

NEWSLETTER



JUNE 26TH, 2026 ✦

2nd Quarter Update

UPCOMING DATES

July is Disability Pride Month

- 7/22 Self-Advocacy Meeting
- 7/31 Connection Hub
- 8/19 Self-Advocacy Ice Cream Social
- 8/19 - 8/23 Hunterdon County 4-H Fair
- 8/28 Connection Hub
- 9/9 Self-Advocacy Presentation
- 9/14 - 9/18 DSP Appreciation Week
- 9/17 - 9/18 DSP Conference in Atlantic City
- 9/25 Connection Hub

Halfway Through 2026!

From exciting Recreation trips to community events and fundraisers, the first half of 2026 has been full of memories! We welcome you to take a look at what the last three months have looked like at The Arc of Hunterdon County. We are hopeful and excited for what 2026 still has in store for us!



↓ In this newsletter you will find:

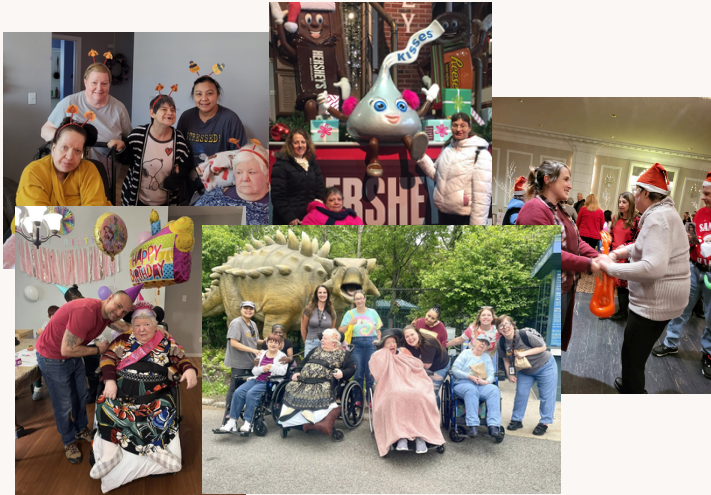
Latest projects, ArcWorks Updates, Rec Updates, and more. Keep Reading!

GOODBYE WORK, HELLO RETIREMENT!

This past month, we have said a very bittersweet farewell to one of our most dedicated and devoted employees, Patty. Patty started working here at The Arc of Hunterdon County, 54 years ago. As the first paid employee of The Arc of Hunterdon County, Patty wore many different hats throughout her years. From secretary, to Interim Executive Director, to Director of HR, Patty dedicated so much time, effort, and love into her job and into the people we support. Countless friends and memories made throughout these 54 years will be cherished for a lifetime. The impact Patty had on the agency and our folks will continue to shine through for many years to come. Patty's years of service and dedication were formally recognized by the Hunterdon County Commissioner's Office where she received a formal Proclamation acknowledging all the work she has put in these past 54 years and celebrates her upcoming retirement at the end of the month. While it is very sad to see her leave, her retirement is so well earned and deserved and we all wish Patty the best in her retirement!



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



International Nurses Day

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH

In recognition of International Nurses Day, we wanted to take this section of our May Newsletter to recognize and thank all of our nurses for sharing their kindness and talent every day to help the people we support to live the lives they want. Aimee, Tom, Jodi, Patti, and Kathy we thank you for the difference you make everyday in so many lives!

Designer Bag Bingo/Tricky Tray Fundraiser!

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

Our Fundraising Department would like to sincerely thank everyone, staff, volunteers, attendees, and sponsors who helped make this year's event a massive success! Our Designer Bag Bingo/Tricky tray event is our largest fundraiser of the year and so much work and effort goes into creating a fun filled day!



L'Oreal Citizen Day!

THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH

We want to give a massive thank you to the volunteers from L'Oreal who participated in this year's Citizen Day! Volunteers were out to one of our homes to help repaint the dining room! Citizen Day is an annual initiative where employees dedicate a full workday to support social and environmental non-profit organizations.

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 some day trips, and hosting a cooking class, our Residential crew was busy soaking up the sun and making memories!



