

## *Letter from the Chief Executive Officer*

By John Whitehead

We are still waiting to see the impact recent Medicaid cuts will have on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in NJ. Medicaid is our primary source of revenue, which makes it possible for us to provide the many services that we offer in Warren County. Even without cuts, it has become increasingly difficult for provider agencies to maintain services.

To understand this all that we must do is look at our own personal lives. The cost of operating a household has increased sharply in recent years when considering the surge in prices for food, utilities and maintenance, not to mention paying for rent or a mortgage. For The Arc of Warren County that impact is multiplied as we operate seventeen residences, a day program, a retail store and Camp Warren, not to mention our administrative building and a fleet of over thirty vehicles! Combine this with rising insurance costs and employing over 200 employees and it becomes quite clear what we are up against.

Fortunately, The Arc of Warren County has been able to sustain and grow services for over 70 years despite the barriers. This is thanks to

our amazing staff that have been able to maximize the return on available funding sources, and our community, both individuals and business partners, who have so generously supported us financially. These people and businesses have been filling the gap since the beginning.

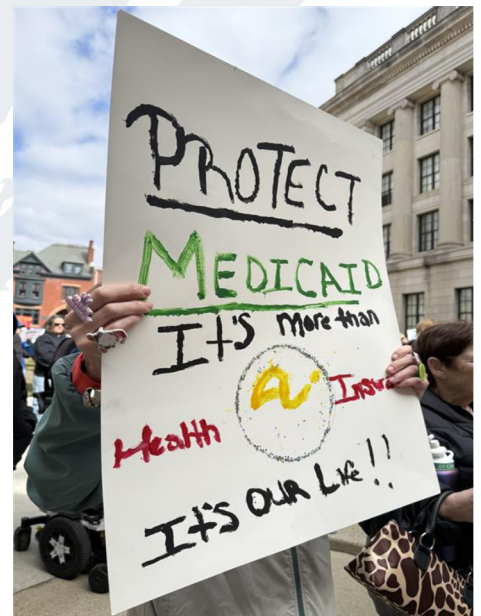
We are determined for The Arc of Warren County to have a great future providing outstanding services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will continue to advocate for more resources from state and federal entities and seek out grants and other sources of revenue. So, what can you do? Why not join us in securing the future of The Arc of Warren County?

We are asking everyone who values what we do and believes in our Mission to consider a bequest through your will or estate. This is a way to ensure that in the future our agency is strong and that our most vulnerable members of society get the best services possible.

Let's create a legacy together! If you would be interested in exploring this possibility, contact Chief Development and Communications Officer, Annamaria Lalevee, at (908) 689-7525 ext. 212 or [alalevee@arcwarren.org](mailto:alalevee@arcwarren.org).



JOHN WHITEHEAD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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**2025**

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**Hawk Pointe Golf Club  
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***For more information contact Annamaria Lalevee  
at 908.689.7525 or [alalevee@arcwarren.org](mailto:alalevee@arcwarren.org).***

Registration deadline is Sept. 6 at midnight.



# *A Note from the Chief Development and Communications Officer*

By Annamaria Lalevee

The Development and Communications Office has been filled with activity. This newsletter is just a snapshot of some of the work that has been done and some of our future events to look out for.

Please remember that I am always interested in meeting with new businesses and exploring different ways to collaborate with the community. Without the support of our donors, we would not be able to enrich our programs in the ways that we do.



ANNAMARIA LALEVEE, CHIEF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### *Jill Notte's Annual Membership Honors Sister's Legacy:*

I will always feel a strong connection to The Arc of Warren County. The rare disorder from which my sister Gail suffered is called Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), and it has distinct challenges that make most group homes unworkable. The Agency was willing to take on these challenges and open a specialized group home for PWS in the 1990s. It became known as Hampton Terrace, and Gail lived there for more than 20 years.

At every level of the organization, the staff of The Arc of Warren County are caring and dedicated to their consumers. But the support and relationships go far deeper than that. I witnessed how staff and consumers become family members to each other. The Arc left no stone unturned to find solutions to the many challenges that arose across the days and years and

decades that Gail was in their care. They enriched her life not only with activities but also with love and compassion that I know Gail could feel.

Gail passed away nearly four years ago, but I continue to be a member of the Agency and support it financially. I want to make sure they always have the resources they need to help Gail's precious housemates and all the friends she had in the community. My entire family will always be thankful for The Arc.



