

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2026 ✦

3rd Quarter Update

UPCOMING DATES

- 10/2 NJ Statewide Advocacy Fall Conference
- 10/14 Self-Advocacy
- 10/15 - 10/18 REC Fall Trip
- 10/21 The Arc NJ Parent Advocacy Training
- 10/22 November REC Sign-Ups
- 10/23 Connection Hub
- 11/18 Self-Advocacy
- 11/19 December REC Sign-Ups
- 11/20 Connection Hub
- 12/17 January REC Sign-Ups
- 12/18 Connection Hub

Almost Through 2026!

From exciting Recreation trips to community events and fundraisers, the second half of 2026 is starting off strong! 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 the rest of 2026 has in store for us!



In this newsletter you will find:

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

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

DSP Recognition Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

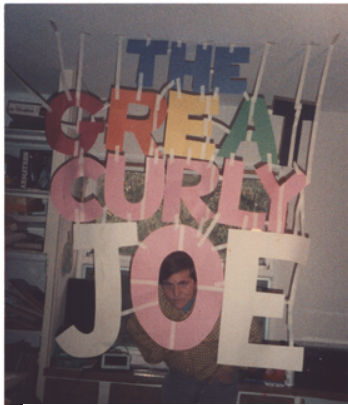
Governor Sherrill has released the official state proclamation deeming the week of September 13th - 19th Direct Support Professional Recognition Week!

The week is designated to recognize and honor the work DSP's in our agency and across the state put each and every day to help support folks in the intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) community.

Tuesday started strong with gift cards for all staff! Every staff received a gift card and thank you note in appreciation of everything you do for our folks day in and day out. We could not do this without you!!

Wednesday we made special deliveries to each house with a drop-off of hoagies! We also want to thank QuickChek and Wawa for their donations and helping us make this delivery possible!

We ended this year's DSP Appreciation Week festivities with a Gift Card Frenzy on Friday! Every hour from 9 am - 3 pm, we selected a new winner for a \$50 gift card!



“Words on my Mind”

ERIC SPENCER'S SOLO EXHIBITION AT WHITE COLUMNS NYC

White Columns is pleased to present Words On My Mind, a solo exhibition by New Jersey-based artist Eric Spencer (b. 1969). The exhibition comprises photographs taken by the artist's mother, Doris Spencer, documenting his early cut-out text works from the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Eric Spencer began making cut-out text works at home in his early teens. Using materials at hand—construction paper, Scotch tape, Styrofoam—he recreated phrases, typefaces, and symbols borrowed from popular culture and from notes found throughout his family's rural New Jersey home. His near-perfect reproductions of music, film, and television logos were cut entirely freehand, joined together with webs of tape, and suspended from his bedroom ceiling, where they hung in midair like the opening credits of a film.

These fleeting installations rarely remained in place for more than a day, but his mother, Doris Spencer, consistently documented them with her 35mm camera. Though Doris and Eric never discussed his motivations, Doris later reflected that Eric had “captioned his life.”

