excited for what 2026 has in store for us!

In this newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, ArcWorks Updates, Rec Updates, and more. Keep Reading!

DECEMBER 31ST, 2025

End of Year Update

UPCOMING DATES

- 1/30 Connection Hub Game Night
- 2/22 REC Winter Trip: Cruise to the Bahamas
- 3/5 Self-Advocacy Project Presentation on Stress Management
- 6/6 Bouquet of Baskets and Bags Spring Bingo/Tricky Tray


The Arc
of Hunterdon County

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Immaculate Conception Partnership

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2025

Our Family Support Department have partnered with the Immaculate Conception School for some exciting projects! This December the school hosted ArcWorks for a holiday craft day and sing along!



The Arc Celebrates the Holidays

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 2025

It was a festive time at ArcWorks and the office! The day of celebration kicked off with the Hunterdon Preparatory School's Vocal and Music Labs performing a sing along with everyone! After the music everyone enjoyed a special lunch together, baked ziti and meatballs at ArcWorks and a Potluck Lunch in the office. After lunch, we had a very special visitor! Santa had a gift for everyone and stayed for some photos before heading back home!



Self Advocates Making a Difference

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

ArcWorks had a special visit and presentation from the NJ council on Developmental Disabilities on December 15th. Presenters Allison Malnak & Frank Latham joined them to discuss the topic of self advocacy. Erin Smithers with the New Jersey Self Advocacy Project did a training presentation at ArcWorks on Stress Management. Erin is returning to Arc Works on March 5th to present topic on advocating for yourself. One of our self advocates assisted Advocacy adviser Denise Snyder on November 21st, to deliver much needed food donations in time for the holiday season, from office staff to Open Door Food pantry in Frenchtown. Two of our Advocates, who reside in Frenchtown, also enjoy volunteering to help the pantry.

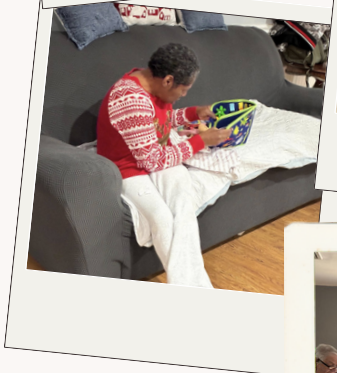
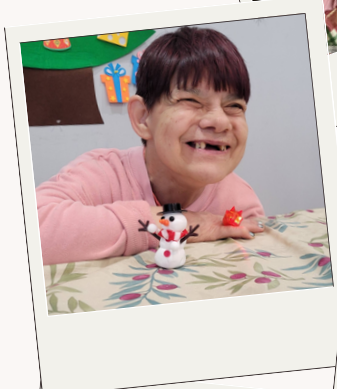


END OF YEAR UPDATE

RESIDENTIAL FUN

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES!

Our Residential Department has had a lot of fun these past few months! From celebrating birthdays with friends and family, to enjoying the holidays together, and getting in the festive spirit, many wonderful memories were made and lots of quality time was together!



KEEPING UP WITH RECREATION



Soaking up the Sun!

Fall trip to Cape May 10.16.25 - 10.19.25



Recreation had a very exciting October! From mini golf at Two T's to their annual fall trip to Cape May and dancing the night away at Monster Mash, REC has a very exciting month!

November was an equally busy month for our REC crew! From celebrating Family & Friendsgiving to supporting the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, and ending the month with some holiday events, our REC crew was getting into the festive mood.

December was an exciting month for REC. From multiple holiday events to their month trip to the bowling alley, and ending the month with a New Year's Eve celebration, REC certainly celebrated in style.

Looking Forward: The Recreation department is very excited for their upcoming cruise and all that 2026 has in store for them!

Recreation meets every week for various activities such as movie days, bowling, mini golf, and more! They are open to expanding programs as well, if that is of interest to anyone.

Have program suggestions in mind? Email our Recreation Coordinator Sara Ashley at: sstaviski@archunterdon.org

WHAT'S UP AT ARCWORKS

SOAKING UP THE SUN

October was a fantastic month at ArcWorks! From creating spooky decorations for Halloween to getting in the spooky mood with silly tricks, there was never a dull moment at program. The month ended with their annual Halloween party and trick or treating in the office.

November was a very busy month at ArcWorks! From enjoying the last bits of decent weather before winter hits to creating beautiful decorations to hang up, everyone had a very memorable month! The highlight of the month was ArcWorks Thanksgiving celebration!

