

Helping people with developmental disabilities in our community

**The Arc**  
of Atlantic County

# Achieve

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

Fall 2009

## Coming Up...

### December 5:

*The Heart of Music*, an original musical performed by The Arc's Spotlight Players performing arts club. 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$4. Milton and Betty Katz JCC, 501 N. Jerome Ave., Margate, NJ.

### December 10:

*Girls Night of Beauty*, providing makeovers and pampering for female Arc service recipients. Participants and volunteers needed. 5-7pm in Arc's multi-purpose room. Contact Barbara Doell at 609-485-0800 ext. 210.

### December 14:

*Holiday Card Party*. Join Arc friends in making greeting cards for people in local assisted living facilities. Enjoy light refreshments, holiday sing-a-longs and games. 6-8 p.m. in Arc multipurpose room. RSVP to Amy Reber at 609-485-0800 ext. 161 by December 10th.



United Way  
of Atlantic County  
Partner Agency

## Holidays Made Happier With Your Help

In our last issue, we asked you to consider supporting people with developmental disabilities through volunteering, making a donation, or simply signing a pledge promising to support us in the future. With the holidays around the corner, now is a perfect time to partner up with The Arc and help bring joy to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Below are just a few ways that you can help make a difference this holiday season.

### Become a Holiday Partner

Caring for a family member with a developmental disability can be challenging and exhausting, but when you add single-parent-hood or a single-income to the situation, life can become a daily struggle especially during the holidays. This is why each year our Case Management department runs a Holiday Partners Program, which helps families in need by matching them with community



donors who provide food baskets, gift cards, or holiday gifts. Social Services Director Nicole Terzakis says the need is greater than ever this year. "So far we have 47 families (that's 209 individuals), who need help this season and that number will only grow as we get closer to the holidays. However, only 15 families have been adopted so far," says Terzakis. "No matter what your ability to give and interests are, we can find the right match for you." To become an Arc Holiday Partner, call Nicole Terzakis at 609-485-0800 ext. 201.

### Make Smiles with Makeovers

On December 10, the annual Girls Night of Beauty will unite women who receive Arc services for an evening of massage, manicures, hairstyling, makeup and more. We're

looking for people with talent and time to help The Arc ladies look and feel fabulous. If you would like to join us as a volunteer or donate unused beauty products for take-home bags, contact Barbara Doell at 609-485-0800 ext. 210 or [bdoell@arcatlantic.org](mailto:bdoell@arcatlantic.org). Volunteers are needed from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.



Volunteer Jen Patterson styles Barbara Nicolosi's hair at the 2008 Girls Night of Beauty.

### Shop at Arc's Thrift Shop

The Arc Makes Cents Thrift Shop located at 6409 Ventnor Avenue in Ventnor, NJ, is a volunteer-run 'thrift boutique' full of bargains on next-to-new items ranging from clothes to household goods. You may just find that perfect holiday gift for someone on your list! Or, if holiday shopping has left you with little to spend on yourself, stop in and treat yourself to a shopping spree that will land you quality goods for low prices, and still leave you with money in your wallet. Sales are always happening, so call the shop Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 609-822-7055 to find out current specials. All proceeds from the store support The Arc's programs, so your shopping is sure to make a difference!

*There are many other ways you can make a difference this year. Please contact Chief Development Officer Deborah Jewell at 609-485-0800 ext. 135 for more information.*



## Achieving real choices: Shirley Shafer

With an indomitable spirit, contagious optimism and killer smile, Shirley Shafer leaves a lasting impression on everyone she meets.

Shirley joined The Arc family in 1990 at the age of 44, after years of living in an institution and with family members. As a child, Shirley was told she would never walk, learn to read or live in the community like other people. If those people could only see her now!

Today, Shirley has proven that with the right attitude, you can accomplish anything you like. She not only taught herself to walk (with the help of her crutches, affectionately called 'Bert and Ernie'), but she can also read and owns her own condo, which she shares with her cats Tiger and Heather. She's battled cancer and won—twice. But that's far from the end of Shirley's achievements.

Shirley has worked for the majority of her adult life. Her favorite jobs include housekeeping for Bally's Casino, and Goodwill, where she works now as a tagger. "Shirley is the best tagger on the job at Goodwill. She takes her work very seriously and hardly ever calls out," says Mary Tozer, one of Shirley's supportive living counselors.



Shirley Shafer, left, with friend and fellow Red Hat Lady Sandy Shaw.

Shirley met the love of her life, Lee, in 1992 on her bus rides to a job training center. The two were married in 1999 and recently enjoyed a romantic camping trip together.