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

DSP CONFERENCE

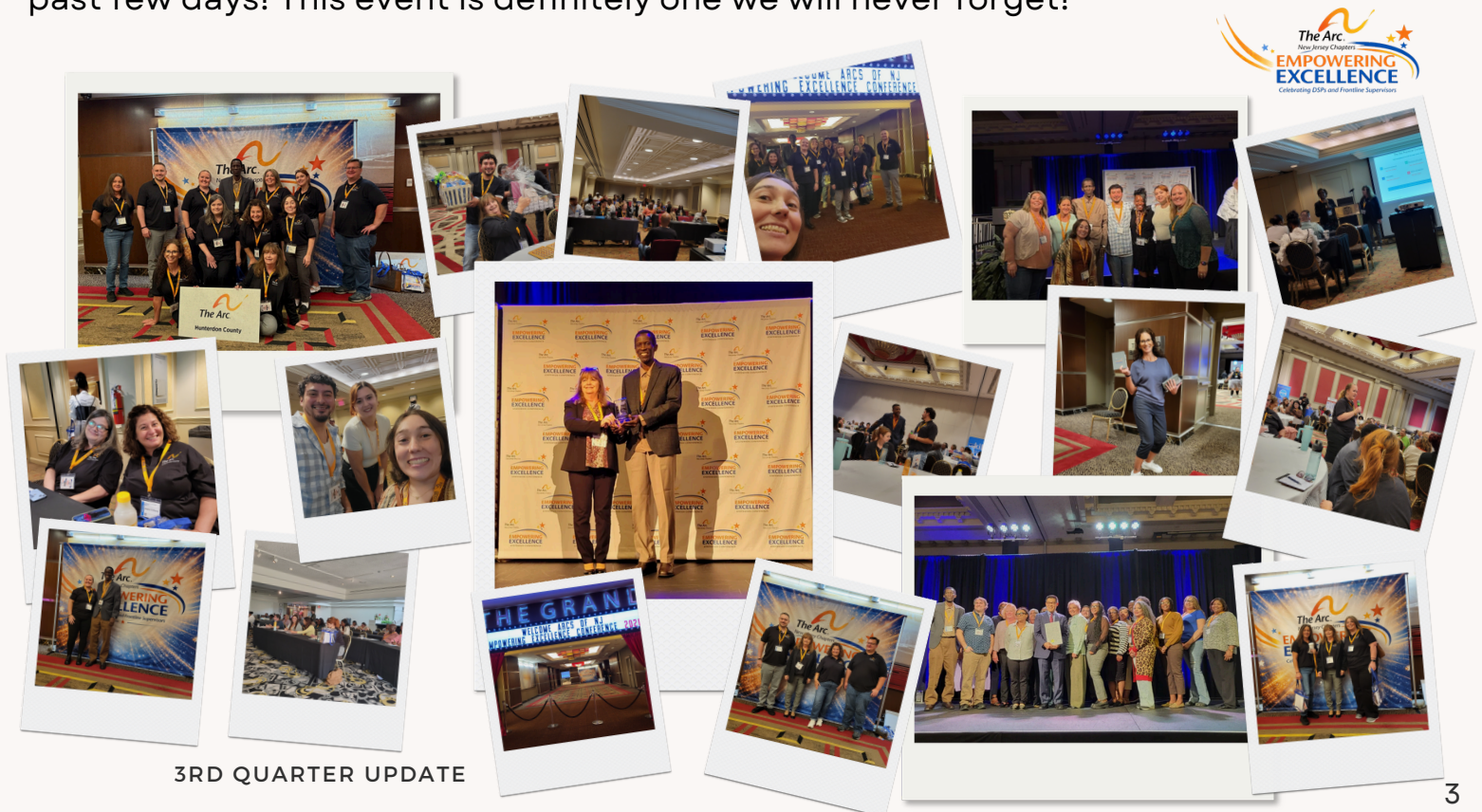
Empowering Excellence: 1st Annual DSP Conference THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

The event started with the DSP Recognition Week Proclamation being presented by Dr. Stephen Cha, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

The conference then moved into two days of engaging, learning, and connecting. From keynote speeches from Executive Directors of other county chapters, Dr. Hassan Abdulhaqq, and The Arc of New Jersey Executive Director Céline Fortin to interactive and informative breakout sessions held each day, our team took back so much valuable information!

Our event concluded today with the awards ceremony, acknowledging the first winners of the Empowering Excellence Award to a DSP from each county's chapter! Our Arc of Hunterdon crew showed their spirit cheering on and celebrating our first winner, Mark!!

We want to thank our entire team that attended the event, the committee who put this entire event together, all of the breakout session presenters, keynote speakers, and all of the incredible staff from other county chapters that we have met over the past few days! This event is definitely one we will never forget!



IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A SELF-ADVOCATE

SELF-ADVOCACY DAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Today, we hosted our first Self-Advocacy Day! Our advocates got together to celebrate and hear a couple presentations from our guest speakers.

The first guest speakers were with the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department and talked to our advocates about some programs they offer for folks in the I/DD community. Our advocates engaged with the officers to hear and learn more about how barriers are being broken down to make sure traffic stops are safe for all parties involved.



vehicle for various traffic stops or to help with safety needs. Our advocates even asked for the lights and sirens which the officers put on a quick show of them before the end of their presentation.

