

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

Summer 2010

**The Arc
is Turning**

50!

The Arc of Atlantic County was founded on February 25, 1961 which makes 2011 our 50th Anniversary Year! We will kick off the year with a **50th Birthday Bash** in early March 2011. Stay tuned for more information!

In the mean time, we are collecting stories from families, service recipients, former and current staff and others who have been touched by The Arc's services. Share your story today by emailing:

Arc50@arcatlantic.org

Accredited by
CQL
The Council on Quality
and Leadership



United Way
of Atlantic County
Partner Agency

Congressman Kennedy, Local Community Help Raise Funds for Arc Programs

The Arc's 2010 Tribute Dinner and Silent Auction held March 31 brought nearly 250 guests together to honor the life and work of Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy and to help raise critical funds for Arc programs. With support from our guests, 23 major sponsors, 42 ad buyers, 220 auction donors and our generous honorary chair Alyce Parker of Harrah's Entertainment, \$98,600 was raised to fund recreation, family support and case management services—programs that rely heavily on community support to continue.

During the program, Congressman Kennedy captivated the audience with his childhood tales, often mentioning his uncle John F. Kennedy Jr., father Ted Kennedy, and aunt Eunice Kennedy Shriver (founder of Special Olympics). He shared with us how he couldn't possibly say 'no' to The Arc when he was approached to be our honoree, because helping people with disabilities has been a part of his life since he was a young boy. He recalled how his Aunt Eunice would send him to various fundraisers for Special Olympics and other disability-centered charities she was involved with. Today, he helps people with disabilities on an even greater level—by advocating for their rights and sponsoring legislation to make life better for people with disabilities,



Photo courtesy of Tom Briglia/PhotoGraphics

Guests pose for a photo with Congressman Kennedy. From left to right: Jacky Scott, Tracy Mussarra, Congressman Kennedy, Matt Roman and Carol Roman.

including autism and Down syndrome, across the nation.

After the program, Kennedy mingled with guests, signed program books and posed for photos. He paid extra attention to people we support who were in attendance, advising one who shared that he was the "best artist in the town" not to sell himself short. Kennedy proudly wore an anti-R-word pin he received from a guest, and thanked Arc staff for inviting him to be a part of the special evening.

Thank you so very much to all of our generous friends who supported this event and helped make it one of our most spectacular and successful fundraisers!

Our Generous Sponsors

Presenting
Harrah's Entertainment
AtlantiCare

Platinum
Atlantic City Electric

Gold
Borgata Heart & Soul Foundation
Cape Bank Charitable Foundation
Community Counseling Services

District Council 711-IUPAT
Just Right TV
South Jersey Industries
Stalker & Associates
Trump Entertainment
Todd & Stephanie Timbrook

Silver
AmeriHealth Administrators
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

Debbie and Peter Beck
Bollinger Insurance
Capaldi, Reynolds & Pelosi
Fitzpatrick, Bongiovanni & Kelly
Masters Legacy Planning
Mutual of America
Parke Bank
Tropicana Casino & Resort

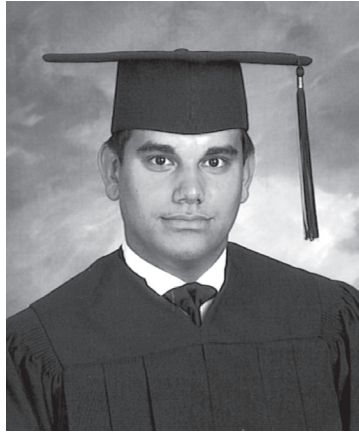
Achieving real choices: College Grad One Step Closer to Dreams

This fall, Arc service recipient Danny Philippi will join hundreds of other incoming students at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey as he continues his college career working toward a bachelor's degree in communications. After receiving his associate's degree from Atlantic Cape Community College this past May, Danny is eager to move to a larger campus with more opportunities to explore his career goals.

