

# THE TURNING POINT

Fall 2016



Artwork by Martha Mallory

## GALLERY HOURS

NOVEMBER 23, 2016 - DECEMBER 22, 2016  
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY | 1PM - 5PM

BELMAR ARTS CENTER  
608 River Road, Belmar, NJ

## MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016  
5PM - 7PM | BELMAR ARTS CENTER

Fifteen talented artists are sharing their creativity at a month-long exhibit entitled "Impressions" at the Belmar Arts Center, running through December 22. More than 40 pieces are on display and most are available for purchase from the artist.

"We are thrilled to be able to showcase the tremendous talents of the artists in our programs," said Kathy Mullery, associate executive director, who noted that artists with disabilities don't often get a chance to share their work with the community. "Visit the gallery and see for yourself. I think you'll be amazed!"

For Larry Sommers, lifelong participant of The Arc's recreation program, seeing his work on display in a gallery setting is a dream come true. "I still can't believe it," said Larry, who hopes to sell one of his paintings at the show.

A "Meet the Artists" reception featuring light refreshments is set for Wed., Dec. 14 from 5PM - 7PM. For more information on participating artists and a sneak peek at their work, visit [www.arcofmonmouth.org/impressions](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/impressions).

## HOW YOU MAKE AN IMPACT

This edition of The Turning Point focuses on the extraordinary things happening each day here at The Arc and the life-changing impact made by our dedicated staff, volunteers and generous donors.

Thanks to your support and generosity, we are able to continue our mission to improve the lives of over 1,600 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



1158 Wayside Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 493-1919  
[www.arcofmonmouth.org](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org)

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome to the new *Turning Point*. Its new look and design reflects the changes The Arc of Monmouth is undergoing. As you read the great articles, you'll find that The Arc of Monmouth continues to deliver quality, life-changing supports and services. This past year alone, our community-based organization served more than 1,600 amazing individuals and their families throughout Monmouth County.

As we continue our day-to-day work to improve lives, major changes are taking place. The governmental agencies that fund vital services now require that persons served, and their families, receive an annual budget to purchase needed services, mostly through the new Supports Program. In turn, The Arc of Monmouth must now obtain its funds using a fee-for-service method. Fee-for-service is similar to the way medical providers get paid by insurance companies: by the hour. Consequently, we must change the way we operate, and learn to use a new electronic system.

As the new board president and executive director at The Arc of Monmouth, you have our commitment that we are working diligently to make the transition to this new way of operating as smooth as possible. Although there are changes in the funding, there are no changes in our collective commitment to advance our mission to improve the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Finally, during this holiday season, we would like to voice our gratitude and appreciation for your interest, involvement, work and support of this vital community-based organization.

During this time of rapid change, we welcome and appreciate your questions, concerns, and suggestions. Please contact us anytime at [info@arcofmonmouth.org](mailto:info@arcofmonmouth.org). Thank you!



Rachel Weiss  
Board President



Linda Mayo  
Executive Director

## We're Going Green!

In an effort to save money and trees, the newest edition of our annual report will be available online.

To learn how YOU made a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, visit:

[www.arcofmonmouth.org/annualreport](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/annualreport)

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# Big Changes Bring Big Opportunities

*Changes in DDD and what they mean for families*

The Arc of Monmouth is making the switch to the “fee-for-service” system mandated by the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Under the new state system, individuals with I/DD will receive funding through either the *Community Care Waiver* or the *Supports Program* and will receive an individualized budget to access services. The change is designed to offer individuals with I/DD new opportunities, more choices and greater flexibility.

“While it may seem overwhelming, it’s important for families to learn as much as they can about the new DDD service system and the steps they must take,” said Kathy Mullery, associate executive director of The Arc of Monmouth. “Whether a child is twenty-one and newly graduating, or much older, we can answer questions and help smooth the transition.”

The Arc has also designed an online guide and is presenting a series of workshops to help families:

- Learn about the assessment process known as NJCAT
- Understand the difference between the “Supports Program” and “Community Care Waiver”
- Explore the roles of support coordinators
- Connect with families and employees of The Arc
- Discover how our approved services can meet your individual needs



“The Arc of Monmouth has the resources families need to understand the changes in DDD,” said Mullery. “We are here to help.”

