

The Arc OF ATLANTIC COUNTY

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Vision

People with developmental disabilities have the opportunities and supports they need to live the lives they choose.

Mission

The Arc of Atlantic County improves the lives of people with developmental disabilities in our community. Through direct services, advocacy, education and prevention activities, we work in partnership with individuals and their families to make choices possible about how and where they live, learn, play and work.

Deborah Davies, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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Helping people with developmental disabilities in our community

The Arc OF ATLANTIC COUNTY

Fall 2007

Did You Know?

The Arc of the United States has a new website, www.thearc.org, that offers the general public a wealth of information about The Arc and people with developmental disabilities. By becoming a registered user, you can subscribe to an e-newsletter, participate in online discussions, and have access to a host of other resources. Sign up today!

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Achieve

A quarterly newsletter for members and friends of The Arc of Atlantic County

'Spotlight Players' Prove They're Stars!

Look out, Hollywood! On June 24, 2007, The Arc of Atlantic County's new performing arts club, the 'Spotlight Players Featuring the Shining Stars', debuted a 20-act variety show at the Jewish Community Center in Margate. After six months of practice, this multi-talented group of singers, dancers, actors and musicians wowed the audience of more than 100 friends and family members with dramatic monologues, solo song performances, dance routines and even Elvis impersonations.

The Arc and the JCC began this collaborative program in January 2007 through the support of the Alan Perskie Fund. The Arc's Family Support Associate Becky Eisele and the JCC's Cultural and Performing Arts Director Lisa Gadjis led the bi-weekly practices where more than 20 participants learned performance art through theater games and various improvisational workshops.

"The experience was great for all involved. The performers chose their own pieces, but we helped them if they needed ideas. They showed such pride and determination!" Eisele said.

"This performing arts program has inspired so many of the people we support to dream big. Many have overcome shyness; others have found they have natural talent. By giving them an opportunity to showcase these talents, they build self-esteem and social skills," said Deborah Davies, CEO.

The Arc is grateful to Jack Fox, Marg Mancuso and the JCC's Board of

directors for supporting this Performing Arts Program and making this valuable program possible. Many thanks also to all the Arc staff who committed their time to make this production a success.

Practices will start back up in October with the goal of creating a musical in addition to the variety show. For more information about The Arc's Performing Arts Program or to get involved, please contact Rebecca Eisele at 609-485-0800 ext. 267 or email her at reisele@arcatlantic.org.

Photos courtesy of Sean M. Fitzgerald



Performers listen as Rose Minnichbach, left, directs the order of performance.



Deborah Lambert sings Mariah Carey's 'Hero' (Gown courtesy of The Arc's Make Cents Thrift Shop).

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Save the date for
The Arc's Tribute Event!
Sunday, March 30, 2008
At The Carriage House

Inside...

- *Spotlight Players performing arts show*
- *Achieving real choices: Terry Weems*
- *New board members*
- *Summer fun photo collage*

Plus...

How you can become an Arc Holiday Partner!



A Message from Deborah Davies, CEO 'The Arc: Achieving real choices'



Dear Friends,

The Arc of Atlantic County is celebrating a very important anniversary in our organization's history. As of

August 22, 2007, it has been 15 years since our name transitioned from the acronym ARC which stood for Association for Retarded Citizens, to the words The Arc. This resulted from a national movement supported by Arc service recipients who didn't like the prominence of the stigmatizing word 'retarded' in the name. This term is no longer in our mission, nor in our name.

The Arc is just what our name implies—a curved shape that represents forward and upward progression. Services and programs provided by The Arc support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in becoming more independent, connecting in meaningful ways to the community and enjoying the



choices that others have.

To celebrate the anniversary of The Arc's new name and new image, we've introduced a special column in our newsletter called "Achieving Real Choices" where we'll spotlight individuals in our services who are realizing some of their dreams through the support of The Arc and the wonderful staff who work with them. The Arc is committed to making real choices

possible for the people we support. *Real choices* reflect the individual's interests, values and dreams. *Real choices* are what The Arc is all about.

I am proud to introduce you to the very first individual to be featured in our new column: Terry Weems. Please enjoy his story and the many others we will share with you in the future.

Cordially,

Deborah Davies, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for helping us grow!

(Donors listed have made a gift between July 1, 2007 and August 31st, that was not part of a previously pledged gift)

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Summer Fun!