Shirley believes strongly in giving back to the community and participates in a number of volunteer activities. One of her favorites is performing as "Miss Hollywood" regularly for residents at local assisted living facilities. For many residents, Shirley's visit is the highlight of their day.

Naturally, Shirley is a member of The Arc's Spotlight Players performing arts club and is looking forward to her role in their upcoming musical, *The Heart of Music*. "What I love best about the performing arts club is all the fun we have at practices and the chance to meet new people," she explains.

Shirley is also a member of the Red Hat Ladies group and enjoys donning her bright red and purple duds and taking part in tea parties and other activities with her friends.

"She's got spunk," Tozer says. "She could just sit back and let others take care of her, but she doesn't. She goes beyond just surviving. She thrives."

## Join Us for the Spotlight Players' Winter Performance: "The Heart of Music"

Henry Wadsworth once said, "Music is the universal language of mankind." The Arc's Spotlight Players performing arts club will present their take on this concept in their winter performance, "The Heart of Music," at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at the Milton and Betty Katz JCC in Margate.

This original musical was written by Arc staff member Rose Minnichbach and will feature people we support both acting and singing songs written with the help of Tonianne Pugliese and accompanied by Replay, a trio of local musicians. "This is the first time we've incorporated original music into a performance since we started the Spotlight Players in 2007, so it's especially exciting for all of us," said director Becky Eisele.

Ticket are \$4 and can be purchased at the door. The Katz JCC is located at 501 N. Jerome Avenue, Margate, NJ. For more information, please contact Becky Eisele at 609-485-0800 ext. 267.

## Halloween Happenings



Halloween is a favorite time of year for Arc programs.

Nearly everyone gets into the spirit of things, with dances, parties and other haunted fun. Above left, Weiler group home friend Christy Graham poses as Gumby with Arc board member Holly Baker before the Rec Department's Halloween Dance. At right, Adult Training Center participant and Great Pumpkin Tom Baker enjoys a photo with staff member Catherine Vasquez at the ATC's annual Halloween bash.



## Lending a Hand: Golfer's Dream Becomes \$23,000 Reality for Recreation Program

It's not everyday that someone walks through The Arc's doors with a dream of holding a fundraiser to benefit our programs, or has the time and skills to make it happen.

But last April, retired businessman and Margate resident Irv Singer did just that—with unbelievable success!

After hearing from others in the community about The Arc's important work and reading about our services online, Irv contacted us with his idea of hosting a charity golf tournament to benefit our recreation program. He admitted he'd never done anything like this before and initially thought the tournament might raise about \$10,000, an amount that would make a world of a difference in the lives of more than 300 people who participate in Arc's recreation activities. So when Irv and Steve Kuhl, of presenting sponsor I. Rice & Company, handed Arc CEO Deborah Davies a check for \$23,000 at the inaugural *Golfing for Good* tournament on September 26, Davies was simply overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity that made this gift—and all its potential—possible.

"I can't begin to express how important this contribution is to the people who benefit from our recreation program," Davies stated. "Recreation is our most popular program, but it is also one of our least funded. We depend solely on the support of our community to be able to offer Special Olympics training and competition in nine different sports, dances, adult evening classes, performing arts and more. These activities have helped so many people blossom and build self-

esteem through the skills and friendships they develop.

Irv came along at a time when we most needed help, as the demand for services increases but the economy struggles and the budget remains flat. Our deepest gratitude goes to Irv and his committee, who worked tirelessly for six months to secure sponsorships, prizes and golfers to make this possible."

About 100 golfers participated in the tournament, including several of The Arc's golf program athletes. Following the tournament, Irv shared, "When I saw the faces of The Arc's athletes at the tournament, it was then that I really knew why I got involved."

*('Lending a Hand' is a new column in Achieve devoted to our friends in the community who make our work possible. Comments or suggestions? Please contact Deborah Jewell at [djewell@arcatlantic.org](mailto:djewell@arcatlantic.org) or 609-485-0800 ext. 135)*



*Irv Singer, left, and Steve Kuhl present Debbie Davies with a \$23,000 check at the inaugural *Golfing for Good* tournament.*

## Pam Villegas Wins 'Step Up for The Arc Walk' T-Shirt Design Contest

The Arc's 7th annual Step Up for The Arc Walk held October 10 in Ventnor, which raised \$18,000 to date, featured a host of new attractions and opportunities for participants, including entertainment by The Magic of Chad Juros, a visit from SpongeBob and a bounce house. Walkers were also asked to sign a "Cut it Out!" pledge sponsored by the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network asking all walkers to eliminate the hurtful words "retard" and "retarded" from their vocabulary.