FROM OUR FAMILY SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Our Family Support Department had a very busy last couple of months! From multiple expos/events to a very special Earth Day Self-Advocacy presentation. Our Family Support crew were out at the Frenchtown Autism Walk, The Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Church's Services and Volunteer Fair, as well as the Disability Services Expo hosted by Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council.

Our Self-Advocacy group celebrated Earth Day with a special presentation from the Hunterdon County Health Department's Seed Your Community Program! The presentation focused on the importance of recycling and it's impact on the Earth, mosquitos and their life cycle as well as learning about other bugs, and the presentation ended with making our own seed balls filled with seeds native to Hunterdon County.



FROM OUR FAMILY SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

June included two presentations! The first presentation involved interviewing ArcWorks staff Randy learning more about his job and about his time, so far, with The Arc of Hunterdon County! They also took some time to congratulate one of our advocates who recently participated in Special Olympics and received both a 3rd and 5th place medals!

The second presentation welcomed Frank Latham & Allison Malnak with the NJ Council on Disability to ArcWorks. They gave an incredibly engaging and wonderful presentation on Self-Advocacy and what it means to advocate for yourself and others.

Advocate Interview:

Guest name:

- Randy Downing

Title/Position:

- DSP- ArcWorks

What do you do and how does your job make an impact?:

- Work with our Day Program, going out to different programs like Meals on Wheels or Grow a Row and helping give back to the community

How long have you worked at The Arc of Hunterdon County?:

- About 2 years

What do you like best about your job?:

- Spending time with everyone

What is Self-Advocacy to you?:

- Helping people make their own choices

If you could give Self-Advocates any advice on the importance of self-advocacy, what would you share?:

- Stand up for what you believe in



KEEPING UP WITH RECREATION



Want to join REC?

Scan the QR Code below for more info!

**Recreation Enjoyment
Club**

SCAN ME!



Recreation had a wonderful April, from their night at the movies to seeing the Lehigh Valley Phantoms and Somerset Patriots to seeing Vorhees High School's production of Into the Woods, REC had a busy month!

Recreation had a very exciting May! From their Spring Fling dance to Meet n Munch at Panera, to Carnival Night and ending the month with a BBQ in the park, REC had a very busy May!

June was an equally eventful month! Some highlights were visiting the TD Bank Ballpark to see the Somerset Patriots, Meet n Munch at Riley & Jake's, and ending the month listening to some live music at the Clinton Elks!

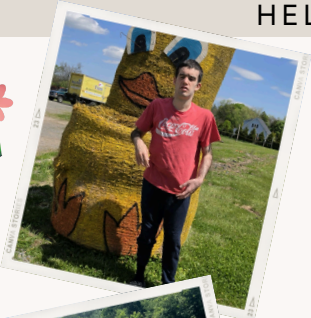
Looking Forward: The Recreation Department is very excited to head to Deer Path Park for a fireworks show, enjoy their Epic Pizza Monday at Chimney Rock Inn, dance the night away at their White Hot Dance, and head back to the ballpark for another Somerset Patriots baseball game!!

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: sttaviski@archunterdon.org

WHAT'S UP AT ARCWORKS

HELLO WARM WEATHER



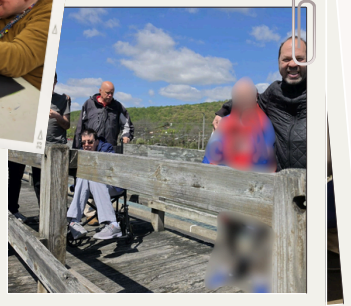
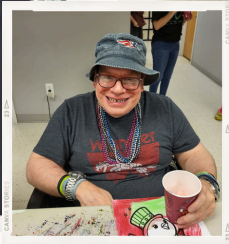
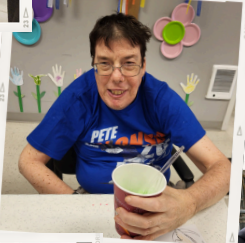
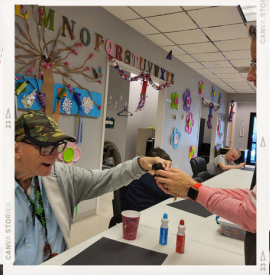
April was a very eventful month. Everyone was very excited for warm weather and the ability to eat lunch at the parks again. ArcWorks had the very special opportunity to raise and care for 2 chicks, named Thelma and Louise!



