

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 28TH, 2024

New Year Update

With the start of 2024, we have many exciting things planned. From fun events at ArcWorks to new fundraising campaigns, so much is in the works for our 70th anniversary. We are excited to share a look back on all that has been happening here and what is to come at the Arc of Hunterdon County.



Celebrating 70 Years Strong

We welcome you to rewind with us and take a look at what the past three months have looked like at The Arc of Hunterdon County. We are so excited for our 70th anniversary and hope everyone can join in on the celebration.

In this newsletter you will find:

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

LATEST PROJECTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Our Latest Fundraising Campaign

THERE IS NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT WITH THIS FUNDRAISER!

We were blessed with the opportunity to partner with Old York Cellars for a custom label fundraiser. To celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we have special 70th edition wine labels, created with the help of our wonderful folks at ArcWorks! The fundraiser is still ongoing so please continue to share and spread the word!!

The Arc of Hunterdon County will receive a portion of each sale of our specially labeled bottles. Donation amounts can be found next to each option on the fundraising page.

So please sip and support The Arc of Hunterdon County!



[CLICK HERE TO ORDER NOW!](#)



Celebrating 70 Years

1954 - 2024

We are officially celebrating 70 years strong! Currently, we have our celebratory Wine Label fundraiser (see the section to the left) and are planning more festivities for throughout the year! Follow us on social media to stay up to date on everything going on!



Put the Fun in Fundraise

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We have been supporting and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 70 years through the support of our donors. With the continued support from donors we can continue our mission and enrich the lives of those we support!



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Residential Celebrates!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL INSPECTION PROCESS



Residential had much to celebrate after their successful inspection. We wanted to give a MASSIVE shoutout everyone who helped throughout the Licensing process! The inspector team had such positive feedback throughout the inspection process. Throughout the inspection they were impressed too by the attention to detail, the systems in place, and by the people themselves! We celebrated with a pizza party at the office!

CEA Presentation at Rt 12 Library

PRESENTATION TO CEA STUDENTS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORTS



The Hunterdon County Library on Route 12 was host to a special presentation by one of our folks from Community Based Supports! He spoke to soon to be graduates and staff from CEA about The Arc of Hunterdon County and Community Based Supports. The primary topic of discussion was how Community Based Supports helps him do the things he enjoys doing and the freedom of choice he has in those activities.

He did a phenomenal job during his presentation, which was followed with a Q & A section. A big thank you goes out to the Community Based Supports staff who helped him prepare for the presentation and assist him throughout!

Open Forum With Board of Directors

FEBRUARY 26TH, 2024



pictured from left to right: Kathy Walsh, Board President, Jeffrey Mattison, Second Vice President, Elaine Buchsbaum, Corresponding Secretary, Loretta Luzzo, Treasurer, and Colleen Dennis, Executive Director

For this special Open Forum, we invited our Executive Board of Directors to join. Kathy, Jeff, Loretta, and Elaine sat down to talk about their relationship with The Arc, then and now, and where they see The Arc going in the future.

It is important to remember that we are here because we all believe in The Arc's mission. To support the people we serve to the best of our ability, we must also be able support each other.

[Click here to watch the Open Forum!](#)

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Black History Month

FEBRUARY 2024



In recognition of Black History Month, this newsletter will put a spotlight on a pioneer of the disability movement for freedom, Lois Curtis. Lois Curtis was born in Georgia in 1969. “Lois had cognitive disabilities and schizophrenia and would wonder off in her community. This led to an ongoing process of being in the custody of authorities who gave Lois’ family ultimatums of either putting her in jail or sending her to mental health institutions.”

She spent most of her teen years at the Georgia Regional Hospital. “She explained that the medications kept her tired and lifeless more often than she wanted. She felt that living in an institution kept her from living a more active and free life. She started calling the Atlanta Legal Aid Society on a regular basis begging them for help to be released from Georgia Regional Hospital setting and provided with services to live on her own in the community.”

