

The Arc of Warren County 2019 Newsletter



Letter from the CEO of The Arc of Warren County, John Whitehead

I have been employed by The Arc of Warren County for more than three decades and just completed my first year as Chief Executive Officer. Through my tenure with this fine agency I have seen numerous changes, but none greater than we have seen in the past year. After operating most of our programs through a contract with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities since the early 1980s we have transitioned to a fee for service model. From this point forward we are a direct Medicaid biller which has required all of us to learn new skills and procedures to be successful in this realm. I am pleased to say that everyone has pulled together to make this a smooth transition.

One of the advantages to this change is that we are now able to have greater flexibility in the use of our resources and more opportunities for growth. We are very excited to be able to increase the wages of our Direct Support Professionals by \$1 and will

strive to continue to improve their wages going forward. Recruiting and retaining quality staff is of the utmost importance to The Arc of Warren County. We strive to maintain a quality workforce at all levels as this provides the best care for those we serve. Many of our employees have been with us for 10, 20, and even 30 plus years. I believe that this can be attributed to their commitment to our mission, our opportunities for professional advancement, and our family-friendly work environment.

If you aren't already, please consider becoming a member of The Arc of Warren County. You will read more about the benefits of becoming a member in this newsletter. I am always open to hearing from you to collaborate on new initiatives or discuss the various services that we already provide. Feel free to contact me by phone at (908) 689-7525, ext. 218, or by email at jwhitehead@arcwarren.org



CEO of The Arc of Warren County
John Whitehead

Note from the Director of Public Relations & Fundraising, Annamaria Lalevee

I would like to thank everyone who has been so welcoming to me since I have started in the position of Director of Public Relations and Fundraising back in February. It has been a pleasure to become part of The Arc of Warren County community. Many projects are underway, and I look forward to continuing to build new partnerships and initiatives. It is my goal to expand The Arc Foundation Board and I look to you for ideas regarding individuals who might want to be engaged in this opportunity.

I am so pleased to announce that The Arc of Warren County's website has a new look and feel. Please take a look at

the newly-redesigned website, which is located at www.arcwarren.org. This is an exciting facelift to our previous site and it is a work-in-progress. There have been many accomplishments in the recent past that I am happy to share. You will read more about them in this newsletter.

Please feel free to reach out. I am happy to meet you for coffee to talk about how we can partner together in the future. I can be reached at (908) 223-0884 or alalevee@arcwarren.org



Director of Public Relations
Annamaria Lalevee

“A Momma Always Knows” Dixie Mattson Talks about her Experience with The Arc of Warren County

Dixie Mattson has been involved with The Arc of Warren County for many years including serving as a past member of the Board of Directors. She first became engaged with The Arc of Warren County when the office was located in Port Colden. It was during that time when she learned that the family was able to receive 20 hours of respite care per month.

“We had never had any type of support until that time,” says Dixie.

Eventually Dixie felt that it was time to research group home possibilities for her son.

“I agonized over this decision for four

years. It was very difficult, but I was so happy to have had him home with me for 45 years,” she says.

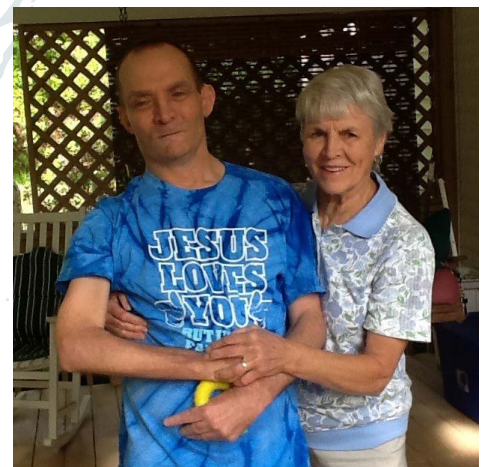
Eric now lives at the Oxford group home. He is currently 59 years old.

“It is a wonderful place to live,” says Dixie. “He is non-verbal, but he seems happy. He has good eye contact and laughs. A Momma always knows what is good for her child and when he is content.”

