

# New Horizons

The Arc of Warren County

Jan.-Feb. 2014



## Did you know ...?

- The Arc offers document shredding services on location at 319 W. Washington Avenue Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 am to 2 p.m.
- All shredding is done on-site to protect security and confidentiality, and costs just \$5 per box or bag.
- Call or stop by any day of the work week and we'll be glad to serve you.
- You will have peace of mind knowing your documents have been disposed of safely and securely by employees in The Arc's day program.
- It will mean more room for you in your home or office, and an employment opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Call 908-689-7525

## Where Do We Go From Here?

Robert A. Pruznick, CEO

Our custom of celebrating the conclusion of one year and the commencement of another allows us to indulge in the hope that the New Year will introduce a better chapter in our lives. We resolve to work on our personal weaknesses and make plans to effectively orchestrate all the variables under our control. And then we pray that fate will be kinder to us over the next twelve months. Assuming that this ritual embodies a rational rather than whimsical response to the mundane passage between December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>, it is reasonable to apply this perspective to our organization as well.

Over the course of 2013 I have witnessed excellent momentum as we pursued our agency mission. I want to build on this positive energy over the next twelve months and beyond. Most conspicuously, our downtown Washington store/day program, now called *Serendipity*, is functioning extremely well since its reorganization and its successful Grand Opening in September. This entrepreneurial venture now has the capacity to produce a surplus and thus help improve our overall fiscal position. Behind the scenes, our energetic new Chief Financial Officer, Hassan Farhan, has been working very hard to retool all of our fiscal functions – looking to decrease costs and increase revenues. Even more importantly, he is preparing the agency for the new fee-for-service system that D.D.D. will be implementing in 2014. We are optimistic that this complex conversion will produce a healthier fund balance for our chapter in coming years. Utilizing a Department of Labor grant over the past year, we have been conducting staff trainings on a variety of essential organizational topics. The ultimate goal in all these endeavors is the pursuit of service excellence by elevating employee competency and capacity.

The year 2014 happily signals The Arc Warren's 60th anniversary, Camp Warren's 50th year of operation and the 35<sup>th</sup> for Project First Step. While the celebration of longevity is a natural reaction for such major milestones, it also presents an opportunity to assess how well we have been performing and to envision the challenges and opportunities that the future will bring.

Under the governance model, the primary responsibility of elected volunteers lies in goal setting for the enterprise in general and for the paid staff in particular. At this month's board meeting we will be establishing such an agenda. Our vital parent/professional partnership holds the key to adapting to new needs and unfamiliar dynamics. Together we will find the path to progress.

# We're Celebrating! Want to Be Part of the Fun?



The year was 1954. Dwight D. Eisenhower was President, the World Series was broadcast in color for the first time, *From Here to Eternity* won an Academy Award for Best Picture, Ernest Hemingway won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature, a first-class stamp cost just 3 cents, and in *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka*, the Supreme Court banned segregation in public schools.

Among such notable events, it seems only natural that 1954 also would be the year The Arc was established in Warren County, New Jersey.

Here we are 60 years later and, while 60 is touted as “The new 40” and baby boomers of a certain age consider themselves still quite young (ahem), many spectacular things have been accomplished in The Arc’s mission to help create better lives for people with intellectual disabilities, and their families. One of those great accomplishments is the creation of the agency’s early intervention program, Project First Step, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. Another is the 50th anniversary of our renowned Camp Warren program.

We plan several events to commemorate these milestones in The Arc’s long history, including a November gala with our Honorary Chairperson, Deirdre Bryant, news reporter for the ABC Radio News Network. We also plan a family “Alumni Day” event for current and former Project First Step families.

We welcome suggestions, remembrances, and the active participation of those individuals and families who have been served by The Arc as we continue planning these events. If you have photos and memories to share, an update on your family member who participated in Project First Step or other Arc programs, or just want to help plan and/or attend our anniversary events, please contact Kevin Guyette in the Arc Foundation office at 908-689-7525 x212 or email her at: [kguyette@arcwarren.org](mailto:kguyette@arcwarren.org).

It may be 60 years later, but the commitment to quality demanded by our founding families and professionals is what keeps The Arc young and vibrant. It remains with us in every aspect of our service to children and adults with disabilities, and their families.

## Parents Invited to Take Survey on Alternative Assessments

The Alternate Assessment Research Group invites parents of students in third through 12th grade to participate in a survey about alternate assessments administered as part of each state’s assessment program. The purpose of the survey is to learn about parents’ understanding and opinions regarding the education and assessment of their children who have significant cognitive disabilities.

To preview the survey and enter your personal responses, visit: <http://interresearch.com/>

You will see the heading for International Education Research. Look for “Alternate Assessment Research Group” and click “Go to survey” at the bottom of the page. You can respond directly to the survey without a user name or password. If you have any comments or questions about the survey, please go to the homepage entitled “International Education Research.” Under the heading “CONTACT”, enter a comment.