With the assistance of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Lois was able to file a suit against the state of Georgia in 1995. The defendant listed in the case was Commissioner of the Georgia Human Resources Department, Thomas Olmstead. “On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C. (Lois Curtis)* that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.” Lois won her case and was able to live the life she desired and wanted, not the one the state was forcing her into. During this time of new found freedom, Lois became a self-taught artist, singer, song-writer, and public speaker. She traveled around the country speaking out on the struggle of the institutionalization of disabled people to bring more awareness and advocacy.

“The legacy of Lois Curtis as a Black disabled woman activists is something that many must not only admire but respect. Her fierce and loving attitude towards life is something that all of us in these times need to learn from and use in the fight for collective liberation. Lois is an example of how love can be the driving force for all that we need.” Lois, unfortunately, lost her battle to pancreatic cancer in 2022.



Sources:

<https://cdmns.org/blog/advocacy/cdr-mourns-the-passing-of-lois-curtis/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/lois-curtis-who-changed-us-mental-health-treatment-dies-from-cancer/VK0X3Q7FIZADFONCXJL6EWVZ2A/>

<https://the-art-of-autism.com/disability-history-month-lois-curtis-artist-and-disability-advocate-paved-the-way/>

KEEPING UP WITH RECREATION



Having an Ice Time!

Lehigh Valley Phantoms Ice Hockey Game
January 13th, 2024



There is never a dull moment with REC! The Recreation Department started the new year off right with their ice cream party! The fun didn't stop as we took a trip to Allentown to watch the Lehigh Valley Phantoms play against the Hersey Bears. It truly was an ice time watching the hockey game and enjoying our time out together!

Love was in the air in February, especially during the Valentine's Dance! The month was host to multiple holidays and celebrations from Chinese New Year and tailgating for The Super Bowl. The month ended with an art day where everyone really got their creative juices flowing.

The highlight of March was the art pieces everyone at REC made in February were put on display all month long at The Hunterdon County Library on Route 12.

Looking Forward: The Recreation Department is most excited about their upcoming trip to a Dude Ranch this May!

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

Want a Monday or Tuesday night program? Email our Recreation Coordinator Fiona at: fiona@archunterdon.org



Happy Valentine's Day!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Love was in the air all February long at ArcWorks! There was no shortage of festive fun in preparation for Valentine's Day this February. From cutting out paper hearts, to festive Valentine's Day coloring pages, there were plenty of festive crafts created to decorate the room!

A big hit was when they baked cookies and a cake for their Valentine's Day party! After the cookies were all baked and cooled, some got crushed to create a cookie crumble topping for the cake.

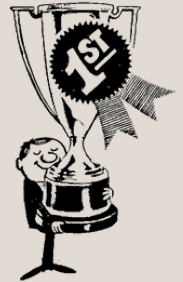
Hunterdon Jaguars Basketball Team

Did you know we used to have a basketball team?! The Hunterdon Jaguars were fierce competition having won many of their games and even won a Holiday Tournament! Read the excerpts from past newsletters (circa 1986 and 1988) to learn more about our team! Do you recognize any of the players?



DECEMBER 7, 1986:

The Arc Jaguars won 1st place at the Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament at Burlington Special Services School. They beat the American Institute Team 28 - 24, and also defeated the Hands Team 32 - 30.



MARCH 12, 1988:

There was a huge cheering section for their game against the Allstars. The Jaguars went on to win that game 45 - 9. Head Coach Walt Howard noted that the fans' cheering made a real difference in the way the guys played.

In Support of the Americans With Disabilities Act

MARCH 1990

We filled out postcards to mail to Washington DC to voice our support of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If this act is passed people with disabilities can participate further in all aspects of American life.

Today, The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local government programs.



