

## *The Arc and Abilities Celebrated Rossi Festival of Trees*



It was a holiday celebration to remember! Ed and Patti Sue Rossi hosted the 5th annual Festival of Trees Dec. 11 for the benefit of The Arc and Abilities of Northwest NJ when guests enjoyed fine food and beverages, holiday music by The Warren County Singers and trumpeters Joe Cotignola and Al Liebowitz. Best of all, they oohed and aahed over 53 beautifully decorated, fresh cut Christmas trees, all donated by Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm in Washington and decorated by a multitude of sponsors and volunteers.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Rossi Family for their generosity in hosting this event and to the sponsors and guests who supported it. In photos, Joe and Al play for arriving guests; Ed and Patti Sue, in background, with Hannah Barry, Matt Garcia, Diane Manno, Chris Wolf, and Bernadette Kappus; and one of our beautiful trees. What better way to ring in the holidays than with good friends having a good time?

### *From the Desk of Robert A. Pruznick, CEO When the Seeds of Inclusion Bear Sweet Fruit*

*“Good, the more communicated, more abundant grows.” Milton, Paradise Lost, 1667.*

It's quite satisfying when you observe hard evidence that The Arc's inclusionary mission is succeeding. This is especially true since our idealistic goal of improving the social status of people with intellectual disabilities has been accomplished very incrementally and nearly imperceptibly. Yet, the authentic acceptance and sincere respect that I have witnessed are undeniable proof of our steady progress on this front. When you consider how aggressively hierarchical and competitive we are as a species, and how cruelly we can treat those on lower rungs of the pecking order, our achievements provide optimism that we can indeed elevate human nature.

In many ways our relentless advocacy in the arena of public education has been largely responsible for the improvement in the populace's attitude towards intellectual disability. I learned from The Arc's matriarch, Dr. Elizabeth Boggs, that New Jersey took the national lead in this regard by educationally including our population in the public schools. In 1954, the Beadleston Act was passed which progressively provided state funds for these special education services and thereby funded the state mandate that was first established in 1911.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *The Seeds of Inclusion, continued from front...*

Due to the timing of this legislative initiative, I was exposed to children with special needs in kindergarten. By the time I graduated from Phillipsburg High School, the profile of our population had been raised to the point where a classmate of mine, Ralph Firth, became a fixture on the sideline of our football games, working as the equipment manager. That's "Chipper" pictured on the left in this newspaper photo from 1968, joining in the post-game celebration after our classic rivalry played annually on Thanksgiving. It was recently posted on Facebook with Chip duly identified. Needless to say, Chip, who happens to reside in one of our supervised apartments and is employed at *Serendipity*, was thrilled by such recognition in the digital age.



I experienced further encouragement this fall when William Lilly participated in our 45<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Thanks to a remarkable young man who facilitated his inclusion by serving as his uncle's personal needs attendant, our classmate with cerebral palsy became the highlight of our gathering. Since most of us had not seen Billy since our youth, he was warmly welcomed by everyone in attendance. These spontaneous displays of affection were especially joyful since we were such a cliquish generation. It seems that our cohort of baby boom Americans has over time properly absorbed our message that the simple act of generating a sense of belonging pays priceless dividends for all concerned.

### *Need to Find a Place to Take Electronics Recycling?*

GreenVision Inc., an electronics recycling program of Abilities of Northwest NJ, offers recycling with a mission. A full service electronics dismantler, the program will accept computers, computer accessories (mouse, keyboard, speakers, wires, and cords); printers, copy and fax machines, scanners, phones, kitchen appliances, vacuums, and LCD monitors. In short, anything with a plug may be accepted.

Items are accepted free of charge with the exception of CRT monitors (\$20); TVs up to 32" (\$20). Certified data destruction also is offered at \$20.

For more information, please contact Abilities at 908-689-1118 or drop off items at 264 Route 31, Washington, Monday—Friday from 8 am to 3 pm.