The AARG consists of four professionals involved in the design and implementation of state alternate assessments. The mission of AARG is to understand the impact of special education policies in order to influence policy decisions. A large sampling of parent response is critical to its success.

**HHS Key Club/Kiwanis Club Mini Winter Carnival \* Sunday, Feb.23**  
**1 to 4 p.m. \* HHS gymnasium, Warren Street, Hackettstown (snow date 3/2/14)**

# Recreation News

Carolyn Wolf, Kelly Holzli, Meghan Moyer ~ 908-689-7525 Ext. 208, 209 and 256

**Important Newsletter Change:** newsletters are now being distributed for a 2-month period so please keep this one for reference through February 2014. Use the January and February calendars provided to update the information which you received in your 2013-14 "Recreation Schedule and Information" document as there are changes. New recreation schedules covering the period of February through June will be distributed soon. Please refer to the event schedules in this newsletter for January and February.

2014 is beginning in the same mode as 2013 left off, with weather conditions which are not acceptable for travel in many cases. This is frustrating for all of us, consumers, care givers and your recreation staff alike. We are sorry that the weather and travel conditions have disappointed so many people but want you to know that your safety comes first. Let's hope that a happier new year is coming - soon.

**Area 3 SONJ bowling competition** 2014 will be held on January 18th at Hanover Lanes in East Hanover for those bowlers who have been practicing and who have registered. Bowlers will compete in either an am or pm session and will be advised of their schedule. Those who are community residents may request transportation from the Arc office to the meet by calling the recreation office. Medal winners at this meet will be eligible to compete in the North Sectional bowling competition to be held on March 1 at the T-Bowl II Lanes in Wayne. Recreation staff must be advised of the desire to advance prior to the end of the Area 3 competition on 1/18. Bowlers who achieve a medal at the Sectional meet can request advancement to the SONJ finals on March 30.

The **January Dance** is scheduled for 1/21. DJ Sharbel is scheduled to entertain. There is no social club on January 14, 28 (Winter Games) or February 11. The February Dance is scheduled for 2/25 with DJ Mike doing the honors. Dance fees are \$2.00; social club is \$1.00.

**Yoga** – for ages 5 and up is a new program this year. The January class will be held on 1/27 and the February class on 2/24 in the Arc training room on the second floor of the office building. Bring your own mats if you have them as our participant space is limited to the number of available mats. The cost will be \$5.00/person/session.

**Basketball Season** has arrived. The Warren Stealers have begun practices for league play which will begin on January 19th and continue into March, culminating in the Spring Sports Festival of SONJ.

John Costea is again volunteering his time as Head Coach and is assisted by Emil Schoener and also by Nick Pflieger, a former member of our team who is presently hampered by an injury. We also are welcoming two new members to our team; they are Arthur King and David Woodhull. Go Stealers!

**Swim Team Practices** have now been scheduled at Lafayette pool for the winter/spring training sessions: they are on Monday evenings, 7 – 8 p.m.: 2/3, 2/10, 3/3, 3/10, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21 and 4/28. All swim team members are encouraged to attend all practices. Competition begins on April. 6 with the Area 3 meet at Lakeland Hills.

**Ski and Snowshoe Practices** at Shawnee have had to be rescheduled due to weather problems and will be held on January 11, January 12 and January 25 (tentative) and also on February 8 and 22, with a make-up date in March. Training is underway for the SONJ 2014 Winter Games competition on January 27 - 29 at Mountain Creek.

**Congratulations to our track and field athlete, Meghan Brauss, who has been selected to be a member of Team NJ at the National Special Olympics Summer Games this June in New Jersey. Meghan and her family are working on a fund-raiser to benefit Team NJ - a bowling event to be held at Warren Lanes in Phillipsburg on Sunday, February 9th, at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$15/bowler and includes pizza, bowling and shoes. Please contact the Recreation Office for more information and reservations for this fun event.**



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## The Arc of Warren County

Quality service and support for people  
with intellectual disabilities,  
and their families, since 1954.



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## The Arc Foundation of Warren County

One of the Foundation's primary goals is to establish and grow an endowment that will provide financial security for the future of The Arc of Warren County. Continued budget cutbacks to local, state, and federal budgets threatens the existence of many human service organizations, and almost certainly forces them to cut back on services and programs that are vital to the well-being of people who often are unable to bring about effective change on their own behalf.

You can help grow The Arc's endowment with your own gift to The Arc Foundation through your will or other estate planning document. Putting The Arc of Warren County in your will is a meaningful way to thank The Arc for the services your loved one with a disability has received through the years. It's also a way to ensure those services are available for the next generation of families who now are where you were many years ago: Wondering where to turn, and how best to ensure their loved one has a good life.

Making a place for The Arc in your estate plan is the right thing to do. For more information, please contact Kevin Guyette in the Foundation office at 908-689-7525.