## BECOME A MEMBER

As an annual member of The Arc of Warren County, your support will help make our advocacy even more powerful.

### Your membership gives you:

- Access to the latest information, including our newsletters
- Special discounts and other benefits
- Advocacy and networking opportunities

### Membership Levels:

Individual \$25/year  
Business/Family \$50/year

Achieve with us® and join  
The Arc of Warren County today!

Visit [arcwarren.org/join](http://arcwarren.org/join)

## *Meet Erin Stritch, Administrator of Maintenance Operations*

Erin Stritch has recently been named the Administrator of Maintenance Operations. If her name sounds familiar, it should. She has been an employee of The Arc of Warren County since 2001. She had always gravitated toward working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Before she became employed by The Arc of Warren County, she was a group home manager at Center for Humanistic Change. She then came on board 24 years ago as a job coach. She held many other positions, such as an employment specialist, a day program coordinator, a receptionist, an office manager and a clerk for Early Intervention.

Erin had the opportunity to work with Bonnie Hill who was her predecessor and mentor.

"Bonnie is very special to me," says Erin. "I loved working with her a lot. She was an inspiration to me and through her I became very passionate about this position. This work is very important to me."

In this position, Erin oversees and is responsible for project management of maintenance related opportunities for the Agency's facilities and fleet. This includes working with vendors and securing quotes for many projects. It includes upgrades and maintenance related projects for the Administrative Office, Serendipity, The Hive by The

Arc of Warren County, all the seventeen group homes and Camp Warren. She oversees a staff of three.

"It is a very busy department, and it is very fulfilling working with all of the different managers and coordinators and getting tasks completed," says Erin.

In Erin's spare time, she enjoys cuddling her cow (yes, you heard me correctly) and other farm animals, such as her goats, horse, chicken, ducks, geese and turkeys. Her favorite animal is Carl, her bull calf. Erin and her

husband own a farm in Knowlton Township called Treez N' Quackerz, which is located right around the corner from Camp Warren! Everyday Erin gets up at 4 a.m., including the weekends, to tend to her animals. She sells honey, eggs, jams and pickles, and her products are delicious.

Congratulations Erin!





# ***The Arc of Warren County's 35th Annual Radiothon with WRNJ Raises Close to \$83,000!***

We have heard your support loud and clear for 35 years. Let's continue to support programs for people with IDD!

The Arc of Warren County Radiothon with WRNJ celebrated its 35th anniversary on May 1, 2025. It is the longest running Radiothon in the state of New Jersey and one of the longest in all the United States. Funds raised will help all The Arc of Warren County programs that support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities - from Camp Warren to Residential to Early Intervention to Community-Based Supports.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on May 1, 2025, WRNJ devoted the whole day to sharing stories about the impact of The Arc of Warren County's work from

many different perspectives, including families, consumers, community leaders, board members and employees.

The 2025 Radiothon was co-chaired by Jim Travis, of Otterstedt Insurance Agency, and Norman Worth, of WRNJ, for the seventh consecutive year. Both Travis and Worth have advocated for the organization and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 35 years. Travis serves on the Board of Directors for The Arc of Warren County. Both Travis and Worth are long-time members of the Hackettstown Rotary

Club and serve on the Advisory Board for Atlantic Health's Hackettstown Medical Center.

"The Arc of Warren County community is extremely thankful for the continued commitment to Radiothon," says John Whitehead, CEO of The Arc of Warren County. "It is Radiothon's 35-year anniversary. We are so grateful for the support of all our donors, partners and co-chairs. This commitment has made such a significant impact in supporting our programs and operations."

## ***A Message From Our Radiothon Co-Chairs Jim Travis and Norman Worth:***

We are so pleased to have served as co-chairs for the seventh year in a row. We both have had a strong commitment to Radiothon, and this initiative has been ongoing through the support of WRNJ for the past 35 years. It has been a longstanding tradition to aid this organization and devote a day of programming and share feedback from many who have been impacted in a positive manner by The Arc of Warren County.

The Arc of Warren County Radiothon with WRNJ helps fund the many programs that the organization offers to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. One of the programs that benefits from this fundraiser is Camp Warren, The Arc of Warren County's camping program for children and adults. The property is in Knowlton Township and campers enjoy fun-filled days packed with programs including arts and crafts,

swimming, music, sports and games, nature appreciation, group activities and more.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support The Arc of Warren County and Radiothon. It means the world to us, and to those families who depend on The Arc for critical services. We will be co-chairing again next year.