Since middle school, Danny has dreamed of becoming a sports commentator. He has an extraordinary knowledge of sports statistics and is keenly in tune to athletic form. He also has years of experience working in the announcing booth at high school games and loves telling others about the stories and history behind the sports and their athletes. But because Danny has autism, he needs a little extra help to make sure he stays on track to accomplish his goals.

Danny's parents, Dan and Mary Ann, knew early on that their son could go far in life as long as he received the right support. They advocated for Danny's inclusion in the public school system and ensured he could fully participate in activities, especially sports. By high school, Danny was just one of the guys. "No one ever gave Danny a hard time. They all loved and respected him," said Dan.

The Arc has supported Danny and his family since he was four years old. In the early years, the Philippi family received in-home respite so they could get a break from caring for their young son, and later Danny enrolled in The Arc's inclusive summer camp



program. Today, he receives support from his Arc life skills tutor, Frank. He is also a gold-medal winner in The Arc's Special Olympics golf program and has formed a wonderful friendship with his golf partner, Chris.

Although Danny has received a great deal of support, he's also excellent at making things happen on his own. Upon graduating high school, Danny went to a job fair where he met a representative from the Sports Authority, a sporting goods store. He made such a great impression that he was hired almost immediately after submitting his application. Today, Danny is proud to have the title of their longest tenured

part-time employee, with three years as a sales associate under his belt.

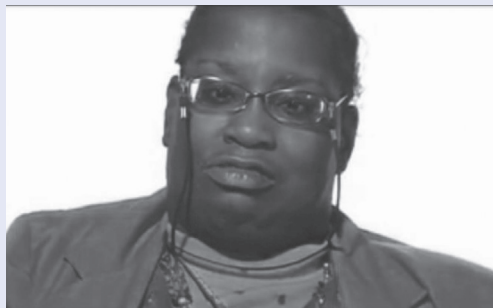
Danny knows how much the support he received helped him in life, so he gives back by serving as a mentor to others like him through FACES, an autism support group. "I talk to the parents, the individuals themselves, and see what they need help with, whether it's finding a job or getting involved in the community, or setting up a bank account so they can get their basic footing in life," Danny says.

Danny's story is a perfect example of how the right supports can make dreams come true for people with disabilities. Sometimes those supports include words of encouragement from others. If you would like to wish Danny luck as he embarks on the next leg of his college journey, please send your sentiments to info@arcatlantic.org and we will be happy to share them with Danny.

Arc Self Advocates Rally for Respect Across the State

Service recipients in The Arc's Self Advocacy Club are helping to build awareness about how hurtful the word 'retarded' is to people with developmental disabilities and their loved ones. After receiving training and materials from the New Jersey Self Advocacy Project, local members were armed with the knowledge and tools to speak to others at community events and festivals. They have handed out hundreds of educational materials, pins and bumper stickers to help spread the word and encourage more respectful, 'people first' language. In fact, they have helped more than 200 people take a pledge to stop using the r-word!

Self Advocates also appeared in a public service



Alex Morton, Arc Self Advocate, as featured in The Arc of New Jersey's public service announcement about how the R-word makes people feel.

announcement produced by The Arc of New Jersey on why the R-word is hurtful to them. Those featured in the video took a trip to The Arc of New Jersey's "End the R-Word! Rally for Respect" in New Brunswick in April, where the PSA debuted in front of more than 600 people including State Senator Stephen Sweeney and other dignitaries. The video can be found on our website at arcatlantic.org.

Do you know of a local event where The Arc's Self Advocates could set up their information table? If so, please contact the Self Advocacy Club coordinator Shereen MacDonald at 609-485-0800 extension 169.

Lending a Hand: Local Family Brings Performing Arts to The Arc

Behind every Arc program, there is a vision that brought it to fruition. For The Arc's performing arts club, that vision started with the Minnichbach family. Since the Spotlight Players' first production in 2007, the Minnichbachs have been the heart and soul behind each of the five performances so far, conducting weekly practices, supporting the performers and producing nearly every detail of each show.