More than 20 people from The Arc's Supportive Living program went on a 4-day camping trip in Lake George, NY. They hiked, swam, set up their own tents and cooked over an open fire, in addition to many other activities.



Artist Ellen Moskowitz was one of several Arc artists who exhibited their artwork at the Ocean City Flower Show on June 2, 2007 at the Music Pier. The artists have been taking weekly lessons at the Ocean City Fine Arts League under the direction of Jim Penland, a local renowned artist and founder of the Ocean City Fine Arts League.

Sometimes dancing is way more fun in your pajamas! Lori Bentz, Reta Sharp and Joanne DiNicolantonio (L to R) enjoy a break from dancing at the Pajama Dance Party hosted by The Arc's Recreation Department on August 20th at the Mays Landing Country Club. The Arc holds themed dances five times per year for adults with developmental disabilities. To sign up for the Recreation Newsletter and learn about all the activities we offer, or to attend the Halloween Dance October 30th, please call Sue Kinsell at 609-485-0800 extension 191. Dances are \$5.00 per person.



People with developmental disabilities can make a difference in our community by joining the local Aktion Club, a branch of the Kiwanis Club specifically for adults with disabilities. Each month, members participate in a community volunteer activity, which in the past has included activities like collecting personal care items for soldiers in Iraq and participating in a community cleanup (right). This past July, group members planted flowers at the Atlantic Riding Center for the Handicapped (left). Although many Aktion Club members also receive services from The Arc, you do not have to be service recipient of The Arc to join. If you would like to join Aktion Club or have an idea for a service project, please call Marie Schleinkofer at 609-485-0800 ext. 265.



A Man with Many Gifts. In June, Arc CEO Debbie Davies and board chair Kevin McDonnell presented Carriage House owner Michael Charlton with a plaque of appreciation for his generosity surrounding March's 'A Late Lunch with Charlie and Maura Weis', held at his Galloway Township banquet facility. Charlton, who also owns Gourmet Italian Cuisine and Gourmet Liquors, provided the meeting space and food for all of the event planning meetings, expertly executed every event-day detail, and overall ensured that The Arc's costs were minimal while hosting an exquisite fundraising event. Thank you, Michael, for helping to make life better for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities!



A New Face in Fund Development



Deborah Given recently joined The Arc of Atlantic County as Fund Development and Communications director. She is a native of Ocean City and has resided in Atlantic County since 2000.

After a 20-year career in fund development and marketing primarily in healthcare, Given made a career switch in 2004 to real estate with Prudential Fox and Roach in Ocean City. Prior to that she served as development director with the Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation and as campaign director for the United Way of Atlantic County.

Given has developed and directed annual appeals, three successful capital campaigns and numerous fundraising events including black tie galas, golf tournaments, a 5K run and a horse show. She will be responsible for directing fund development activities in support of programs and services provided by The Arc, as well as a campaign to fund capital needs.

"This is a wonderful organization," she says. "Every where I look, I see success stories in the faces of people who have achieved independence through the encouragement and support of The Arc's amazing staff."

Achievements Recognized at Annual Membership Meeting

"We want to acknowledge milestones, celebrate dreams that came true, and honor accomplishments," said Deborah Davies, CEO, at the annual membership meeting held at The Arc headquarters in June. "We are delighted, touched and inspired by the people we serve."

Over 100 people with developmental disabilities were recognized for their achievements and contributions to their communities, as friends, families and supporters looked on. Accomplishments included participation in the Special Olympics and Arts Programs, Cost of Care Rally, and the Arc Angels candle making program. Others were recognized for their volunteer work, first time participation in a sport or activity, a first year wedding anniversary and a high school graduation, among many others.

As part of the evening's agenda, Anne Dillon, outgoing chair installed The Arc's new officers: Kevin McDonnell of AtlantiCare, chair; Richard Walker, Esq. of South Jersey Industries, first vice chair; John

Ridgway of Ridgway & Ridgway, second vice chair; David Middlebrook of Park Bank, treasurer; and Dot Saatkamp, a retired special education teacher, secretary. Anne also welcomed new board members Carmen Gonzales of Pinnacle Entertainment, James Nolan of AtlantiCare and Sharon Pennington of South Jersey Industries.