Save the date for April 30, 2026!



*Please join us for  
The Arc of Warren County*

# COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

*Wednesday  
Nov 19, 2025*

at 6 o'clock in the evening  
DAVID'S COUNTRY INN  
314 Main Street  
Hackettstown, New Jersey

Visit [arcwarren.org](http://arcwarren.org) for tickets and  
sponsorship opportunities.

For more information, contact Annamaria Lalevee  
at 908.689.7525 or [alalevee@arcwarren.org](mailto:alalevee@arcwarren.org).



# *The Arc Foundation Board of Directors Welcomes Newest Member Jason “JJ” Norment*

Jason “JJ” Norment is the most recently inducted Board member for The Arc Foundation. He currently serves as the Director of Development for Passaic County Habitat for Humanity since May 2024. Prior to his current role, JJ held several roles with the Warren County Habitat for Humanity, recently renamed to the Northwest Jersey Habitat for Humanity, including Community Outreach Director, Resource Development Manager, and volunteer since 2016. JJ is the CEO and Founder of Lil’ Fruityz, a fruit-scented plush toy company with a positive, simple message – do GOOD in this LIFE! He is a graduate of Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island.

JJ has lived in the local community for many years and has always had an affinity for The Arc of Warren County.

“Inclusion and acceptance are a part of my core, and it is one of the reasons I advocate for anti-bullying in schools,” says JJ. “A lot of students with disabilities are bullied going through school, so much so to where they need different classes where they can’t engage with their peers. We can help break down those barriers and make sure folks with disabilities of any age feel accepted in anything that they do.”

In addition to The Arc Foundation, JJ is also one of the newest members of The Arc of Warren County’s Board of Directors. As a board member, JJ hopes to bring fundraising acumen,

stability and strategic planning guidance to ensure The Arc of Warren County is sustainable for the next generation and beyond.

“The services that The Arc of Warren County offers are so important and so vital to the community,” says JJ. “We need to make sure that this valuable resource is equipped and sustainable well into the future.”



JASON “JJ” NORMENT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
OF PASSAIC COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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## *Generating Peace of Mind*

The Arc of Warren County awarded a \$22,500 grant from The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation.

The Arc of Warren County has recently been awarded a grant in the sum of \$22,500 from The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation. These funds are earmarked for the cost of a power generator at one of the Agency’s group homes in Greenwich Township and a generator at The Arc of Warren County’s Camp Warren location.

This grant award has a substantially positive impact on the daily operations of the Agency, and ensures the safety and continuum of service for our campers.

On average, the Agency needs to relocate residents one to three times per year in the group homes that do not

have a power generator. This is because thunderstorms and snowstorms routinely cause a loss of power in the rural areas of Warren County.

The State of New Jersey mandates that relocation is necessary in extreme cold or hot temperatures in group homes. This has caused travel for the most vulnerable of The Arc of Warren County’s residents in treacherous weather and road conditions causing serious hardship for the Agency. As a result of the limited hotel options in the immediate area, sometimes staff and residents have to temporarily relocate up to 20 to 30 miles away from their homes.

### ***(Cont.) Generating Peace of Mind***

The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation has funded multiple generators for The Arc of Warren County since 2019.

“The continued support that The John A. & Margaret Post Foundation provides has been extremely beneficial to The Arc of Warren County and those we serve,” says John Whitehead, CEO of The Arc of Warren County. “In

addition, many of our residents find it very frightening and disruptive when they need to relocate due to power loss, even if it is for a short period of time. These generators make it possible for us to save on relocation expenses so we can spend our limited resources on other routine costs associated with operating residential programs.”

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## ***Jeffrey H. Hill Group Home Dedication of Newly Renovated Jonestown Road Home***

On June 11, 2025, the Jonestown Road Group Home was renamed the Jeffrey H. Hill Group Home after his memory. Jeff Hill was the owner of J. Hill Carpentry and Construction and had a longtime affinity to the organization, overseeing many construction projects throughout the years. He did not just complete the project and do so in a high quality manner, he would complete it with love and care.

It was very fitting to specifically name the Jonestown Road home in his memory because J. Hill Carpentry was the company that completed a renovation of this home shortly before his death in September 2024. Speakers at the dedication included John Whitehead and two of Jeff's children – Jairison and Kimberlee. Attendees had the opportunity to share

favorite memories of Mr. Hill. An unveiling of the sign of this home was also conducted. His memory will continue to live on and he will be forever missed by his friends at The Arc of Warren County.