Following the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department presentation, our advocates also heard from Erin Smithers with the New Jersey Self-Advocacy project to learn a little more about what it means to vote and voting rights that we have on election day.



The discussion centered around accessibility in voting and the rights we have when it comes to voting and making our voices heard in the election process. Whether that is mail-in ballots, going for early voting, or needing extra support in the polling booth

on election day, the resources available to anyone who needs it are vital to making sure everyone has access to exercising their rights.

After Erin's presentation our Self-Advocates enjoyed a pizza party together and a special visit from the Kona Ice truck! The energy was electric as our Self-Advocates enjoyed their day or presentations, community, and time together.



Everyone provided fantastic insight during both presentations talking about what rights they have in the voting process and how they use their voice to vote for the candidate they choose. They also spoke up about what actions they can take during emergency situations to not only keep themselves safe but to help others as well.

We want to sincerely thank our Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Denise for putting everything together, our Self-Advocates for making the day an event to remember, and the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office and Erin Smithers for their wonderful presentations!



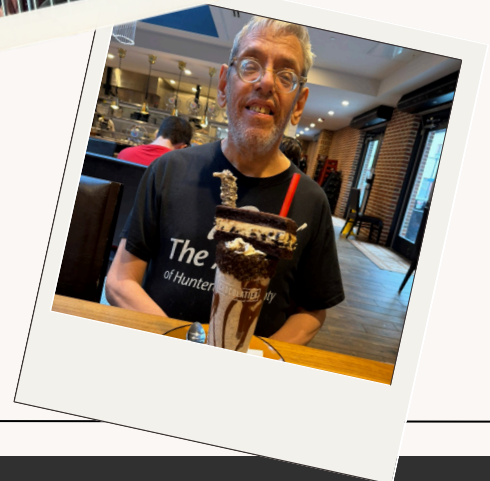
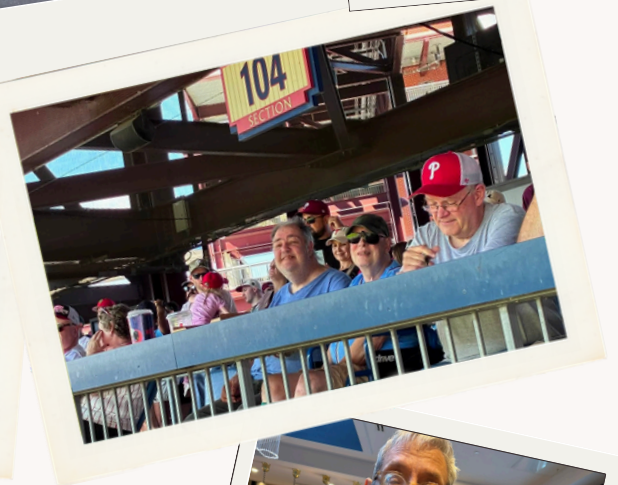
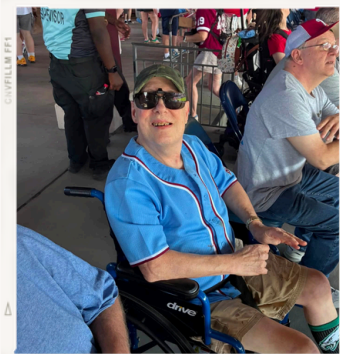
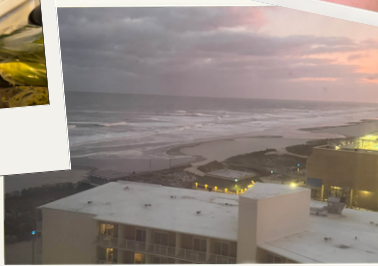
The presentation concluded with our advocates learning about the Sheriff's Department's vehicles and getting an up close look at the squad cars we see around the county. They learned about the different equipment officers keep in their



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 to the ballpark and the beach, to hosting a cooking class, our Residential crew was busy soaking up the sun and making memories!



KEEPING UP WITH RECREATION



Want to join REC?

