

## An Arc Dream Come True



**High-Fives for Adele.**

From the Desk of Robert A. Pruznick, CEO

*"We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams. Jimmy Carter*

In 1953, the National Association for Retarded Children (as The Arc of the United States was known then) produced a short film entitled "Tuesday's Child". I found this 16mm celluloid artifact of our movement's formative years in our archives. For its time it was a fairly sophisticated public relations effort that utilized Broadway acting talent. (The first NARC office was located in New York City.). With it I found old agency letterhead on which our founders recorded the reactions of their local audiences- the PTA's, the Kiwanis clubs, the Women's clubs, the Granges, etc.

The brief hand written comments conveyed the guarded optimism of these pioneering parents. Civic minded citizens had responded with a glimmer of compassion to this dramatic depiction of new neighbors seeking acceptance of their unconventional family. At a time when Americans were very active socially, visiting relatives and friends routinely, the film asked if parents of a child with special needs would be welcome participants in "coffee klatch circles"? In the era of automatic institutionalizations, when intellectual disability was a nearly unknown condition, could such a different child become a welcome playmate? Given the rigid homogeneity of the 1950's, could such communal diversity even be considered? Optimistically, the film's producers chose "Tuesday - the child full of grace" (according the old poem about birthdays) to be the icebreaker. Our charter members prayed for the dawn of "New Horizons" – a kinder, more open society when such inclusion might be a spontaneous, natural human response.

Fast forward 64 years to Mansfield Elementary School as they celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Over the public address system comes the simple announcement about this official occasion and a suggestion to the youthful students to give a "high five" to any classmate whom they might know with Downs. Lo and behold the little angels lined up to enthusiastically recognize and affirm the participation of spunky and charming young Adele in their formative grade school environment. What a tender yet robust gesture! What a powerful fulfillment of the dearest hopes of our charter members! What a vivid confirmation of the success of The Arc's precious mission! What a bright point of light in our often harsh world. All I can say is Hallelujah!

**Please note: This is your last mailed edition of New Horizons. From now on, our newsletter will be available online only. If you do not have internet access, call The Arc to have one mailed to you.**

## *Membership Meeting May 18 to Elect Officers to the Board of Directors*

Be sure to join us Thursday, May 18th for a membership meeting to elect officers to The Arc's Board of Directors. The meeting, to be held at 7 pm in the 3rd floor board room, is open to all Arc members in good standing and will offer light refreshments. A meeting of the board will take place following the election.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling 908-689-7525.

A June membership meeting that will feature installation of the board and several awards will be announced shortly. Please refer to The Arc website at [arcwarren.org](http://arcwarren.org) or call the office for more information.

## **27th WRNJ Radiothon Flew True to Form in April!**



Celebration was in the air on April 21 when the WRNJ Radiothon for The Arc welcomed dozens of VIPs (Very Involved Persons) and other volunteers to the Rt.46 showroom in Hackettstown to raise \$65,000 in support of Arc programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. Radiothon 2017 co-chairs Dawn Barbera and Cindy Matthews, top left, led the charge by presenting a generous donation from the bank at the start of the day, galvanizing others to match or surpass their success. Arc families, consumers, and staff took to the airwaves throughout the day to share their stories with WRNJ on-air hosts Russ Long, Mike Galley, Deirdre Bryant, and Norman Worth, who were joined by WCBS Radio anchor Wayne Cabot. It was a BIG day for The Arc, and we have many people to thank: Harper's Bagel & Bake Shop and Mama's and Café Baci, both Hackettstown, for providing breakfast and lunch for our volunteers (which they have done for 27 years!), Rt.46 for letting us take over the showroom for the day, the many donors who stepped up to make a contribution—and the VIPs who called them. Extra special thanks to Norman Worth and Larry Tighe of WRNJ Radio for taking that giant leap of faith 27 years ago for our first fundraiser and for sticking with us all these many years later. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

In photos from top left: Dawn and Cindy; 2017 Radiothon mugs filled with candy from Tracey's Candy Shop, Hackettstown; Norman and Russ just announced a big pledge; Helene Meissner from the NORWESCAP Food Bank explaining how her organization benefits Arc families and CLA programs; Deirdre and Wayne sharing a laugh; The Arc's Carinne Buzzuto with Curtis Mack and Deirdre explaining Arc recruitment efforts and the annual Arc Prom for our consumers each summer; and Rt.46 Hyundai General Manager CJ Meyer with Russ, celebrating at the end of the day.

## *COMCAST CARES DAY Spruced Up Three Arc Residences (And Offered Some Fun, Too.)*

COMCAST provides a day for its employees and their families to perform meaningful community service in its service area, and we were very thankful to have their help April 22 at three of The Arc's Community Living Arrangements homes. Arc staff and consumers pitched in to help weed, take out old shrubbery, plant new flowers, spread mulch, rake and bag leaves, and make each of the residences look fresh and ready for Spring. COMCAST also generously provided "COMCAST CARES" T-shirts for all, along with breakfast donuts and lunch.

Many thanks to this local company that "gives back" in ways that enrich the lives of its employees and customers by joining people in service and gratitude. From all of us at The Arc, a BIG Thank You for your service and friendship. It was hard work, but everyone had some fun with it, too!

Have an idea for community service projects for your club or company? Call The Arc! 908-689-7525



**THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY**

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SINCE 1954,  
PROVIDING QUALITY  
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**THE ARC FOUNDATION**

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**22nd Annual Golf Classic for The Arc Set for August 28**

Please join us for a superb day of golf and camaraderie for a very worthy cause—The Arc’s countywide programs for children and adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities—and their families. We’ll be at Hawk Pointe Golf Club in Washington where players will tee off at noon. Individual player fee is \$180 and special sponsor packages are available. REGISTER EARLY because this is known to sell out early. For more information, please call the Foundation Office at 908-69-7525 x212 or visit us at [arcwarren.org](http://arcwarren.org). Check your mailbox soon for formal registration info.



**Many Thanks to Our Presenting Sponsor:**