Dixie feels that part of the draw of what makes the Oxford group home so extraordinary is the staff.

“Everyone is so caring and goes above

and beyond in their jobs,” says Dixie. “The Arc of Warren County is a wonderful agency. I am very proud to be affiliated with an organization that has made such a tremendous positive impact on my entire family.”



Testimonials are Needed for the new Arc of Warren County website

Many staff members at The Arc of Warren County receive a lot of informal feedback that the Agency has benefitted the lives of many of the people whom we serve and their families. It is our intention to share that information in our new testimonial area on our website, but your help is needed. Please reach out to Annamaria Lalevee at alalevee@arcwarren.org or at (908) 223-0884 if you would like to supply a testimonial of how our services and staff have been beneficial or life-changing to you. Here are some examples of our current testimonials:



“My family feels very comfortable knowing that I am receiving great care through The Arc of Warren County. They do not need to worry about my well-being. It helps that everyone is very friendly and helps each other out.”

– Jill Young,
Resident of The Arc of Warren County.

“After Aerilyn was born we were told to take her home to prepare for the worst. I had no one to talk to, was home alone caring for my child 24/7 and focusing on the gravity of my situation. Luckily, I was eventually referred to The Arc of Warren County’s Early Intervention program. They helped pave the way to provide us with much-needed services.”

– Miriellys Colon,
Past Recipient of Early
Intervention Services.



Add Your Testimonial

Let’s add your testimonial to our site so your experience can be shared and read by others!

Radiothon

This year's Radiothon raised over \$75,000 in pledges, which is the highest amount that was ever raised for this initiative. It was the 29th annual Radiothon with WRNJ Radio and the 65th anniversary of the Agency. President and Managing Partner of WRNJ, Norman Worth, and Jim Travis, Executive Manager of Sasco Otterstedt Insurance, were the co-chairs. The Radiothon honored longtime Arc Foundation Executive Director, Kevin Guyette, who passed away in October 2018. The day's programming focused on many stories of how The Arc of Warren County's services have impacted the individuals and families whom we serve. Many individuals were interviewed during the eight-hour period, including a resident whose birthday was the same day as Radiothon, and several parents who

are forever grateful for the Agency's services. We also heard heartfelt stories from Kevin Guyette's friends and colleagues. Next year's Radiothon will be held on June 3, 2020 and Mr. Worth and Mr. Travis have agreed to be co-chairs yet again! We will be seeking individuals to be interviewed that day. If you would like to share your story about how The Arc of Warren County has made a positive impact on your life, please reach out to Annamaria Lalevee at (908) 223-0884 or alalevee@arcwarren.org



The 29th Annual Radiothon honored Kevin Guyette, longtime Executive Director of The Arc Foundation



Did you know?

Did you know that The Arc of Warren County has a Self-Advocacy Group, which is known as The Go Getters? The Go Getters meet once a month and participate in fundraisers for the group. They have the opportunity to attend the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Group Conference, which is managed by The Arc of New Jersey. This fall, The Go Getters attended this conference in Princeton and participated in discussions related to such topics as governmental affairs and voting, healthy communication and respectful behavior, transportation and accessibility advocacy, supported employment and more!

Summer Food Truck Fest

The Arc of Warren County was the sponsorship beneficiary of The Summer Food Truck Fest at Donaldson Farms in Mansfield this past summer. This was a new event that took the place of the Grand Harvest Festival and the Golf Outing this year, and it proved to be a popular destination for people from near and far that day. The family-friendly event consisted of games, music, hayrides, pony rides and delicacies from 15 premier food trucks. Czig Meister Brewing, which was named New Jersey's Favorite Brewery by NJ Family Magazine, was on-site and was the featured brewery of the biergarten. A percentage of the brewery sales were donated back to The Arc of Warren County. This was a very successful initiative.