For Supports Program questions, please visit our website at [www.arcofmonmouth.org/ddresources](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/ddresources), email us at [ifs@arcofmonmouth.org](mailto:ifs@arcofmonmouth.org) or call 732-493-1919.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

### LEARN

Find out how  
The Arc of Monmouth  
changes lives

Check out our website  
[www.arcofmonmouth.org](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org)  
for agency news, updates and more

### VOLUNTEER

We are always in need of  
passionate volunteers for:

- Recreation
- Special Events & Fundraising
- Office Support & Technology

Get involved!  
[www.arcofmonmouth.org/volunteer](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/volunteer)

### DONATE

Every dollar you donate  
improves the lives of  
individuals with disabilities

Make a tax-deductible gift at  
[www.arcofmonmouth.org/donate](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/donate)  
and help us continue to provide  
services in the community





# Celebrating Forty Years of Fun

For 40 years, the recreation program has been inspiring, energizing and enhancing the quality of life for thousands of people

*By Colby Mura*

Whether it's swimming with dolphins in Discovery Cove, practicing yoga poses or singing along with the King of Pop, The Arc of Monmouth's recreation program provides opportunities for sporting, cultural and community activities unimaginable just a few decades ago.

Launched in 1976 and led by recreation director Cindy Wiegiers for the past 25 years, the department has grown to 400 active participants with an average of 20 programs per season. Johanna Merry began working alongside Wiegiers in 2013 as the recreation and volunteer coordinator.

"I love my job because of the people, and for the variety of experiences it has offered me over the years," said Wiegiers. "It is such a pleasure to plan these adventures and experience them with our members."

With help from generous donors and passionate volunteers, the recreation department organizes a variety of new social gatherings, interactive classes, sporting events and exciting trips each year.





*"Recreation is the best;  
they are my heroes."  
- Dani Zalepka*

"We really can't thank our donors and volunteers enough," said Merry. "They make it possible for program participants to step outside their comfort zones, develop life skills and become socially active members of the community."

In October, the recreation department celebrated forty years in style with a Michael Jackson-themed fundraiser at St. Dorothea's in Eatontown. Guests enjoyed a sit down dinner followed by a fun night of trivia, dancing, and singing along with a King of Pop impersonator. The event attracted 350 guests and raised thousands of dollars for future events.

But the importance of our recreation program goes far beyond the parties, dances and trips offered. Family

members point to the personal growth experienced by their loved ones through this program.

"These programs provide Erin a wonderful source of entertainment and fun and teach her so many important life skills," said Jack Kasper, supporter and father of a recreation participant.

According to Lauren Zalepka, whose daughter Dani is a recreation participant, this program has helped Dani overcome her fears and transformed her into a confident and independent young woman.

The upcoming year is already shaping up to be exciting and eventful for the recreation department. In April, a group will be taking a bus trip through Memphis

and Nashville, where they will spend eight days sightseeing, touring celebrity homes and cruising on the General Jackson Showboat. The Broadcast Club is hard at work rehearsing the musical "Bugsy Malone," to be performed early next year.

The Circles Club, a group of recreation participants that help in program fundraising and event planning, will be celebrating 25 years.

"I make new friends, it's fun and I like hanging out with these people," said John Kline, a recreation program participant.

"These programs are very important to my life."



Glenn and Mary Louise Anderson,  
Assistant Director, Adult Services





# A Homecoming for Shore

*The Shore Achievement Center moves to The Arc Center*

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Glenn is celebrating another birthday bash with the Shore Achievement Center, where he has been a participant for thirty years. Only this time, he will be enjoying his party in a brand-new program location at The Arc Center.

Many participants, like Glenn, have been coming to the Shore Achievement Center daily for decades. Some staff have been working with these same individuals for just as long.

"We make sure our days are as fulfilling as possible," said Mel Santiago, center manager. "Participants really look forward to coming here each day."

Shore is a center serving individuals with severe or complex developmental and physical disabilities. Many participants of this program do not communicate using language, but express themselves in other ways. Currently, there are 17 people served, six direct care staff and one manager. At a 3:1 ratio of participants to staff members, they are served with the utmost care and respect in a safe environment.

Planning to bring Shore to The Arc Center from its rented location in the Monmouth Shores Corporate Park began in 2015 as the agency looked for ways to upgrade features of the program and improve services, while also saving money.

The program has now moved to renovated space in The Arc Center, which was underutilized after the closing of Hersh High School several years ago.

The beautiful 2,740 square feet space is bright, cheerful and open. It is a warm and inviting place for participants, staff and visitors alike. Thanks to generous donors like you, this welcoming and safe space became a reality, finished in May of this year.

"We love it here," said Santiago. "It is exactly what we envisioned."

An accessible shower room and modern kitchen area were constructed with the support of pledges made at last year's Winter Glow Ball. A brand-new Hoyer Lift, a device used to transfer individuals safely to and from wheelchairs, was installed. New furniture was donated. Storage structures and closets keep the room tidy and organized.