May was a great month at ArcWorks! Our groups were out and about soaking up the warm weather and visiting local stops such as the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center!



June was a wonderful month for our folks at ArcWorks as excitement was building all month for summer's arrival! From eating lunch outside and walks at the park and around program to creating summer decorations for program our folks have been very busy.



IN RECOGNITION OF AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



In recognition of Autism Acceptance Month, this newsletter will put a spotlight on Dr. Bernard Rimland, a psychologist and writer who established Autism Acceptance Month. After his son Mark exhibited some concerning behaviors during his infancy, and received minimal guidance from their Doctor, Dr. Rimland and his wife Gloria decided to do research on their own. “Gloria recalled encountering a description of an atypical child in a college textbook. After sifting through boxes, they located and read through the book, leading them to the realization that Mark exhibited characteristics consistent with autism.” Dr. Rimland decided to research some ways he could help his son. He very quickly realized that the medical world had a cold, dismal view on the cause of autism- neglectful parents. A term referred to as Refrigerator Mothers” was coined in reference to the cause. “Refrigerator Mothers” were described as “cold, unfeeling women who forced their children to withdraw into a protective shell of indifference.”

Dr. Rimland sought to change this narrative and over the course of five years, conducted immense research and studies to find the underlying cause of autism. “Rimland countered by writing an article positing that the behaviors observed in children with autism indicated an underlying biological impairment, likely influenced by genetics, environmental factors, and neurology.” What was meant to be a short term research project to help his family better understand and help their son turned into a lifetime of advocacy and innovation for the community. After the publication of his book “Infantile Autism: The Syndrome and Its Implication for a Neural Theory of Behavior” he had hundreds of parents write to him and reach out, finally having been seen and heard, not blamed. His findings led to a massive shift in the healthcare field. “This led to the adoption of more aggressive measures, including the use of powerful medications such as Haldol and Mellaril, behavioral interventions (now recognized as Applied Behavior Analysis or ABA), and sensory integration therapy.”

Through his work and advocacy, he founded organizations such as the Autism Society of America, “the largest parent-based autism organization in the country,” and what is now known as the Autism Research Institute. He was also invited to be the technical advisor for the Oscar winning film “Rain Man”. Thanks to his work with the Autism Society of America, then President Ronald Reagan officially declared April as National Autism Acceptance Month in 1988. Dr. Rimland passed away in November 2006 after prolonged battle with cancer.

Sources: <https://arionline.org/editorial-bernard-rimlands-impact-sixty-years-since-the-publication-of-infantile-autism/> <https://autism.org/bernard-rimlands-infantile-autism/>
<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2006-nov-26-me-rimland26-story.html>

IN THE NEWS

This past month, the Department of Justice released a legal opinion “that threatens one of the most important civil rights protections for people with disabilities: the right to live and receive services in the community, not be unnecessarily confined to institutions.” The opinion directly targets the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Olmstead vs L.C.* from 1999 that “recognized institutional isolation of people with disabilities as discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For more than 25 years, *Olmstead* has helped people with disabilities fight for the supports they need to live at home and in their communities.” By stating that the landmark case such as *Olmstead vs L.C.*, the ADA, and Section 504 do not require states to mandate integration sets a dangerous precedent for the services and support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) receive. These laws and cases ensure individuals with I/DD receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate, including in community-based settings when that is possible

While the opinion itself does not rewrite that decision or change anything, it does have serious and potentially harmful effects. When the Federal Government directly threatens the rights of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). This statement alone is dangerous because it indicates that the Federal Government may be less likely to enforce these laws. “Disability rights aren’t always weakened through one big repeal. Sometimes they’re weakened through legal memos, withdrawn guidance, reduced enforcement, and regulations that get rolled back.”

