

Notre Dame Football Coach and Wife Honored at Arc Tribute Event

Did You Know?

The term 'mental retardation' is being used less and less frequently by organizations that serve or represent people with cognitive disabilities. In fact, AAMR, the American Association on Mental Retardation, changed their name this past year to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). This change represents a new standard in disability terminology and provides a more socially acceptable way of speaking or writing about people with intellectual disabilities.



The Arc of Atlantic County's third annual tribute to individuals who improve the lives of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities was held on Sunday, March 18, 2007 at The Carriage House in Galloway, NJ and raised more than \$137,000 for The Arc's programs and services--truly a record-breaking event! Over 300 guests attended this much-anticipated luncheon and silent auction that paid tribute to the nationally known Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis and his wife Maura for their work on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. Through their foundation, Hannah and Friends (established in recognition of their daughter Hannah, who has special needs), the Weises help raise awareness and compassion for people with developmental disabilities and provide grants and other services to individuals and families in their community.



Arc service recipient Patrick Rooney, left, helped present the Weises with a special award of appreciation.



Board member Pat Beebe considers bidding on a Notre Dame jacket

Honorary Chair and former Senator Bill Gormley spoke during the program about The Arc of Atlantic County and how the lives of the people we support are improved dramatically through our programs. Gormley then introduced Coach Weis, who shared with guests how their foundation started, what it is like to raise a child with developmental disabilities, and how important it is to treat all people, especially those who have special needs, with respect and compassion. Kevin McDonnell, Tribute Committee Chairman, along with two Arc service recipients, Patrick Rooney and John Franco, presented Charlie and Maura Weis with awards and a special gift from The Arc.

The Arc of Atlantic County is deeply grateful to the Weises, the Carriage House, our corporate sponsors, auction donors, tribute book sponsors, committee members, staff, guests and others who supported this momentous occasion in



Sheena Baker, manager at Roosevelt group home, was one of 23 Arc staff and consumers who attended the May 31st Cost of Providing Care Coalition rally at the Trenton State House. More than 1,000 people gathered to tell lawmakers that nonprofit agencies deserve a 4.1% increase in funding in the FY2008 budget.

Shannon Young, left, manager of The Arc's Chicago group home, and Lynn Lippert, director of Human Resources, share a smile at the May 17th happy hour at East Bay Crab and Grille in Egg Harbor Township. Coordinated by The Arc's Recruitment and Retention Committee, the event drew many staff from 7 different programs. It is rare that such a wide variety of program staff can get together due to the nature of our work. Thanks to the generosity of East Bay owner Chuck Armstrong, guests enjoyed a variety of seafood dishes. The Arc truly appreciates its employees and the generous friends who made this night possible.



Billy Paul, Kreg Scott and Tim Jones enjoyed a silly moment together at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC this past April. A group of more than 30 consumers and staff from the Supportive Living Program traveled to the country's capital during the Cherry Blossom Festival for a 4-day sightseeing trip. Getaways like these encourage the people we support to get to know one another better while experiencing the excitement of travel.

Arc Anecdotes

★ The Arc was the grateful beneficiary of the **Society for Government Meeting Professionals'** 2007 conference held in Atlantic City in May. The organization raised \$7,800 in total for The Arc and its programs. Thank you for supporting our mission, SGMP friends!

★ Sara Washington, an Arc consumer and employee at Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, received the "Johnny of the Month" award in April for her exceptional performance at work. According to her manager, Mike, "This award is based on the best performer. Sara goes above and beyond and always shows up to work." Congratulations on a job well done, Sara!

★ The Arc's Supportive Living staff have been hosting a variety of activities for people in all six Supportive Living groups in an effort to help individuals build 'social capital', or the development of personal ties that build trust and reciprocity. A progressive dinner was one of the highlights of this effort, where participants went to a different home for each course of a meal. It was a wonderful experience that helped the people we support

create new friendships, learn social skills and ultimately feel better about themselves.

★ In January 2007, The Arc began an exciting new collaborative performing arts program with the Milton and Betty Katz JCC in Margate. Twenty-five adults from various Arc programs are part of 'The Spotlight Players Group' and have been learning how to sing, dance, act and play music with the help of Arc's Becky Eisele and the JCC's Lisa Gajdzis. After months of hard work, the group performed their acts for a live audience at the JCC in Margate in June. Look out for the Fall issue of *Achieve* for the full story!

★ "Be in the **kNOW**", an Arc-born public awareness campaign about the damaging effects of smoking, drinking or drug use on an unborn child, will be going national! Plans are underway for several 30-second public service announcements on Comcast networks as well as a website. This is all in an effort to reduce the risk of fetal alcohol syndrome, a developmental disability that is 100% preventable. Keep an eye out for these important messages!



Alfred Palmieri: 2007 NJACP Community Star

It's been one incredible year for Arc service recipient Alfred Palmieri! In addition to retiring from his job with the Hammonton Public School District after 32 years, Palmieri received the New Jersey Association of Community Provider's (NJACP) "Community Star" award on May 14, 2007 at a ceremony in Princeton surrounded by his friends. This prestigious award is presented to individuals with developmental disabilities who overcome adversity and achieve their dreams. Palmieri and his guests celebrated his achievement by dancing the night away together at the awards dinner.

Palmieri was nominated by The Arc for his employment longevity and for fulfilling his lifelong dream of traveling to Graceland, his very first vacation, at the age of 59! Palmieri has discovered he has a true artistic talent, which he honed through years of working on paint-by-numbers and now through weekly art lessons at the Ocean City Fine Arts League. Palmieri's full life also includes participating on dart and horseshoe teams and taking care of his dog, Missy. Congratulations on a life well-lived, Alfred!

Arc Runs out of T-Shirts, Hot Dogs at Step Up for The Arc Walk... and That's a Good Thing!

Every Spring, The Arc of Atlantic County holds its 'Step Up for The Arc' walk on the Ventnor boardwalk. Each year the number of walkers grows—an important step toward raising significant dollars for Arc programs. At the 2007 walk held on Saturday, May 19th, event organizers were surprised when all but three of 150 t-shirts were claimed and every last hot dog was consumed by the incredible number of walkers who turned out. Together, this impressive group raised more than \$16,000 for The Arc's programs and services. Not to mention, a great deal of fun was had in the process.



Katherine Cajulao, a participant in The Arc's Recreation Program, and her mom Maria both 'stepped up' for The Arc this year.



Team Harley, composed of Supportive Living participants and staff, has participated in 'Step Up' for many years.

D J Paul
Palmisano,
Mooky the
Clown, the
Masonic Lodges

of the 23rd District and our very own staff and resident face painters ensured a good time for everyone. We had a fabulous showing of Arc service recipients and staff, including Team Aktion Club and Supported Living's Team Harley, who together raised nearly \$1,000. We were pleased to have the support of many businesses from the Ventnor community, who contributed an additional \$1,600 in t-shirt sponsorships and helped cover expenses for the event. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us at the 2007 *Step Up for The Arc* walk and hope to see you next year!



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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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