The open-concept layout was designed to keep everyone together – a feature of the space that encourages both safety and socializing. In the open space, there is plenty of room in the specified areas for exercise, technology, creativity and personal care needs.

"Having the participants of Shore at The Arc Center brings smiles to the faces of staff in the building who now have the opportunity to interact with the individuals and staff of our achievement centers," said Suzanne Liberi, associate executive director.

The new location allows those who attend Shore to benefit from greater outdoor space for walks and activities, and to meet and mingle with the many different people who work at or visit The Arc Center.

"It is a pleasure to work with this group and this staff in our new space," said Santiago.

This program could not exist without the help of our donors. Please visit [arcofmonmouth.org/donate](http://arcofmonmouth.org/donate) to make a tax-deductible contribution and help maintain this vital service.



*Mel Santiago, pictured, has been working with The Arc of Monmouth for fifteen years.*

*He is a kind and compassionate advocate who leads a great team.*



# Glowing Strong for Fifty Years

CELEBRATING THE "GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY" OF THIS TRADITION

In 1966, the Countess Anatole Buxhoeveden organized the very first Winter Glow Ball to benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Monmouth County.

On Friday, December 2, The Arc celebrated its 50th Anniversary Winter Glow Ball at Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club, Farmingdale, with a "Holiday in Monte Carlo," a favorite destination of the countess and her family, complete with dinner, dancing and photo booth, plus an elegant casino capturing all the excitement of the French Riviera's most glamorous city!

More than half a century ago, the Countess Anatole Buxhoeveden joined the board of The Arc to ensure quality services would be available for individuals with special needs like her daughter, Anabel, who was born with Down syndrome. In the mid 1960's, she offered to help the agency by giving "some sort of a fundraising

party — something glamorous and private."

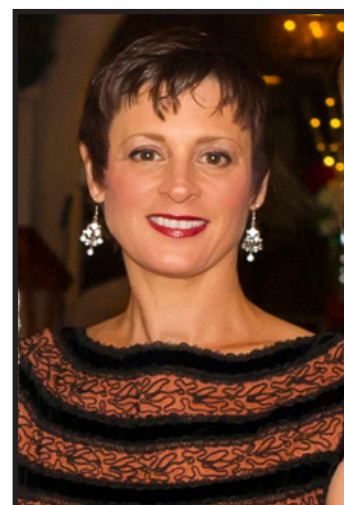
This fundraising party, novel for its time for areas outside of New York or Palm Beach, was the first Winter Glow Ball. It netted nearly \$8,000 its first year and has gone on to raise millions for the agency in the ensuing years.

"We couldn't have achieved this incredible milestone without the generosity of the countless donors, corporate partners and volunteers who have supported this event over the years," said Holly Flego, 2016 Winter Glow Ball chair. Throughout its fifty-year history, only five people have chaired the event after the countess, including Holly's mother Beverly Annarella, Sheila McLoone, Vicki DeNoia, and Anita Roselle, who guided the Winter Glow Ball for a record 25 years.

"It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of these powerful and


influential women who have given so much of themselves to ensure the success of this event," said Flego. "The funds raised improve and enhance the lives of more than 1,600 individuals with special needs in Monmouth County and I am very proud to be continuing their work."

Please visit our website at [www.arcofmonmouth.org/winterglow](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/winterglow) for photos of this year's event.



*Holly Annarella Flego, Winter Glow Ball Chair*



A full-length portrait of Countess Anatole Buxhoeveden, a woman with dark, styled hair, wearing a light-colored, sleeveless gown with a wide, feathered collar and a jeweled neckline. She is standing with her hands clasped in front of her. The background is a soft, textured green.

*"For me it has been fulfillment exceeding all expectations and the renewed belief that to give is to get."*

**- Countess Anatole Buxhoeveden**  
**Winter Glow Ball Founder**

*Founding*  
*Winter Glow Ball Chairs*

**Anita Roselle (1990-2014)**

Sheila McLoone (1988-1989)

Vicki DeNoia (1983-1987)

Beverly Annarella (1980-1982)

*Greenall*





(2016 Graduates L-R): Emilia Bohnyak, Christopher Yu, Nicole Coscarelli, Audrey Palladino, Marcus Hannah, Colin Mechanic, Marc Fowler

## Students Keep Achieving with The Arc of Monmouth

The Arc of Monmouth celebrated the success of seven graduates of the Keep Achieving (Kach) at Brookdale Community College program in May. Kach, a collaboration of The Arc of Monmouth and Brookdale Community College, addresses the needs of young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to continue their education by providing a college experience.