# Mini-Carnival Makes Big Impact!

The Hackettstown High School Key Club's Mini-Carnival Benefiting The Arc of Warren County Raised \$800.

Local families, students and community members celebrated the return of Hackettstown High School Key Club's Mini-Carnival after a five-year hiatus. The event was held on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in Hackettstown High School's new gymnasium and all proceeds benefited The Arc of Warren County. The Mini-Carnival has been a long-standing tradition of the Hackettstown High School's Key Club and The Arc of Warren County since the early 2000's. It was wonderful to see the outpouring of support for the return of this event by the Hackettstown community. Families with children of all ages enjoyed the fun carnival games and activities created by the Key Club students.

Karen Woodcock, former President of The Arc of Warren County's Board of Directors, and her family were pleased to bring her seven grandchildren and their friends to this event again.

"My grandchildren and their friends had a great time at the Mini-Carnival. They enjoyed playing the different games, especially Jenga!" said Karen Woodcock. "We are looking forward to doing it again next year."

The Mini-Carnival was made possible thanks to the involvement of the students of Hackettstown High School's Key Club and their advisor, Mrs. Kaitlyn McSweeney. Under Mrs. McSweeney's direction, the students took the initiative to create games, advertise, and organize all aspects of the event. It was a great opportunity for students to give back to their community and learn about The Arc of Warren County. The Arc of Warren County's Self-Advocates hosted a coloring page table. Centenary University and Donaldson Farms were also in attendance. Stay tuned for details about the 2026 Mini-Carnival!

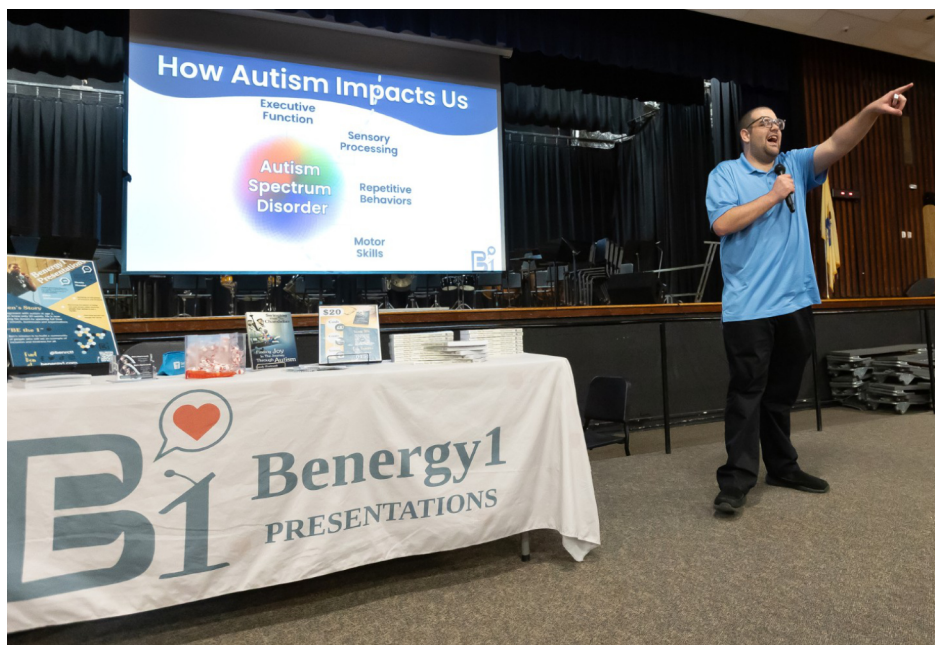


# ***BENERGY! Autism Acceptance Month Presentation***

Autism Self-Advocate, Speaker, Author and Educator, Ben Hartranft's goal is to let the greater community know that one kind person can change the world.

The Arc of Warren County and Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc. joined forces again to bring speaker Ben Hartranft and his family of Benergy1 Presentations to Warren Hills Regional High School for Autism Acceptance Month on April 10, 2025. A special thank you goes to the Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation for sponsoring the event once again.

Ben was diagnosed with autism at age two. He only knew 20 words. He has gone beyond all expectations and is strengthened continually by his faith. His journey began when he started raising money for the Eagles Autism Challenge. After a few years of fundraising, he was invited to be a guest on The Ellen Show to promote awareness and raise funds for research. He now shares his story at schools, businesses and organizations. Ben's goal is to let the greater community know that one kind person can change the world. Go out and be the one!