December was all about the festive spirit for ArcWorks! From creating holiday decorations, to hosting their annual holiday party, there were so many memories and good times had!

Looking ahead: Our folks are very excited for a new year of wonderful memories and all that lies ahead for 2026!

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH (NDEAM)



In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), this edition of the newsletter will highlight the importance of this month and the history behind its recognition. 2025 honors the 80th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This month recognizes the positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce.

This recognition first started in 1945, called the “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week” as a weeklong national observance in honor of people with physical disabilities in the workforce. Then in 1988, Congress designated the month of October as NDEAM, which also acknowledged the contributions and acknowledge the “importance of increasing opportunities for people with disabilities, including those with mental health conditions and other nonobvious disabilities, in the workforce.” In 2001, The U.S. Department of

Labor created the Office of Disability Employment Policy, which was entrusted to administer NDEAM and select the annual themes and promote them to raise more awareness.

This year, the 2025 theme is entitled “Celebrating Value and Talent”. In a world where diversity is often perpetuated a negative or like the individual is unworthy of their job, it is important for us to pause and remember and recognize the different talents each person brings to their job. NDEAM was created to highlight and embrace these differences and highlight the beauty in diversifying our workforce and including individuals with disabilities into the workforce. Individuals in the intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) community have faced many barriers to inclusion, however, through advocacy and policy change many advancements have been made, which is why months such as this one are so important to spread awareness of and embrace and encourage diversity in our workforce.

During the 1990s, disability rights movement a slogan “Nothing about us, without us” still holds very true today. Many in the I/DD community are having policies and laws made about the community with no voice from the community being heard. By embracing NDEAM, community members are able to get their foot in the door, be heard, and make positive changes to the American workforce.

Sources: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam>

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

November is National Family Caregivers Month, which raises awareness of caregiving issues, educates communities, increases support for caregivers, empowers caregivers to prioritize their needs, and raises awareness about resources and services for caregivers' health and well-being.

“They’re cheerleaders and crisis managers, nurses and advocates, therapists and service coordinators. They’re not just family members—they’re lifelines. Family caregivers are the backbone of care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and their stories often go untold.”

The Arc’s [2023 Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports \(FINDS\) survey](#) highlights the need for better support systems for caregivers and their loved ones. Their insights challenge how our society views disability, family, and community:

- Over 50% report very high or extreme stress levels
- 90% have seen their careers impacted
- More than 4 in 5 have had to provide increased support



[The Arc’s article linked here highlights several caretakers and their experiences.](#)

PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING



Sip and Support

THERE IS NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT WITH THIS FUNDRAISER!

To celebrate the coming of Spring we are launching our Spring edition labels! The labels feature paintings created by our folks and are available now. The Arc of Hunterdon County receives a portion of each sale of our specially labeled bottles.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER NOW!](#)



It's the Season of Giving

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We here at The Arc of Hunterdon County are grateful for the positive impact we are able to make in the lives of those we serve, and want to thank all of our donors for their continued support. With the coming of fall also comes Giving Tuesday and our fall appeal.

Our Fundraising Department is hard at work putting our fall appeal together. If you wish to donate to help us continue our mission of supporting those with intellectual/developmental disabilities please click the link to the right or scan the QR Code.



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)



Sensory Room for ArcWorks

CURRENT FUNDRAISING PROJECT

ArcWorks is very excited and appreciative for all the work and donation towards their sensory room. We have an Amazon Wishlist for anyone who would like to donate an item to our Day Program for the Sensory Room. Scan the QR Code to the right to see our wishlist! [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE WISHLIST!](#)

Recreation Fundraisers

MONTHLY EVENTS

Our Recreation Department like to thank Destination Athlete, the Shake Shack in Bridgewater, and everyone who supported their recent fundraisers!!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Self-Advocacy Meeting

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

Our Self-Advocacy advisors are so thankful for a wonderful year of advocacy and are excited for all that 2026 has in store!