By day, Rose Minnichbach is The Arc's receptionist, but at night during the performance season she spends countless hours of her own time assisting at practices and working alongside her husband Howard, who provides the sound for practices and performances, and daughter Becky Eisele, a family support associate with The Arc and the club's director.

It was Becky's dream that initially led The Arc to establish a performing arts club for people with disabilities. As someone who has dyslexia, Becky knew first hand how therapeutic the performing arts can be for people with disabilities when provided with the right support.

"When I was in theater as a kid, I would get my lines two weeks ahead of everyone else and learned them by rote memorization. My teachers and parents were extremely supportive. In high school, I joined the marching

band and made friends with a girl who had cerebral palsy. She also really benefited from performing, and it was then that I began to dream of starting a performing arts club for people with disabilities," says Becky.

The family's love of theater started many years ago. Rose performed in her own high school musicals, and when their children became involved with theater, Howard began helping with the sound. Howard and Rose nurtured their children's passion for performing arts, taking them to practices and music lessons and encouraging them to follow their dreams when it came time to go to college. Both Becky and her sister Shelley received degrees in the performing arts.

The Minnichbach family became involved with The Arc about 10 years ago when Shelley and Becky started working for the agency. Howard is also a volunteer in The Arc's golf program. Becky's husband Joe works for The Arc and also volunteers in a number of programs.

"While a lot of Arc staff tend to involve their families in Arc activities,

few families have gone as far as the Minnichbachs have," said Arc CEO Debbie Davies. "With their collective creativity, technical expertise, kindness, patience and commitment, the Minnichbachs help enrich the lives of the people we support—and our lives too."



The Minnichbachs pose with their Community Connections Award, which they received at the June 28th membership meeting for all of their volunteer efforts.

Thank You for Helping Us Grow!

(Donors listed made a gift between January 1, 2010 and May 31, 2010)

Dr. & Mrs. William Aarons • ACCC Rotoract Club • America's Charities • The Atlantic City Hilton Dealers Assoc. • Atlantic County Cultural Heritage Off. • Carmen Bannon • Donna Baszner • Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Becker • Beta Sigma Phi • Mr. & Mrs. Dean Birth • Drs. David & Norma Blecker • Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bounds • Agatha Bryz-Gornia • Barbara Camper • Mr. & Mrs. William Carlson • Mr. Ralph Carpina • Clayton's Self Storage • Jill and John Lemon • Mike Cropper • Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Darniano • Deborah Davies Ph.D. • Olga Davies • Mr. & Mrs. Lou DeCicco • Mr. & Mrs. Claude DePlato • Mr. & Mrs. Marc DePlato • Mr. & Mrs. Ray DeThy • Mr. & Mrs. Frank Devito • Mary Di Nicolantonio • Diamond Scooters • Dolan, Mauthe & Marsella • Barbara Dubois • Dylan Kelsey Kolojeski Foundation • Dale English • Regina Falcone • Mr. & Mrs. John Feehan • Bob Frank • Deborah Frank • Mr. & Mrs. Alan Friedman • Ashton Frohner • Marsha Galespie • Pat Geoffroy • Henry Gertzen • Patrick Geubtner • Globe Vending Co., Inc. • Robert Gravitz • Mr. & Mrs. Howard Gross • Randall Hackney • John Hale • Mary Hardwick • Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hendrixson • Elaine Hollenbach • Herb Hummel • Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hydro • I. Rice & Company • Sean Jermyn • Deborah and Pat Jewell • I. Frederick Jones • Pat Jones • Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Josephson • Just 4 Wheels • Darlene Kearns • Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph's Council • Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Lamar • Mr. & Mrs. Abby Lew • Dr. & Mrs. Franklin Loeb • Hermine Lucas • Mr. & Mrs. Steve Marchiano • Mr & Mrs. Robert Mariano • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mathis • Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Matusheski • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mayer • McAllister Fuels • Mr. & Mrs. Michael McDaniel • Nancy Merola • Donald Meyers • Shelly Meyers • David Middlebrook • Anna Miller • Mr. & Mrs. Dan Miller • The Milton & Betty Katz JCC • Mary Mitchell • Monica Buckley Memorial Foundation • Helena Monk • Herbert Monroe • Barbara Morvay • Mr. & Mrs. Ken Mosca • Mossman's Business Machines • Mr. & Mrs. Bob Mullin • National Inclusion Project • Rev. Lawton Nelson • Network for Good • Ervin and Shannon Nixon • Debra O'Neill • Claudette Palmer • Rose Pantalena • William Parkhurst • Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Patak • Mr. & Mrs. Howard Paul • Samuel Pignatelli • Premier Self Storage • Aurelia Robinson • Jerry Rooney • Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Rosenblatt • Dorothy Saatkamp • Mr. & Mrs. John Saburn • Mr. & Mrs. Charles Salomon-Lowden • Mr. & Mrs. William Santora • Christine Sauer • William Sherman • Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Smith • Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Spanier • Mr. & Mrs. Joel Spiegel • Nettie Spiegel • Duke Spitzer • St. Vincent DePaul Society • Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Steiner • Lois Sterling • Storage Inn • Superior Court of NJ, Civil Division • Tilton Self Storage • Tomasello Auto Repair • Trading Zone • Truist • United Way of Atlantic County • United Way of Delaware • United Way of Southern Pennsylvania • United Way of the National Capital Area • Verizon Foundation • Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Walker • Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Walsh • Mr. & Mrs. Howard Ware • Christine Washington • Patricia Wicker • Women's Club of Atlantic City • Maureen Yuhasz

