

Summer 2009

## Coming Up...

**September 13-19:** Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, in honor of the direct support workforce and the tremendous difference they make in the lives of people with disabilities.

**September 26:** The Inaugural Golfing for Good Golf Tournament, to benefit The Arc of Atlantic County. Harbor Pines Golf Club, Egg Harbor Township. 7:30 a.m.

**October 10:** Step Up for The Arc Walk. Ventnor boardwalk. 8:30 a.m. Registration. 9:30 a.m. Kick-off.

For more information on these and other events visit us on the web:  
[www.arcatlantic.org](http://www.arcatlantic.org)



## A Parent's Voice. A Coach's Wisdom. A Community's Support.

**A**t The Arc of Atlantic County's 5th Annual Tribute Dinner and Silent Auction, honoring Rutgers head women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer on May 14, it was easy to imagine that the economy is rich and Arc programs are secure.

The silent auction room was brimming with baskets and gift certificates donated by more than 240 businesses. The program book was thick with ads from nearly 70 individuals and companies who supported the event. More than 200 guests were in attendance. And when the final numbers were tallied, more than \$80,000 was raised to support Arc programs and services, an impressive achievement in today's world.

While this support will make a tremendous difference in the lives of those we serve, the reality is that The Arc is faced with critical cuts in funding from major sources and even with the money raised from this event, we will still fall far short of what is needed. Our family

support program has five families waiting for in-home respite services. More than 35 children are enrolled in The Arc's Saturday program, but we can only accept 25 each week. There is a state wide waiting list in the thousands for residential services, so many families are looking to alternatives like The Arc's Family Support program. Unfortunately, we simply cannot meet these growing needs with what we have.

Coach Stringer understands the importance of organizations like The Arc to families of people with developmental disabilities because she too is a parent caring for a child with developmental disabilities. Her daughter Nina, developed spinal meningitis as a toddler, leaving her unable to ever walk or talk. Nina is now an adult and attends a day program during the week, but at home she is looked after by her caregiver, Hyacinth, who makes it possible for Coach Stringer to provide her daughter with a wonderful quality of life, while also enabling her to fulfill her demanding career obligations.

"I couldn't possibly come to practice or represent a team if it weren't for people like you here tonight who work with individuals with special needs, those who are administrators who care about people with special needs, and those of you who make contributions to organizations like The Arc."

Stringer reflected on the everyday challenges of raising a child with disabilities and how even routine medical procedures



"There is never enough money for our special needs children who need special funding," said Stringer.

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can turn into major health risks. “Just last week, all that my daughter needed was an operation on her gums due to hyperplasia. This was supposed to be a two-hour procedure, but all of a sudden she went into a blank stare and needed oxygen, an EKG... we wound up there for two nights! It’s never easy when you have a child with special needs.”

Part of the evening included a surprise guest: Temple University’s former men’s basketball coach John Chaney, a friend and mentor to Coach Stringer for decades. Chaney has been there for Stringer throughout her career, especially in the early stages and during the weeks and months when Nina was first diagnosed—which also happened to be during the first time her team made it to the NCAA Final Four. “I remember Coach Chaney coming to the hospital, forcing me to eat because I became so skinny and frail. I don’t think I was home a full two days during that time. The reason that I can stand before you is because I have been fortunate enough to have angels, people that lifted me up,” Stringer stated.

“I would love to shake each and every person’s hand here tonight and say thank you, thank you for coming, thank you for caring about my child, thank you for caring about all the children with special needs. Each and every person here is making an impact. For those of you

here that don’t have a child with special needs, you’re a special human being, thank you, because somebody has to care,” Stringer said.

“With all the budget cuts, we as a people - it starts with us - we must put our shoulders together to ask how we can help. There’s never enough money for our special needs people that need special funding.

You took the time to be here tonight. You don’t honor me, I honor you, and I thank you for giving me a chance to be here. Thank you,” Stringer said in closing.

The Arc would like to thank our many sponsors of this event, including AtlantiCare and Harrah’s Entertainment, as well as the many silent auction donors, guests, volunteers and staff. We especially thank our honorary chair Leo Schoffer, and our event chair, Herb Hummel for their leadership and guidance in making this event possible.