Scan the QR Code below for more info!

**Recreation Enjoyment
Club**

SCAN ME!



Recreation had a very exciting July! From celebrating Independence Day to enjoying an ice cream night at Gronsky's Milk House to ending the month with their White Hot Dance, REC had a very busy month!

Recreation had a busy August! From their trip to the Lehigh Valley Zoo, to hanging out at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, and ending the month with an art night, REC had a wonderful month.

Recreation had an amazing September! From their trip Jimmy's for ice cream, dancing the night away at the Clinton Elks Lodge, to ending the month with a meal together at OMG Burger, our REC crew certainly was busy.

Looking Forward: The Recreation Department is very excited for their upcoming Fall trip as well as their annual Monster Mash dance!

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

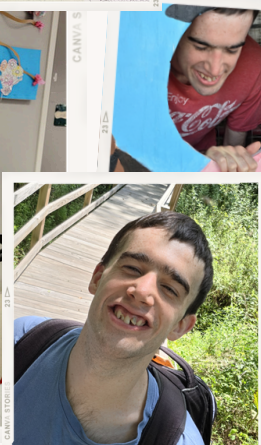
SOAKING UP THE LAST BITS OF SUMMER WARMTH



July was a wonderful month. Everyone was very excited to celebrate Independence Day and enjoy the nice summer weather.

August was a busy month at ArcWorks. From nature walks to stocking the local food pantry, from visiting the Hunterdon County 4-H fair to creating turmeric sun prints, our groups were out and about all month long!

September was another exciting month for our folks at ArcWorks as everyone was excited for Fall's official arrival! With the coming of Fall, also means the coming of spooky season which is always an exciting time for our folks.



PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING



Sip and Support

THERE IS NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT WITH THIS FUNDRAISER!

Our current 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!](#)



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 invite everyone to support their upcoming Fall Spirit store with Destination Athlete! Our REC crew and Fundraising team put together some special designs for t-shirts and sweaters. A percentage of every sale gets donated directly to our Recreation Department! Please keep an eye out for more information coming soon.



FALL SPIRIT STORE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Self-Advocacy

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

- October 2nd - 42 annual NJSSAN Fall Conference.
 - Taking place in Edison, NJ this year, the theme of the 2026 conference is “Rise Up for Self-Advocacy”
- October 14th - Erin Smithers with the Self-Advocacy Project & Arc of NJ will host a presentation on boundaries and touching. Time: 1 pm - 2 pm
- November 18th - Stacy Milak, a registered Dietician/Nutritionist will host a presentation on Healthy Eating during the holidays (recipe ideas, portion control, etc.) 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



Parent Advocacy Training

Our Family Support Department is excited to Welcome Jennifer Harrison with The Arc of New Jersey's Family Institute to our office on Wednesday, October 21st from 6:30 - 8 pm as she talks about using your voice to make change.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Giving Tuesday

With the arrival of fall, also comes the season of giving. The holidays are right around the corner and Giving Tuesday is our call to action to help raise funds so we may continue our mission. We have been a pillar in the Hunterdon County Community for 70+ years and would not have been able to do this without the support of our loving donors. Any donation helps us continue our mission of supporting individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities to live and work in the community on their own terms as proud, vital members of society. Please click the link below or scan the QR Code to donate today and be a part of The Arc family.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)



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, October 23rd
- Friday, December 18th
- Friday, November 20th

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

Somerset Patriots

Immaculate Conception Church

Riley & Jake's

Eleanor Fisher

Thomas Procopio

Matthew DeCarlo



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

Email our HR team with questions: 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!

DIRECTORS LIST

Colleen Dennis

- Executive Director

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

- Director of Residential

Melissa Duffy

- Associate Director of Residential

Cori Garofalo

- Director of Training and Staff Development

Jenny Holdorff

- Director of Medicaid Services

Suzanne Bechtle

- Director of Payroll Operations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kathy Walsh

- Board President

Jessica Lui

- Vice President

Jeffrey Mattison

- Second Vice President

Loretta Luzzo

- Treasurer

Elaine Buchsbaum

- Corresponding Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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