If you'd like to become a member of The Arc of Atlantic County call 609-485-0800, ext. 136 or visit our website at www.arcatlantic.org. For as little as \$25 a year you can support services and programs that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities--and help make more dreams come true.

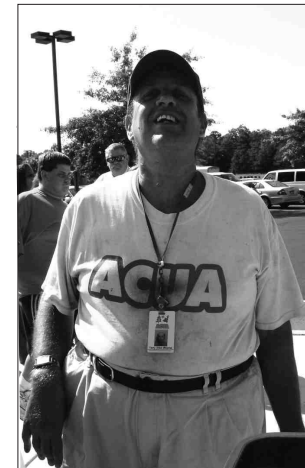


Dina Scoppa receives an award from outgoing board chair Anne Dillon for her participation in The Arc's new Performing Arts Club.

Achieving real choices: Terry Weems Weather enthusiast; full-time employee; friend

Ever wondered what the weather was like the day you were born? Terry Weems can tell you. **Curious what happens to your old plastic bottles once they reach the local recycling facility?** Terry can tell you that too!

Fifty-one year old Terry Weems has been *achieving real choices* with the help of The Arc since he first entered our Odessa group home in 1985 after 14 years in institutions. Terry received round-the-clock support at Odessa, but showed a great deal of independence right away. He soon transitioned into a supervised apartment, and in 1990, Terry moved to The Arc's Supportive Living program where he still lives in an apartment on his own today, receiving just enough staff support to help him buy groceries, take his medicine and visit places that interest him, like his favorite barber in Somers Point or the Dairy Queen in Ventnor.



Terry, fresh from a hard day's work at the ACUA.

Terry has been a full-time employee with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) for nine years. At the ACUA, Terry's job is to sort plastic bottles—a task he does with great skill. He is constantly praised by his supervisors for his work ethic and in fact received an award at an employee dinner in 2005. Terry and his colleagues get along extremely well and they are very supportive of him. Terry is a union member, has a pension and

generous medical benefits. He is a very productive member of our community and his skill at sorting plastic bottles benefits us all.

One of Terry's biggest passions in life is the weather. He has kept a daily journal on the weather since his brother, a meteorology student, taught him about it in the early 1980s. He enjoys talking and reading about any weather-related subject and can tell you what the weather was like on almost any given day. Fittingly, his favorite holiday is Groundhog Day, which he celebrates each year with a party for friends and family. This year, he and another Arc service

recipient who happens to also love the weather went to Punxsutawney, PA, on Groundhog Day. They had such a great time that they plan on making this trip annually.



Terry, left, and friend Ricky went to Punxsutawney, PA, to see if the groundhog saw his shadow this past February.

Terry is not only taking charge of his own life and *achieving real choices*—he is also ensuring that other people supported by The Arc have opportunities to travel and experience the many activities available to them in our community. Terry has teamed up with Supportive Living Counselor Mary Tozer to plan monthly trips for other individuals supported by The Arc to places like the Philadelphia Zoo and Leaming's Run Gardens in Cape May. "Planning these outings has helped Terry enhance his connections to others in the Supportive Living program as well as allowed for fun days for all," says Supportive Living Coordinator Diane Kalin.

Terry is an avid traveler and has visited destinations such as the Caribbean, Hawaii and Disney World just to name a few. He loves to swim and attends bingo and dances, as well. Terry was named the NJACP's Community Star several years ago and continues to impress those in his life with his active involvement in the world around him.

Although Terry has autism, which characteristically includes difficulty with social interaction, Terry has many great friendships and makes an effort to show his appreciation for the people in his life. He loves to make hand-made calendars for his friends and family, even if it is not a holiday.

At The Arc, achieving real choices means having a say in where you live, learn, play and work. For Terry Weems, it is clear that his life is what he has made of it, and with the support of The Arc and his loving family, Terry can continue to dream and achieve!

Make Your Holiday Season Extra Special This Year By Becoming an Arc 'Holiday Partner'!

Are you looking to make a difference in the lives of those in need this holiday season? Look no further than The Arc of Atlantic County! Through The Arc's Holiday Partners program, you can make holiday wishes come true for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Whether you are a business, church group, school, service organization, family or even an individual, you can help ensure the holidays are a joyous time for many of the people we support by becoming an Arc Holiday Partner.

