

A Revival Perhaps?

From the Desk of Robert Pruznick

"It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things." Leonardo da Vinci

I sense a renaissance of our grass-roots heritage. The positive sociological dynamics that launched our movement in the 1950's were clearly evident in the May membership meeting called for the annual election of our governing body. This welcome dose of parental activism carried over to the installation of the new officers and directors in June. Amidst the celebratory transitional formalities, I witnessed a healthy rekindling of solidarity amongst the numerous participants. The Arc's unique formula for translating private family experience into powerfully shared public advocacy was joyfully at work in Washington NJ. That night I could see clear evidence of the "big tent" unifying mentality that Doctor Elizabeth Boggs informed professionals existed when our national movement was first conceived and incorporated. Tapping this wellspring of The Arc's phenomenal social work success, I believe that we will achieve even greater mission impact.



New members to The Arc's Board of Directors. From left, bottom row, Diane Bonelli, Ellen Haussner, Karen Marshall, Rosaria Baldino. Back row: Gratia Burke, CEO Robert Pruznick, Melanie Thiel, Donna Gruter, James Travis, Ellen Smolko, Karen Woodcock, Erika Hill, Shawn McInerney, and Arc of NJ CEO Thomas Baffuto.

Specifically, my staff and I are planning to revive an annual calendar of membership meetings to disseminate critical information. We have targeted DDD's transition from case management to support coordination as our initial offering. Parents need to be comfortable with this new portal for services in order to orchestrate the most appropriate programmatic interventions for their sons and daughters. Such gatherings can also be forums for sharing perspectives and practical wisdom – opportunities for renewing and initiating friendships – and incubators for developing networks of peer support. This was the glue that first formed and then sustained our chapter.

Additionally, a more active membership can be the source of board committee participants. Optimally, directors and officers should gain experience at this organizational level prior to their election to the governing body. I especially would like to see rejuvenated committees address the topic of legislative advocacy. Informed and passionate parents often are the most effective champions of our publicly supported programs. Given that The Arc of the United States and The Arc of New Jersey are excellent conduits of timely federal and state governmental intelligence, Warren County families should routinely be using these sources to educate all our elected officials on our issues of concern.

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Arc Athletes Performed Like Champs at Summer Games



The Arc of Warren County was proudly represented at the 2016 Special Olympics Summer Games! Our athletes competed from June 10th-12th in the areas of Aquatics and Track and Field. The Warren Stingrays were excited to unveil their new team name and sleek swim caps. Warren Arc athletes practice very hard and it is great to see their efforts shown in a multitude of Bronze, Silver and Gold medals! In photos, from left, Todd Gensheimer and, right, Rachel Bailey and Cati Malcolm. Congratulations to all of our Arc Warren athletes and coaches!



2016 Golf Classic for The Arc

Monday, August 22

Hawk Pointe Golf Club, 294 Route 31 S., Washington, NJ 07882

\$180 per person/all-inclusive
11 am registration and lunch. 12:30 shotgun start.

Registration: kguyette@arcwarren.org or call 908-689-7525 x212

Great course, great golf, and a great cause!

Presented by some great people who care about their community:



A Revival, *continued from front*

In the future, I see an army of members telling our compelling civil rights story, raising awareness, creating allies and cultivating benefactors. If, by working together, we can keep the good energy of these recent membership events flowing, such outcomes will be more than just an old man's dreams for a great agency that he loves dearly.

In closing, I must acknowledge the patient but fiercely effective advocacy of one courageous parent. Without Donna Gruter's steadfast crusade, I would not have seen this bright "New Horizon."

**JOIN US SEPTEMBER 11, 2016
MEADOW BREEZE PARK
10AM-1PM**



Get Fit & Raise Funds for the Arc's Recreation Services!

STEP UP FOR THE ARC WALKATHON 2016

Raise funds for the Arc's Recreation Services while having a great time with your friends strolling through beautiful Meadow Breeze Park. You can help us provide and maintain our year round Recreation Programs such as, Healthy Life Club, Social Club, Bowling, Open Swim and many more. Join us after the walk for some light fare and good conversation amongst new and old friends.

You will also be a part of a state-wide "Step Up for The Arc" walkathon effort that has brought thousands of people together to support The Arc in every county in New Jersey.

What better way to let people know all of the great things The Arc means to you and your family?
Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 11, 2016.

\$10 Fee Per Walker

*Raise \$50 or more and the walk fee will be waived.

Can't make it on September 11th? You can still help by donating at the below link and sharing with your friends!

<https://give.everydayhero.com/us/arc-walkathon>

Contact Meghan Moyer at 908-689-7525
Ext. 256 For a brochure or more information.

**THE ARC,
WARREN CO. CHAPTER, INC.**

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THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY

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

Phone: 908-689-7525
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Visit us online:
www.arcwarren.org



**Get Rid of That Old Car, Boat, or RV
and Make a Donation to The Arc!**

It's true: Wine and cheese age well, but that old car sitting in your driveway does not. Think about donating your old car, boat, or RV to The Arc and receive a healthy tax deduction in return. The vehicle does not have to be in running condition. Just call the number below for a quick and easy way to turn that old vehicle into cash for The Arc and a nice deduction for you!



**Donate your used
car to The Arc
1-877-ARC-CAR0**