But the most exciting new addition to the walk this year was a contest for Arc service recipients to design the front of the walk t-shirts. Entrants were asked to draw something that best represented The Arc's annual seaside walk-a-thon. Pam Villegas, at right, a participant in our Sunday program, created the winning design which was emblazoned in full color on the front of the event t-shirts. Pam received a cash prize and a big round of applause at the event. Arc Chief Development Officer Debbie Jewell said, "The t-shirt contest was a big hit with everyone and we look forward to holding it each year. Not only does it help recognize the abilities of our service recipients, it also gives our walkers something really special and beautiful to take home with them. We encourage our friends to save the date for next year's walk on Saturday, October 9, 2010 to be a part of this really special day!"



## Thank You for Helping Us Grow!

(Donors listed made a gift of \$25 or more between June 1, 2009 and September 30, 2009)\*

America's Charities • Carmen Bannon • Peter & Debbie Beck • Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Becker • Lisa Birge-Price • Drs. David & Norma Blecker • Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Bloodwell • Bollinger Insurance • Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Boreen • Rozella Bower • Gloria Burchell • Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carney • Mr. & Mrs. David Carr • Century Water Conditioning • Pamela Cincotti • Mr. & Mrs. William Clements • Community Grants & Planning, LLC • Jill and John Lemon • Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Damiano • Deborah Davies, Ph.D. • Olga Davies • Richard DeLucry & Barbara McGuire • Mr. & Mrs. Claude DePlato • Mr. & Mrs. Marc DePlato • Mary Di Nicolantonio • Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Dirkes • Dolan, Mauthe & Marsella • Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Fisher • Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Foschi • Mr. & Mrs. Bob Frank • Mr. & Mrs. William Gerhardt • Carmen Gonzales • Robert Gravitz • Mr. & Mrs. Edward Guerro • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Helsabeck • Herb Hummel • Rebecca Jennings • Sean Jermyn • Deborah and Pat Jewell • Pat Jones • Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Josephson • Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kehrl • Kline Construction • Kathi Lentz • Adrien Levin • Mr. & Mrs. Abby Lew • Dr. & Mrs. Franklin Loeb • Carol Lowenstein • Valerie Marini • Dee Marshall • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mathis • Sue McAfee • Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McDonnell • David Middlebrook • Anna Miller • Mr. & Mrs. Howard Minnichbach • Mr. & Mrs. Ken Mosca • Mossman's Business Machines • Vicki Myers • Donna Nelson-Lee • Mr. & Mrs. Howard Paul • Loretta Perlstein • Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peterson • Matt Reynolds • Aurelia Robinson • Dorothy Saatkamp • Mr. & Mrs. Yitzhak Sharon • Lilia Sollish • Mr. James Spencer • Duke Spitzer • Mr. & Mrs. Jerry String • Rich Suthard • Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Tamburelli • TD Charitable Foundation • The Stroser Foundation • Jose Torres • Trump Entertainment Resorts • United Way of Delaware • Richard H. Walker, Jr., Esq., • Mr. & Mrs. Dale Woods • Ann Marie Zglinicki • Rona Zucker Kaplan

\*Donors who supported Step Up for The Arc walkers will be listed in the next issue

## The Arc's 2010 Tribute: Patrick Kennedy

Dear Friend,

Six years ago, we initiated a fundraising event to honor local individuals in our community who have made a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities, while also raising significant funds for our programs. I'm thrilled to say through generous friends like you, we have raised nearly half a million dollars from this event since its inception.

When we first started the tribute event, we honored local individuals who directly supported our organization, like emeritus board members Carmen Bannon, Al Ruggiero and Gene Arnone and assemblyman Joe Silipena. I am extremely grateful they allowed us to honor them for their many efforts. I'm sure they'll agree, however, that none of us would believe that we would later be honoring such high profile individuals with connections to developmental disabilities as Notre Dame football coach Charlie Weis and his wife Maura (2007), Senator Bill Gormley and his wife Virginia (2008) and Rutgers head women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer (2009). And even with these high profile individuals as our recent honorees, if you asked me last year if I thought we'd be honoring Congressman and Co-Founder of the Congressional Caucus on Down Syndrome Patrick Kennedy in 2010, I would have told you 'only in our dreams'.

In fact, we will have the opportunity to honor this well-respected and highly accomplished congressman and nationally recognized advocate for people with disabilities at our 2010 Tribute on Thursday, March 25.

Working for The Arc, I can't help but believe that with the right friends, dreams really do come true. I hope you'll join us and be a part of our 2010 Tribute.

Warmly,



Deborah Davies, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer



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of Atlantic County

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### Mission

The Arc of Atlantic County improves the lives of people with intellectual and 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.

### Vision

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

Deborah Davies, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

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\* Family member or an individual with a developmental disability.