We here at The Arc of Hunterdon County believe in the basic right of being able to choose. We pride ourselves on being able to support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in the way they want support and that right of choice is a critical pillar in our organization. The original movement of The Arc was founded “by families and people with disabilities who rejected institutionalization and demanded the right to live, learn, work, and belong in the community.”

While this is confusing and upsetting news, it’s important to understand what is still law and what has changed. Here’s what people with disabilities, families, and advocates need to know right now:

- *Olmstead* is still Supreme Court precedent
- The ADA and Section 504 are still law
- The integration mandate still exists in federal regulations
- People’s rights have not disappeared
- The federal government is signaling that it may stop enforcing key protections for community living
- People with disabilities and advocates must stay alert, organized, and ready to push back

It is important more now than ever to call your representatives, let them know the rights of individuals with I/DD cannot be threatened and action must be taken to protect these basic rights.

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!](#)



Powered by You!

OUR WORK IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF DEDICATED SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU

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. 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 Panera Bread, Riley & Jake's, and everyone who supported their recent fundraisers!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Self-Advocacy

Our Self Advocacy group is very excited to announce a couple exciting presentations coming up!

- July 22nd - The self-advocacy meeting theme for this meeting is to enjoy the hot days of summer while keeping ourselves safe and healthy. Time: 1 pm - 2 pm
- August 19th - Please join our self-advocates for an ice cream social! Time: 1 pm - 2 pm
- September 9th - Chief Mike Sadusky with Pattenburg Fire Department will bring a fire truck for folks to see firsthand, and host a fire safety presentation. Time: 1 pm - 2 pm

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

Direct Support Professional Statewide Conference



The local chapters of The Arc of New Jersey are coming together and heading down to Atlantic City this September for a statewide conference. DSP's from all over the state will have the ability to come together, engage, share ideas, and help shape the future of DSP work in the state.

This conference will coincide with our annual DSP Appreciation Week, which is an annual event recognized by the State of New Jersey, honoring all the work and dedication DSP's put into their jobs and the care they provide for those we support.

Connection Hub

Our Family Support Department has launched Connection Hub! A monthly get together for young adults in the I/DD community can come hang out, play some games, and socialize during our event! Some upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

- Friday, June 26th
- Friday, August 28th
- Friday, July 31st
- Friday, September 25th

Please contact Heather Clawson (heather@archunterdon.org) for more information or to sign up!

LOOKING FORWARD

Thank You to Our Donors!

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Knights of Columbus
Angie Guydish
Flemington Elks Lodge #1928
Northfield Bank
Scholl & Whittlesey
Patriot Growth Insurance Services
Princeton Wealth Management
Jenkinson's Aquarium
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Affinity Federal Credit Union
The Intrepid Museum
New York Red Bulls
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Carolyn Francis
The Walsh Family
KoC - Our Lady of Lourdes
KoC - St. Catherine's
Margaret Cope
John F. O'Halloran
Mrs. Carol & Pastor Gerry Ball



The Arc of Hunterdon County

We Are HIRING

Multiple Positions Open!

- Direct Support Professional (DSP)
- RN
- LPN

WHAT WE LOOK FOR:

Are you a kind-hearted person who loves working with others in a meaningful way? The Arc of Hunterdon County may be the perfect place for you!

The DSP role includes: supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their homes. You will have a set schedule and tasks can include cooking, cleaning, assisting with personal needs, doing laundry, participating in community activities, attending social events, spending time with friends, etc.

Multiple shifts Available: Morning, Evening, Overnight

\$18 base pay (raise after probationary period!) Paid Holidays!
No experience required! 3 week paid training!
Vacations! 401k and Benefits!

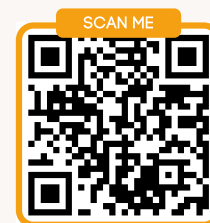
Apply now! jill@archunterdon.org

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!

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Kathy Petrik
• Deputy Executive Director

Scott Feltes
• Associate Executive Director

Kellie Woodruff
• Associate Executive Director of HR and Client Advocacy

Joann Colucci
• Associate Executive Director of Residential

Earl McMillan
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Melissa Duffy

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