A Message from the CEO

Dear Friends,

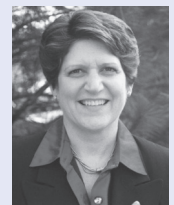
It's the start of a new fiscal year for The Arc and I'm happy to report the state budget has passed and nearly all of the programs most important to people with developmental disabilities survived without cuts.

Unfortunately, we are heading into our third year in a row without an increase in our contract with the state. That means despite significant increases in the cost of providing care, our budget has remained flat yet again, further straining our already tight finances. It's also very disheartening that our employees will once again not see a salary increase. I admire their steadfast commitment to their work despite these challenges and am grateful for each and every one of them.

I am also especially grateful to all of you who continue to support The Arc and help us maintain our services. With your help, we will continue to offer the quality services we are proud to provide the community.

Warmly,

Deborah Davies
Deborah Davies, Ph.D.



Two Fun Ways You Can Help The Arc This Fall:

Golf in I. Rice & Company's 2nd Annual

Golfing for Good Tournament

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Harbor Pines Golf Club • Egg Harbor Township, NJ
7:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

**Register or become a sponsor online:
www.arcatlantic.org/GolfingforGood.asp**

*All proceeds support
The Arc's recreation
program and
participants.
Call 609.485.0800 for
more info.*



Walk and Help Make Dreams Come True



Join Arc service recipients, families and friends for a stroll by the sea to help raise funds and awareness for Arc's programs:

**Saturday, October 9, 2010
Ventnor Boardwalk**

Registration: 8:30 a.m. at St. James Roman Catholic Church, 6415 Atlantic Avenue Ventnor, NJ 08406

Kick-off: 9:30 a.m.

Call 609-485-0800 ext. 136 to sign up.

**Set up your online fundraising page today at
www.firstgiving.com/arc-atlantic*

Statewide Sponsor



Media Sponsor



The Arc

of Atlantic County

Helping people live the lives they choose

6550 Delilah Road, Suite 101
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Your Summer 2010 Newsletter:

- College Grad One Step Closer to Dream
- Kennedy Tribute Raises \$98k
- Self Advocates Rally for Respect
- ...And more!