Friends, family, teachers and peer mentors enjoyed the graduation ceremony highlighting the students' three years of hard work, dedication and accomplishments. According to Karen Halloran, coordinator of Kach, some of the 2016 graduates have continued taking classes at Brookdale Community College. Others are pursuing employment or enjoying their passions of art, dance and film. Many have also stayed involved in other programs and activities that The Arc of Monmouth has to offer.

The new class of first year Kach students started school in early September and have adjusted quickly to college life.

"They are so enthusiastic and excited to be learning," said Halloran. "It's wonderful to watch them grow and thrive."

## The Arc of Monmouth Annual Awards · Winners

### COLLABORATOR OF THE YEAR

Brookdale Community College  
Keep Achieving (Kach) at Brookdale

### EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Burger King | Tammy Reevey, General Manager

### SELF-ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Richard Pickens

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Knights of Columbus, Monmouth County Chapter

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Reverend J.B. Coyle Knights of Columbus Council #12620  
Gary Seals  
St. Dorothea's Catholic Church

### PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Tom Lindley, Associate Director of Residential Services

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

Karen Lake, Human Resources Coordinator

Read about our winners and watch a video recap  
on our website: [www.arcofmonmouth.org/awards2016](http://www.arcofmonmouth.org/awards2016)



# The Arc Updates

## GIFTS

- Many thanks to the **Vanslavie family** for their generous gift in memory of Jack & Harriet Vanslavie. A plaque honoring their parents' support and dedication to The Arc of Monmouth was unveiled in October at Columbian Manor.
- The Arc is sitting pretty - thanks to the wonderful donation of 16 office chairs by **Netwave Interactive Marketing** in Point Pleasant Beach.
- A huge thank you to our Tinton Falls neighbor **Commvault** for their generous donations of refurbished laptops and PCs throughout the year.

## TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

The cafeteria and boardroom in **The Arc Center** got a high-tech upgrade thanks to the technology pledges made at last year's Winter Glow Ball. The cafeteria now features a drop down movie screen and upgraded sound system, perfect for recreation movie nights and community presentations, and the boardroom boasts a large screen TV with computer connectivity.

## NOTABLE NEWS

- Director of Health Services **Kristen Creed** was featured on an episode of Comcast Newsmakers discussing the behavioral health services provided here at The Arc.
- As part of a volunteering initiative, a group of employees from **Medtronic** "adopted" one of our residential homes in June. The crew, with the help of the residents, landscaped flower beds, planted a garden, pulled stumps and trimmed shrubs. Many thanks to the Medtronic team for connecting with residents and making our world a little more beautiful.
- Travel workshops teaching participants to navigate around the community using apps on their phones are a huge hit! Students gain independence as they learned to read a train schedule, ride the train and hit the town. Employment specialists **Matt Weber and Ellen Margraff** lead the free workshops, made possible through donor support.
- **The Work Opportunity Center (WOC)** was chosen to be the recipient of the Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday gift drive!
- Artist James Vance's stunning "Numbers" mural can be seen in Asbury Park, but he is not the only artist painting numbers. **Dennis, a Work Opportunity Center (WOC) participant**, paints numbers constantly. James and Dennis met in September, and Dennis presented James with a beautiful painting inspired by his work. Cheers to WOC production coach **Cathy Catalano** for arranging the meeting and to James Vance for inspiring young artists like Dennis.
- **Adult Services** participants have been hard at work hand making beautiful crafts for all seasons. Soaps, jewelry, tie-dye clothing, tote bags and more are available for purchase. Please contact Amy Hilton at 732-389-5256 to order your handmade item.
- **WOC** unveiled a brand new industrial shredder with Floyd Nesse, Vice President of ACCSES New Jersey C.N.A. Services, one of WOC's biggest clients. The new shredder will help WOC better serve its 15 customers and acquire new business. Heartfelt thanks to Tom and Joan Mitchell for donating the new shredder.



Best wishes to long-time staffers **Sarah Logan, Director of Individual & Family Supports,** and **Thea Strong, Director of Employment Services,** on their recent retirements.

We thank them for their many years of dedication and service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

They touched so many lives during their years at The Arc.

Sarah and Thea will be missed!





**The Arc**

*of Monmouth*

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## **SAVE THE DATES 2017**

### **SILVERBALL GALA**

March 4, 2017  
Silverball Museum • Asbury Park, NJ

### **WALK & 5K**

April 8, 2017  
Convention Hall • Asbury Park, NJ

### **GOLF CLASSIC**

June 19, 2017  
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