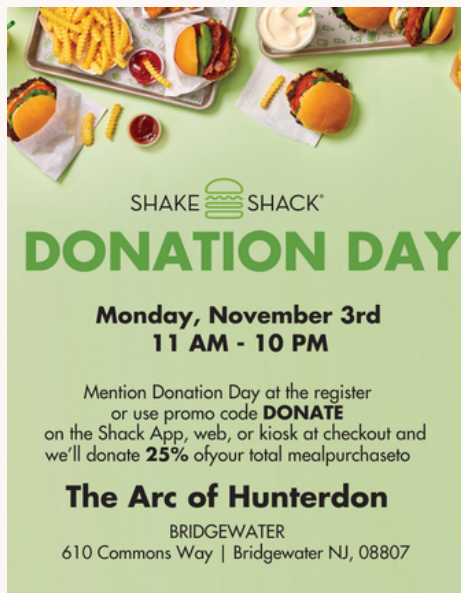
If you are interested in attending please email Denise Snyder at: denise@archunterdon.org or call her at: 908-730-7827 x237

REC's Monster Mash

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

Our Recreation Department hosted their annual Monster Mash dance on Friday, October 24th. Our REC folks always look forward to a night of dancing the night away in their Halloween costumes.

A big thank you goes to the Glen Gardner VFW for letting us use the space for the dance!



REC's Donation Day

NOVEMBER 3RD

Our Recreation Department hosted a dine to donate with Shake Shack in Bridgewater! We want to thank everyone who took the time out to stop by and support our Recreation department with this fundraiser.

LOOKING FORWARD

Thank You to Our Donors!

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Paula Butler
Dennis Peiffer
KoC Milford
Gabrielle Laitem
Helen Szela
Gloria Monaco
Laury Hamilton
Paul Barone
Andrea Harp
Denise Lubrano
Misty Clark
Robert & Colleen Tambuscio

Michael Logan
Bari Ferrara
Lindsay Straub
Meghan Quinn
Diane Luzzi
Victor Vitek
Nancy Coldreck
Jackie Keen
Fern & Paul Barone
Gabrielle Petersen

Nancy Boorujian
Catherine & Jay Langley
Anthony Pappalardo
Joseph Loozen
Kathy & Mike Walsh
Barbara & Leroy Brown
Veronica Primiano
Doreen Primiano-Ramos
Mary Ann Axelsen
Ron Antoniewicz
William Hoffman
Robert Coldreck

Patricia & Michael Fitzpatrick
Travis M. Tallman
Alda Mattison
Charles & Arlene Trenton
Dominick & Marianne Mazzagetti
Warren Hills Memorial Home
Kenneth Stadnik
Carl & Janice Razza
Christine Storm
Elizabeth Hoelter
Christine & Matthew Schuette
Michael & Mary Dean

Diana Evans
Christine Petruzzelli
Patricia McKiernan
Robert Nazarette
Maureen Gargas
Alicia Rudolph
Carrie Heiney
Susan Heffernan
Silvia Chmura
Teresa Ringer
Linda Lakatosh
Karen Sabattis

Mark Lino
Friedman Family
Art Artiles
Peter Buchsbaum
Frederick Lehlbach
Theresa Angri
Mary Ditzler
Barbara Cromwell
David & Barbara Caldwell
Rita Read
William Glaser Jr
Sandra Brainard
Mary Lou Postiglione
Edward Weinstein
Cheryl Roth
Edward Peters

We are Hiring!

Are you or someone you know looking for a job? The Arc of Hunterdon County may be the perfect place for you! See our flyer to the left for more details on open positions.

If interested in applying please reach out to our Benefits Coordinator Jill Brown via email at: jill@archunterdon.org and click the link below to fill out our application.

[Click here to apply today!](#)



Meet our Staff/Board!

DIRECTORS LIST

Colleen Dennis	Earl McMillan
• Executive Director	• Director of Residential
Kathy Petrik	Melissa Duffy
• Deputy Executive Director	• Associate Director of Residential
Scott Feltes	Cori Garofalo
• Associate Executive Director	• Director of Training and Staff Development
Kellie Woodruff	Jenny Holdorff
• Associate Executive Director of HR and Client Advocacy	• Director of Medicaid Services
Joann Colucci	Patricia Brazdovic
• Associate Executive Director of Residential	• Co-Director of Human Resources
	Suzanne Bechtle
	• Co-Director of Human Resources

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Kathy Walsh	Loretta Luzzo
• Board President	• Treasurer
Jessica Lui	Elaine Buchsbaum
• Vice President	• Corresponding Secretary
Jeffrey Mattison	
• Second Vice President	

BOARD MEMBERS

- Betsy Ellis
- Nancy Coldreck
- Jean Paich
- Barbara Cromwell
- Carolyn Francis
- Karl Heimerl

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
The Arc of Hunterdon County



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@thearcofhunterdon](#)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
archunterdon.org