And last but not least, we thank Coach Stringer for accepting our honor and for taking the time to be with us and share the more personal aspects of her life as a parent of a daughter with special needs. Her words and her generosity have made a very deep impact on The Arc and our many friends.

For more information on the event, please visit the events tab on our website at [www.arcatlantic.org](http://www.arcatlantic.org).

## Lend A Hand



Volunteers are needed for upcoming Arc activities. Help with crafts, cooking classes or come to a dance! We have many options to suit your availability and interests. We are seeking

volunteers of all ages and abilities. Group projects are also available. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Rowles at 609-485-0800 extension 137 or [jrowles@arcatlantic.org](mailto:jrowles@arcatlantic.org) to get started!

## Keep Up With The Arc!

Follow us on **twitter** @ArcAtlantic

Become a fan on **facebook**

Sign up for e-news at [arcatlantic.org](http://arcatlantic.org)

## Bubel Aiken Grant Supports Summer Camp

The Arc is the grateful recipient of a \$15,755 grant from the Bubel/Aiken Foundation for its inclusive summer camp program held in partnership with the Milton and Betty Katz JCC in Margate. Each year, The Arc supports approximately 20 children so they may attend the JCC’s Camp by the Sea program alongside their typical peers. The Bubel/Aiken grant provides funding for additional children to attend Camp by the Sea this year.

“We feel that partnering with The Arc of Atlantic County will help us further our mission to open doors in communities nationwide for children with disabilities to experience everything life has to offer,” says Jerry Aiken, Executive Director.

The Arc of Atlantic County is one of only two Arcs to receive a grant from Bubel/Aiken this year. For more information, visit [www.bubelaiken.org](http://www.bubelaiken.org).





Debbie Bieniakowski, left, and Janet Hendrixson - both parents of children who receive Arc services - enjoy the silent auction.



Coach Stringer with surprise guest, John Chaney, former Temple University men's basketball coach.



Honorary Chair and Rutgers alum, Leo Schoffer with Coach Stringer.



Robin Stoloff, Health Reporter for NBC 40, emceed the event. Robin and NBC 40 went above and beyond to assist with promoting and supporting the event.

## Words from Our Guests...

"The tribute given to Ms. Stringer by The Arc of Atlantic County was the jolt my spirit needed. It is so comforting to know that there are people and organizations dedicated to helping uplift the quality of life for all people. The challenges that Ms. Stringer and other families like hers face every single day put life into its proper perspective."  
- C. Simone, Harrah's Entertainment

"The program was great, and the speakers: wonderful, inspiring, compelling, moving. I learned a lot about what you do. For this, I thank you and congratulate you."  
-Bob Seltzer, Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties



Nynell Langford, wife of Atlantic City Mayor Lorenzo Langford, presented Coach Stringer with the key to Atlantic City.



Arc board treasurer Herb Hummel served as Event Chair for the 2009 Tribute.



Arc residential program managers Will Frazier and Beverly Pavloff served as volunteers at the event.



Senator James Whelan presents a state proclamation to Coach Stringer. Also pictured: Rutgers Alumni Thomas Kelly, left, and Gary Melton.

## Thank You for Helping Us Grow!

(Donors listed made a gift of \$25 or more between January 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009)

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## Pledge Your Support Today!

Dear Friend,

As Coach Stringer said, there is never enough money for our special needs children who need special funding, and we must put our shoulders together to ask how we can make a difference.

One way you can make a difference is to make a personal action pledge to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in any way you can using the enclosed pledge and donation form. We know times are difficult for everyone, but we can all give a little more whether it is through a donation, volunteer hours, or even just a pledge to support people with developmental disabilities in the future.

Maybe you'd like to become a volunteer and touch someone's life by working with them directly. Maybe you don't have time to volunteer, but would love to see your monetary gift help a specific Arc program in which you are interested. Perhaps you can donate tickets to a concert, a restaurant gift certificate, or a bike you've barely used to help enhance the life of someone we support.

We all have something special to give, each and every one of us, and we all have the power to brighten someone else's life. Let us know what special gift you would like to share with The Arc today by completing and returning the enclosed form. We look forward to hearing from you!



Deborah Davies, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer



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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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