

Unleashing the Political Power of Family Advocates

Robert A. Pruznick, CEO

“Man's nature is not essentially evil. Brute nature has been known to yield to the influence of love. You must never despair of human nature” – Mahatma Gandhi

Early in my Arc career I started attending the Disability Policy Seminar conducted by The Arc of The United States in Washington D.C. . Every spring since my initial exposure to this three day event I have found great value in learning about the politics behind federally funded programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And the visits to Capitol Hill, to enlighten our Senators and Members of the House of Representatives about our critical issues, always highlights this annual democratic exercise. Such advocacy efforts provide one with a glimpse into how our national government responds to organized petitions from interest groups. It's a little like being on the set of “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington”. And just as the presence of the “Boy Rangers” in the Senate gallery in this classic 1939 film, contributed to the successful legislative initiative creating a national youth camp, the presence of citizens who benefit directly from public philanthropic programs, is a critical factor in persuading elected officials to preserve such historically beneficial services and supports. Accordingly, we always try to get family members and self-advocates to attend this seminar to provide first hand testimony about the good results that federal investments produce, how programs might be improved and making personal appeals to protect “the lifeline” that has been painstakingly established since the Kennedy administration.

Now my first pilgrimage to Washington occurred in 1981 just as Ronald Reagan was assuming the Presidency. At that time there was widespread fear in the disability community that our programs might be in jeopardy, based on his promise to significantly increase military expenditures and assuming that other domestic programs would suffer as a result. Presently, there is similar anxiety about potential damage that our carefully constructed system of supports might suffer if relevant entitlement and discretionary funding were to be cut in President Trump's 2018 Federal Budget. The Arc of the US and The Arc of NJ have initiated a grassroots campaign to inform stakeholders about proposed fiscal changes that could undermine key components such as Medicaid, Supplemental Social Security (SSI) and the Affordable Care Act.

Consequently, on March 28th we have invited Tom Baffuto, The Arc/NJ's Executive Director to address a Membership Meeting here in Warren County on this vitally important subject. Since Tom will be coming to us fresh from The Arc/US's Disability Policy Seminar, he will be able to bring us up to speed on the latest political intelligence from Washington, along with the national strategy devised for “Protecting the Lifeline.”

I am confident that properly informed and motivated family advocates will be an effective antidote to assaults on the integrity of a carefully crafted, comprehensive and efficacious intervention structure. Our community based system of supports is an unqualified social work success story that has enabled people with intellectual disabilities to live good lives, fulfilling their potential; created positive, manageable in-home family dynamics; and has fortuitously elevated the moral fabric our society through the edifying inclusion of this formerly devalued portion of humanity.

I must admit that I am a hopeless optimist as I approach this challenge, but we also have history on our side. Despite the over-wrought apprehension that initially greeted the Reagan administration, we have this Chief Executive to thank for manufacturing the engine of progress in our human service field – the Community Care Waiver - which allowed Medicaid resources to be diverted away from institutions and into group homes and other forms of supportive living. I truly hope that history repeats itself again and this good, kind and generous country will continue to shine as a humanitarian beacon in this often dark world.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MARCH 28 7 PM AT THE ARC OFFICES. RSVP 908-689-7525

The Sibling Experience

In partnership with Supportive Initiatives for Brothers & Sisters in New Jersey (SIBS NJ) The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute presents this **free** workshop for families. This workshop will help parents understand and navigate the unique challenges and strengths that come with being a typically developing sibling of someone with an intellectual and developmental disability or mental health condition. This workshop will also help older siblings develop a better understanding of how to navigate their ever evolving role as a sib.



Date: March 20

Time: 6-730 pm

Location: The Arc of Warren
319 W Washington Ave # 2,
Washington, NJ 07882

Register here: bit.ly/siblingexperiencewarren

Questions? Contact Cheryl Crick at ccrick@arcnj.org or at 732.246.2526



Do You or a Loved One Benefit From Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, SSI, SSDI, of The Affordable Care Act (ACA)?

These "lifeline" programs are critical to supporting millions of Americans with disabilities to access health care, support services, and community living.

LIFELINE PROGRAMS ARE UNDER ATTACK.

Every voice must be heard to educate the public and elected officials about the importance of preserving these vital programs.

We need YOUR help to "Protect the Lifeline." Go to bit.ly/protectthelifeline now!

And be sure to join us at The Arc of Warren County on March 28 at 7 pm at The Arc offices for an informative question and answer session with Arc/NJ Executive Director Tom Baffuto. He'll explain the threat to lifeline services for our families and individuals in the 3rd floor board room at 319 W. Washington Avenue. Please call 908-689-7552 to RSVP.



Friday, April 21 at Route 46 Hyundai (formerly Hackettstown Hyundai) from 9 am to 5 pm

It all began 27 years ago with a simple idea to raise awareness of The Arc and the people we serve, and perhaps raise some needed funds for the programs they rely on. Who ever would have guessed that 27 years later this outstanding event would become one of the biggest and most successful fundraising events in Warren County? Not only does it bring together business and community leaders in support of The Arc, it also reaches thousands of people with The Arc's message of hope and achievement. You can be a part of it by making your own pledge with the form below!

If you'd prefer to call in your pledge, you may do so on April 21 by calling the Radiothon Hotline number at 908-328-3355. It's quick and easy, and we thank you!



PLEASE PRINT NEATLY



Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Pledge Amount _____

Credit Card: Visa/MasterCard

Acct. #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV# _____

Contacted by VIP _____

Donor Telephone _____

_____ Announce Pledge On Air No? (Please Circle)

Please make check payable to:
The Arc Foundation
P.O. Box 389, Washington, NJ 07882

Your gift is tax-deductible, and will help ensure the continuance of quality programs for children and adults who have intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your contribution to The Arc Foundation

The Arc/Warren Tricky Tray



We will be holding our very first tricky tray fundraiser in the Spring of 2017!