Then President George H.W. Bush signing The ADA into law, June 1990

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month & Women's History Month

MARCH 2024



In recognition of both Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and Women's History Month, this newsletter will put a spotlight on a woman who is widely regarded as "the mother" of the Disabilities Rights Movement, Judith Heumann. "At 18-months-old, Judy contracted polio in Brooklyn, New York and began to use a wheelchair for mobility." This caused her some educational set backs because, at the age of five, she was denied the right to attend school because she was considered a "fire hazard".

In 1969, Judith graduated from Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY and, in 1975, received her Master's in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley. The same school district that denied her the right to attend school as a child then denied her a teaching license. Although she was highly educated and passed the written and oral exams, she could not pass the medical exam since she could not walk. Because of this unfair discrimination, she sued the New York Board of Education. The judge prompted the board to reconsider her for a teaching license, "they did and Judy went on to become the first wheelchair user to teach in the state of New York."

Judith also was a leader during the historic 504 Sit-In that took place in San Francisco. The 504 Sit-In was a 26 day protest (the longest sit-in in a federal building to date) and was in support of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. "What section 504 says is 'no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall solely on the basis of his handicap, be excluded from the participation, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.' Essentially it said no program receiving federal funds could discriminate against a person with a disability." Section 504 was a monumental piece of the Rehabilitation Act as it acknowledged that society has historically treated individuals with disabilities as second-class citizens; if Section 504 was signed, the role of discrimination would be legally recognized. The 504 Sit-In helped lead to Section 504 being signed into law.

Judith went on to hold many different distinguished positions throughout her career. Some of these include Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education during the Clinton Administration, World Bank's first Adviser on Disability and Development, and the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State during the Obama Administration. She also published a memoir, starred in an award winning film, and presented a Ted Talk on Disability Rights. She, unfortunately, passed away in 2023.



Sources:

<https://publichealth.berkeley.edu/alumni/remembers-alumna-and-disability-rights-advocate-judy-heumann/>
<https://dredf.org/504-sit-in-20th-anniversary/short-history-of-the-504-sit-in/>
<https://judithheumann.com/project/about/>

WHAT'S UP AT ARCWORKS

New Year , New Opportunities

THE CREATIVITY NEVER ENDS AT ARCWORKS!

January was a quieter month for ArcWorks, as in there was no big event going on, as they prepared their calendar of events for 2024. There was, however, a lot of creative juices flowing and masterpieces made. From colorful winter snowflakes to Valentine's Day decorations, each piece made is so beautiful and unique.

February was home to many holidays, such as Groundhog's Day and Valentine's Day. Everyone at ArcWorks also got into the team spirit with the Super Bowl! From predicting who would win to having a tailgate party, there was a lot of excitement!

March was also home to a couple different holidays, such as St. Patrick's Day and Easter. ArcWorks put on their creative hats and created beautiful art pieces, from painted clovers to paper plate bunnies, there was no shortage of beautiful artwork!



LOOKING FORWARD

Step Up For The Arc 5k Color Walk/Run 2024

TENTATIVELY SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST 2024

I am very excited to announce the planning of a Step Up For The Arc 5k Color Walk/Run coming this June! We are looking at holding the event on Saturday, June 1st at Spruce Run Recreation Area. We are just waiting on the application to be accepted to officially have the date! Be on the lookout for more information to come soon.



Tricky Tray 2024

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 2024

After a long awaited announcement, we officially have the date and location for our annual tricky tray! We are so excited and already preparing for a great and successful event. The tricky tray will be held on *Saturday, October 5th, 2024* at NexLevel Arena in Flemington.



Sensory Room for ArcWorks

CURRENT FUNDRAISING PROJECT

News from our Fundraising Department! We are very excited to announce a new big fundraising project, creating a sensory room for ArcWorks. This project is a large undertaking and we are currently in the funding part of this project. Our fundraising team is looking at multiple different funding avenues, so stay tuned for more information as this project progresses!



Social Media Presence

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US!

Be sure to check out our website archunterdon.org for more information. Follow us on our social media platforms to see all that we are up to and stay engaged with us! We love highlighting the incredible individuals we support.



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