"This event focuses on how inclusion and kindness shaped my life," says Ben Hartranft. "My goal is to give hope to those who seek to help others. Having autism is not a bad thing. It doesn't characterize who we are. Everyone is unique and special."

Opening remarks were made by John Whitehead, CEO of The Arc of Warren

County; Cindy Wildermuth, CEO of Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc; and Kelly Milazzo, President of the Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation. Mary Louise Rowlin, Director of Special Education of Warren Hills Regional School District, emceed the event.



## ***The Arc's Fun Committee Raises \$1,100 For Autism Acceptance Month***

In celebration of Autism Acceptance Month, members of Fun Committee, The Arc of Warren County's employee led group, collected donations from The Arc staff for the Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation that were matched by The Arc Foundation. In total, The Arc of Warren County raised \$1,100! Brianna Olson (left), Chair of the Fun Committee and CLA Coordinator, presented Kelly Milazzo (right), President of the Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation, with a check during this event. All funds raised were donated to the Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation, which provides essential funding and support for local programs and organizations, including The Arc of Warren County.

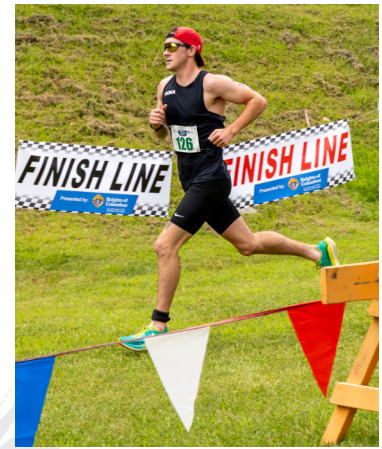


# ***The 9th Annual TRI Mountain Lake with DASH Multisport***

We are pleased to have once again partnered with DASH Multisport for the TRI Mountain Lake Sprint Triathlon. The event was held on Saturday July 19, 2025, at 8:30am at Mountain Lake.

A special thank you to Blairstown Knights of Columbus for serving as Presenting Sponsor. Our sponsors include Bryn Mawr Timing (Timing System), J.P. Kelly's (Number Bib/Stickers), MADE Strength & Conditioning (Swim Caps), Rath's Deli (Medals), Squibb Custom Machine (Bike Racks), and TMB Racing (Buoys). Thank you to our food sponsors, including Gibson's Gym, Mama's & Cafe Baci, Primo Hoagies-

Mansfield, and Shoprite of Greenwich. In addition, thank you to the following organizations that served as Silver Sponsors: an Anonymous Donor, A & A Foot and Ankle Specialists, Hunterdon Health, St. Luke's University Health Network; Bronze Sponsors: Capstone Medical Services, Hop & Vine Liquor, Fulton Bank, Mobility Doc, ProCare Rehabilitation, Ruth Gibbs, Sanico, Inc.; and Friendship Sponsors: 96 Landscape, Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc., BlackStone Bar & Grill, Flowerland Growers, Lakeland Logistics, Maguire Memorial Home, and Panther Valley Pharmacy.



# ***The 7th Annual Food Truck Festival at Donaldson Farms***

This year's Food Truck Festival at Donaldson Farms was rescheduled due to weather and took place on August 3, 2025. Many thanks to the following organizations that served as sponsors: John Johnson Automotive Group (Music), Newbaker Funeral Home (Trail to the Food Trucks), an Anonymous Donor (Cooling Tent), Valley Bank (Hayride).

In addition, much appreciation to the following organizations that were Friendship Plus Sponsors: Asbury Farms Real Estate, Campbell Petrie Solutions, Inc., Connell Foley, LLP, Enterprise Fleet Management and NJM Insurance Group; and Friendship Sponsors: Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc., Alte Roofing &

Siding, David Santini, CPA, Sanico, Inc., James On Main, Maguire Memorial Home & Cremation Services, Next Chapter Books & Bookmobile, The Smashed Olive, Valley Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Lawn Sprinklers, Viking Pest Control and Warren County Community College.





# Thank you to our Featured Sponsors & Funders!

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**The work of The Arc of Warren County is made possible by all of our generous funding partners and corporate sponsors. Their support helps us build a more inclusive world.**

If you're interested in becoming a funder or sponsor at any level, we encourage you to explore partnership options. Please contact [alalevee@arcwarren.org](mailto:alalevee@arcwarren.org) to learn more.

**The Arc of Warren County | The Arc Foundation**

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