This will be a great way for our individuals to get involved in a community event, and to spread awareness of who we are as an agency.

BUT, we need YOUR help! Please share this with your friends. We are looking for donations (new items or monetary) to help make this event successful. No donation is too small—any donations are *greatly* appreciated!

All donations are tax deductible—we will send out a voucher as soon as the item is received!

For further information, please reach out to Robin at rsmith@arcwarren.org, or Lisa at lcapo@arcwarren.org

Donations can be dropped off at the main office, or mailed to:

Warren Arc

Attn: Tricky Tray Committee

P.O. Box 389

Washington, NJ 07882

We can also pick up donations from you!

Main office: 319 West Washington Ave. Washington, NJ 07882

www.arcwarren.org





The New Jersey Children's System of Care, which serves children and youth up to age 21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is now accepting requests from families for financial assistance toward the 2017 summer camp session.

Requests MUST be postmarked or received by PerformCare no later than April 30, 2017.

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute developed a checklist and a guide to help you through the application process. Links, dates and other important information can be found in the materials below.

Please note: Individuals 21 years of age and older are served by The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Information on summer camp assistance through DDD has not yet been published. As soon as we have the information we will be sure to share it with you. For more information about summer camp assistance through DDD, contact your case manager or support coordinator.

NOTE: IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROCESS, PLEASE CALL Meghan Moyer or Marci Gubich at The Arc. At 908-689-7525.



Summer Camp 2017: A Guide For Families

The New Jersey Children's System of Care (CSOC) may be able to provide eligible children, youth and young adults up to age 21 financial support toward camp tuition.

Deadline

Completed applications for both Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition and One-to-One Aide Services for Summer Camp must be postmarked or received by PerformCare no later than **April 30, 2017**. Applications, including supporting documentation, **MUST** be complete in order to be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all necessary paperwork is on time.

Important Information

For summer camp 2017, Financial Support toward **Summer Camp Tuition** is for the camp's daily rate, not to exceed \$80.00 per day for day camp (maximum of 10 days) and not to exceed \$133.00 per day for overnight camp (maximum of 6 nights).

If a one-to-one aide is required, a separate Application for 1:1 Aide Services for Summer Camp 2017 must be submitted to PerformCare. You will need the child's CYBER ID number in order to complete the application. If this information is not known, please contact PerformCare at 1-877-652-7624.

Families and guardians will be notified of eligibility for financial support toward summer camp tuition and/or one-to-one aide services for summer camp by PerformCare after May 15, 2017.

Camp Eligibility	Read	Timeline	Get Connected
<p>A youth can be considered eligible for CSOC Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition if all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are eligible for CSOC Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition only during the period of time in which they are not eligible to attend an extended school-year program. The youth is deemed eligible for CSOC developmental disability (DD) services. The youth is under the age of 21 and will not turn 21 before the end of the camp dates selected for reimbursement. The individual or youth resides at home with an uncompensated caregiver. 	<p>"Financial support toward Summer Camp 2017 frequently asked questions": bit.ly/csoc2017/campfaq</p> <p>Research the Department of Children and Families Qualified Provider List: http://bit.ly/dcfcampplst</p> <p>Summer Camp Applications including the 1:1 aide application: bit.ly/csoc2017/campapplication</p> <p>Parents and guardians can apply online for Summer Camp supports through the PerformCare Family Portal (bit.ly/performcarefamilyportal).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Mail Completed packet to: PerformCare ATT: Camp Financial Support 300 Horizon Drive, Suite 306 Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1919</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parents or guardians must register the youth with the camp before starting the request for CSOC Financial Support toward Summer Camp Tuition. The family is required to provide the following documentation to PerformCare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A completed summer camp application (see "Read" column) A copy of the camp registration form or a letter from the camp (on camp letterhead) indicating that the individual is registered for the qualified camp. Camps must be from the DCF qualified provider list (see "Read" column) 	<p>As changes take place within the service delivery systems, it is vital for families to stay connected with an organization that provides the most up to date information on important issues. The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute keeps you informed and educated on all of the latest changes that affect your loved one with an intellectual and developmental disability.</p> <p>Sign up today for free!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bit.ly/finewsletter

THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY

319 W. Washington Avenue
Post Office Box 389
Washington, New Jersey



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

Phone: 908-689-7525
Fax: 908-689-4898
Email: info@arcwarren.org

Visit us online:
www.arcwarren.org



The Arc Foundation

There are many ways you can help support The Arc, and not all of them originate in your checkbook. While financial support is always needed, and much appreciated, we always welcome an introduction to someone who is able to help financially, whether through an outright donation or inclusion in a trust or other financial plan. Perhaps you have a friend or neighbor, a colleague or relative who would be willing to make a charitable gift to The Arc because he or she understands how much this organization has meant to you and your family. You can be the conduit through which this introduction and potential gift is made. Just give The Arc Foundation office a call at 908-689-7525 x212 and we'll help get you started. After all, who better than you knows how important the future of The Arc is to so many people here in Warren County?

Coming up.....

27th Annual WRNJ Radiothon for The Arc: Friday, April 21. Please be generous in making your pledge. All funds raised remain here in Warren County to support vital programs and services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, and their families. Join us at Route 46 Hyundai in Hackettstown to meet the WRNJ crew and our wonderful VIPs who will help us reach our \$65,000 goal!