A special thanks to our sponsors for supporting this event:

Presenting Sponsor
(John Johnson Automotive Group)

Biergarten Sponsor
(The House of the Good Shepherd)

Music Sponsor (Fulton Bank)

Hayride Sponsor (Mutual of America)

Pony Ride Sponsor (Nisivoccia, LLP)

Friendship Plus Sponsor
(AssuredPartners/Walsh Benefits)

Friendship Sponsors:

Arctic Foods, LLC.

Hunterdon Healthcare

Maguire-Scala Memorial Home, Inc.

Panther Valley Pharmacy

RetroFitness Mount Olive

Valley Plumbing Heating, Cooling & Lawn Sprinklers, LLC.

Rymon & Sons also provided a donation for this event.

Save the Date

Save the date for the 2nd Annual Summer Food Truck Fest to benefit the Arc of Warren County: August 8, 2020



Annual Prom Celebrates a Past Era

The 12th Annual Prom was held at Hawk Pointe Country Club. This year's theme was "That 70's Prom: A Dressy Disco." Committee members for the event consisted of individuals who utilize the services of The Arc of Warren County. They oversaw the event planning decisions for this opportunity under the management of Carinne Buzzuto, Self-Advocacy Advisor and Training Coordinator at The Arc of Warren County. The prom was developed 12 years ago after a

resident mentioned to one of her staff that she regretted not going to her own high school prom. The fun-filled evening consists of dinner, games, dancing and naming of Prom King and Queen.

Request for Volunteers

The Public Relations and Fundraising Department is looking to build a volunteer group to assist with special events. This is a great opportunity to help the organization by spending some time assisting at fun events that benefit an important cause. Please reach out to Annamaria Lavee if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, at alavee@arcwarren.org or call (908) 223-0884.



The Arc of Warren County is Awarded Grants from The Greenwich Autism Alliance and Atlantic Health System and Hackettstown Medical Center

The Arc of Warren County was recently awarded two grants that secured over \$7,000 for the Agency's Recreation Department programs. The Greenwich Autism Alliance provided the Agency with funds for a new pool cover to be utilized at Camp Warren in Knowlton. Atlantic Health System and Hackettstown Medical Center awarded \$3,500 as part of their Community Advisory Board (CAB) grant for therapeutic course integration in Recreation Department activities and Camp Warren. This includes music and

art therapy services, which are yielding beneficial results for our campers!



Campers enjoy the pool at Camp Warren this past summer.

Annual Appeal

You may have received The Arc of Warren County's Annual Appeal in the mail. Please consider supporting The Arc of Warren County as we conclude our 65th year. Donations can be submitted online at arcwarren.org or by mail to the following address: 319 West Washington Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882.

Become a Member of The Arc of Warren County

Membership for The Arc of Warren County is renewed each January and the cost is \$25 per year. Members receive the following benefits:

- Voting rights for the Board of Director Annual Meeting.
- Informational breakfasts with John Whitehead, The Arc of Warren County CEO, and Annamaria Lalevee, Director of Public Relations and Fundraising.
- Invitations to informational events that focus on issues of concern for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

Please contact Annamaria Lalevee for more information at alalevee@arcwarren.org or call (908) 223-0884.

Triathlon

This summer marked the second Triathlon for The Arc of Warren County that was presented by the Agency and DASH Multi-sport. One hundred fifteen participants travelled locally and from afar to participate in this fun-filled event at the beautiful Mountain Lake in Liberty Township.

The Arc of New Jersey Executive Director, Tom Baffuto, also participated in this event. Plans are underway for an upcoming triathlon this summer with an anticipated date of July 11, 2020, so Save the Date!





Save The Date!

The Arc of Warren County



and The House of the Good Shepherd



are joining forces and holding a Golf Outing Fundraiser on September 14, 2020.

We are looking for committee members for this initiative.

If interested, please email alalevee@arcwarren.org or cstroud@hotgs.org

The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation

The Arc of Warren County was awarded a \$20,000 grant from The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation for the cost of power generators for two of the organization's

group homes. This grant will enable The Arc of Warren County to maintain consistency in the lives of individuals whom the Agency serves when there is a power outage, without disruption.

The Arc of Warren County community is extremely grateful that The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation afforded the Agency this beneficial opportunity.