Here are just some of the ways you can participate:

- Purchase a food basket for a family of four
- Fulfill a child's holiday wish list
- Donate a gift certificate to a grocery store
- Wrap, tag and deliver gifts already purchased



There are many options to meet your interests. To participate, please call the Holiday Partners Hotline at 609-485-0800 ext. 204 or email Nicole Terzakis, director of social services, at nterzakis@arcatlantic.org by October 26, 2007.

Arc Artists to be Featured in Local Juried Art Exhibit

This September, four Arc artists from the Ocean City Fine Arts League outreach art program had their works accepted into Elwyn New Jersey's 'Art of Two Palettes' juried art auction. Only eight artists altogether from South Jersey were selected to show their works at this event.

This is the second year that Arc artists have had pieces in this auction. Two artists have been in the art program all three years and this is their second year of participation in the auction. Another artist, Canary Taylor, is only in her first year of classes at the Arts League but has shown incredible talent. Canary always enjoyed coloring in coloring books, but through the

guidance of artist and teacher Jim Penland, she has learned how to create her own beautiful artwork.

Half of the monies raised from each piece will go to the individual artist, while the rest will benefit Elwyn, a nonprofit organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Other artists to be featured include John Miller and Barbara Nicolosi, both of whom had pieces in the auction last year, and Louis Knisely.

Greeting cards featuring Arc artists' designs are available for sale at the Ocean City Fine Arts League, 943 Asbury Avenue in Ocean City. Proceeds benefit the artists and the outreach art program.



These pieces were selected to be a part of Elwyn's juried art auction.

Kevin McDonnell Elected Board Chair



Linwood resident Kevin McDonnell was recently elected chair of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Atlantic County. Kevin is the administrator for AtlantiCare Healthcare Services. He holds a bachelor's degree in government and international relations from the University of Notre Dame and a

master's in business administration from Duke University.

Kevin joined the board of The Arc in 2004. He serves on the executive and audit committees. He also serves on the community impact and allocation committees for United Way, is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows church in Linwood and coaches various sports teams there. He and his wife Patricia have two children, William, age 13 and Caity, age 12.

The Arc Welcomes New Board Members

Carmen E. Gonzales is a communications specialist with a broad range of experience in media relations, marketing and website design. She is currently Public Relations Manager for Pinnacle Entertainment, a national gaming company set to develop a new \$1.5 billion resort on the Atlantic City boardwalk. She joined Pinnacle after a brief stint as Mass Marketing and Public Relations Manager for the Sands Casino Hotel. Prior, Carmen led the corporate communications strategy for South Jersey Tourism Corporation in Camden, NJ, where she currently resides. She has an associate's degree in Business Marketing from Columbus State College in Columbus Ohio.



James P. Nolan, Jr. is senior vice president of Finance for the AtlantiCare Health System. Jim joined AtlantiCare in 1993. Prior to that he was a partner in the Philadelphia office of Ernst & Young, an international public accounting and consulting firm. He began his accounting career in Philadelphia with Pannell Kerr &

Forster specializing in the healthcare industry. He is a graduate of St. Joseph's University with a bachelor of science in accounting and is a certified public accountant. Jim resides in Medford, NJ with his wife Cathy, and their two children, Laura, age 18 and Tyler, age 9.

Sharon Pennington is vice president of Human Resources and Information Technology for South Jersey Gas and subsidiary companies of South Jersey Industries. Prior to joining South Jersey Gas in 2002, Sharon worked as a human resources consultant for Solutions for Managing People. She also spent a number of years in the casino industry heading up Human Resources for Caesars Atlantic City, Caesars World companies and Resorts Atlantic City. Sharon has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), and a law degree from Rutgers University School of Law. She resides in Egg Harbor Township with son Steven, age 13 and daughter Sydney, age 11.



Give to The Arc

You can make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities in our community by making a gift to The Arc of Atlantic County. There are many ways to give:

- Simply mail a check—large or small, your donation makes a difference.
- Make a gift of appreciated stock, eliminate capital gains and enjoy a tax deduction based on the fair market value at the date of the gift

- Remember The Arc in your will by making a bequest.
- Make a gift on-line using your credit card. Just visit our website at www.arcatlantic.org and click on How to Help.

Please contact Debbie Given, Director of Fund Development and Communications, at 609-485-0800 ext. 135. Thank you for your interest in The Arc of Atlantic County.