### *Arc Recreation Services Gears Up for the New Year*

The Arc of Warren County offers a full roster of therapeutic and leisure recreation programs throughout the county. Programs are sports-related (Special Olympics training and participation, bowling, aquatics, skiing, track and field); social (Social Club and theater trips); and healthy (yoga and Healthy Life Club), among others.

The Arc also offers Camp Warren day and residential camping, as well as special activities throughout the year.

The 2015 Recreation calendar and registration form will be mailed to you early in the New Year, as will Cap Warren applications for employment and camping.

Please be advised that Camp Warren is available for family and corporate events. For more information, please contact Recreation Services Director Meghan Moyer at 908-689-7525.

*We Wish You and Yours a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year!*

## What Says 'Celebration' Better Than The Rockettes?



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It was our distinct pleasure to welcome New York's Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Alum to help us celebrate The Arc's 60th Anniversary November 1st during a gala event at Hawk Pointe Golf Club, Washington. More than 100 invited guests were in attendance for an evening of New York-themed food, dancing, and great music by Michael Long. Master of Ceremonies Russ Long of WRNJ Radio masterfully kept the action moving throughout the night in his inimitable style, and we enjoyed a special dance performance by Lois and Devin from Just Dancz in Hackettstown.

Our Honorary Chair, Deirdre Bryant, ABC Radio Network News correspondent, pictured above with the Rockettes, warmly and graciously welcomed our guests with her personal observances of The Arc and the good it does for those individuals and families living with intellectual disabilities. Her own experience helping to host the annual WRNJ Radiothon for The Arc has led her to a deeper understanding of the importance of Arc services, particularly those that provide service to children and young families. Arc president Ginny Garcia also welcomed guests, offering her thanks as a parent whose child has benefited from Arc programs.

Hackettstown Mayor Maria DiGiovanni, a member of The Arc Foundation Board, welcomed everyone and gave special thanks to our committee who worked diligently to make this event one for the record books (Laurie Cipollini, Jeryl Turner, Robin Travis, Gratia Burke, Alicia Bailey, Nancy Eberle, Leslie Schott, Paula Rosa, and Laura Lampron). She also called guests' attention to our sponsors who included Presenting Sponsor John Johnson Automotive Group, Front and Center Sponsors Nisivoccia & Co. and SASCO Insurance Services; and Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, WRNJ Radio, Fanuele Financial Services, BSI Corporate Services, Abilities of Northwest NJ, Shop Rite of Greenwich, Hopewell Valley Community Bank, and First Hope Bank.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the **"WRNJ Radio Playground at Camp Warren"**, for which a capital campaign will be conducted during the next 5 years.

A special note of thanks goes to Marian and George Bredin of Good Impressions Printing and Mailing for their generous and extraordinary job on the AdJournal. Thank you, both!

The Arc of Warren County has come a long way in 60 years. Here's to the next 60 with strength and success!



Michael Long



Bob Pruznick and  
Maria DiGiovanni



Norman Worth and  
Deirdre Bryant



Lois and Devin

**THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY**

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**SINCE 1954,  
PROVIDING QUALITY  
SERVICE AND SUPPORT  
TO PEOPLE WITH  
INTELLECTUAL AND  
RELATED  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES.**

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## THE ARC FOUNDATION

We'd like to take a moment to thank you for your support of Arc Foundation fundraising activities during the past year, and let you know we count on your continuing support in 2015. These events provide much-needed funds for the continuance of vital Arc services and programs, and your support means the world to us.

In 2014, your support helped make a success of our WRNJ Radiothon in April, August's Golf Classic, Grand Harvest Wine & Music Festival in September, November's 60th Anniversary Gala, and the Rossi Festival of Trees event in December

We also celebrated the 35th Anniversary of Project First Step and observed the 50th Anniversary of Camp Warren. It was one busy year for The Arc!

In the new year, The Arc Foundation will offer a schedule of seminars meant to keep families apprised of legal, financial, and social news and changes affecting their member with a disability. If there is a specific topic of concern you wish to see addressed, please contact Arc Foundation Director Kevin Guyette at 908-689-7525.

We welcome your views and input. Join us and help The Arc Foundation grow!