

29th Annual Golf Outing

The 29th Annual Golf Outing was held at the Black Bear Golf Club in Franklin, New Jersey on June 8. Clear skies and mild temperatures welcomed over 80 golfers and volunteers and raised over \$25,000 for the programs and services The Arc/Morris provides. We wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the outing:



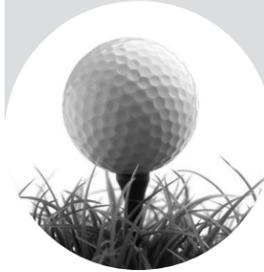
Left to right: Ted van Laar, Robert Greco, John Mahieu, and Larry McEntee

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Thanks also to Beyer Family Auto Group for sponsoring our hole in one contest, along with all of our Hole Sponsors, The Arc/Morris Board of Directors, the Sheehy Family, Travelers – Friends of Bill Misko and the Babits Family.



Touchstone

is a publication of The Arc/Morris, an association that serves people with intellectual and related disabilities and their families. If you would like to learn more about

The Arc/Morris, please write us at: P.O. Box 123, Morris Plains, NJ 07950, call us at (973) 970-9326, Ext. 326, or find us on the web at www.arcmorris.org



Recognizing Excellence



Our 2017 Awards

Distinguished Service Award

► Bill Byrne

Like many children born over 60 years ago with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities, Bill Byrne's parents were advised to institutionalize him. But like many in that era, they refused that counsel and found their local Arc chapter.



President Wendy Utberg presented Bill Byrne with the 2017 Distinguished Service Award

Bill will tell you that even as a teenager he was acutely aware that he was different from other children—and seemed, even then, to have a sense of the injustice that often accompanied the misunderstanding of that earlier time. But largely because of a very strong and supportive family, Bill was expected to be as independent as possible. And that foundation has made him the man he is today.

In the nearly 35 years that the self-advocacy movement has existed in our state, Bill Byrne has been at its vanguard. From standing up and demanding his home town not only *allow* a group home, but *welcome* it into his community—to initiating a national movement in the early 1990's that led to the Association for Retarded Citizens becoming—simply—The Arc, Bill has been a true pioneer.

He has served on numerous boards, including that of The Arc/Morris. He has led the state self-advocacy movement. And in the last several years, he has truly moved beyond self-advocacy by becoming an involved and active citizen in his hometown of Morristown. That pinnacle was reached with his receiving the key to the city, back on January 13, 2015.

This year marks the first time in the 35 year history of this award that it has been given to an individual with developmental disability. But, what makes it so unique is that it was given to an individual who *happens* to have developmental disability, not because he does.

Volunteer of the Year

► Lou Ferraro

For over ten years, Lou Ferraro has been an active volunteer coach in our Special Olympics Training Programs. He has served our basketball, soccer and softball programs.

When you see Lou working with his players, you are immediately struck by his relationship with each and every one. His obvious love and passion for whatever sport he is coaching is infectious—he can often be found laughing and joking with his team. Sometimes you have to wonder who's having more fun!

Like so many of our incredible volunteers, Lou gives generously of his time. Just about every weekend from January to June, he can be found on the sidelines rooting on his teams. Lou also has been very generous with sharing his musical talents, performing with his band at the Spring Basketball Luncheon and McARP Holiday Party.

This year's recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award, Lou Ferraro, epitomizes the selfless contributions of so many who give so much to The Arc/Morris Chapter.



Louis Ferraro (left) received the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award from Tom Horn

Professional of the Year

► Dr. Kevin Walsh

Dr. Kevin Walsh is one of only a handful of highly qualified, doctoral level, licensed Psychologists specializing in treating individuals with Intellectual and related developmental disabilities in New Jersey.

Early in his career, he developed a comprehensive behavioral training program known as *Crisis Management*. By the mid-1980's he was training local Arc chapters and other agencies. The work served as a training milestone, as it greatly enhanced the infrastructure essential to allow for continued growth in community services.

But that transformative work only touches on a career spanning nearly 40 years. Dr. Walsh has been active in both his local chapter, as well as The Arc of New Jersey. His contribution to Developmental Disabilities, both across New Jersey and across our nation, has been substantial. Few professionals in their given field have had the impact that Kevin has.



Kathleen Ingargiola presented Dr. Kevin Walsh with this year's Professional of the Year Award

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Nearly four years ago, a special edition of this newsletter focused on the new role Medicaid funding would be playing in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Since then, a large amount of time has been spent re-designing a system of services that was essentially in place for over 30 years.

And now, recent changes at the same federal level that spurred that direction are on the horizon. While we are uncertain of what will happen, it is very possible that this direction will again change. We might likely see yet another shift to a system primarily designed and driven by Trenton, as opposed to Washington. And, by all indications, a system with fewer dollars to support our mission.

We have witnessed much over the last 65 years. And, as with much of history in general, the one guarantee is that there will be change. And sometimes, that change will bring us back to a time that looks frightening similar to the one we already passed through. Yes, to some extent, history can repeat itself.

But what we really need to remember is the experiences and stories within these pages. The very commitment and dedication that runs through all of the individuals and organizations we recognized recently was what founded our organization. It has remained throughout the many years we have existed.

And today, it is imperative that we know that it will remain as we face the future. It is our community that gave rise to our agency, and with your continued help, it is that community that will remain at the heart of the success of our organization, and most importantly, those we serve and support.

BILL TESTA

2017 Recognition Awards CONT.

Health Care Professional

► Dr. Tunuguntla

The Arc/Morris has been very fortunate to have our consumers treated by many very outstanding physicians, and Dr. Tunuguntla—Dr. T, as he is known—is one of them.

Dr. T is a urologist with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and has been



Incoming President Katherine Cascioli recognized Dr. Tunuguntla with the Health Care Professional of the Year Award

treating two of our Overlook Group Home residents for several years. One resident with a history of serious infections, has seen an incredible improvement in his health. Another has benefited greatly

as a result of Dr. T's care since leaving a state Developmental Center a few years ago.

According to Diana Silver, the Overlook Manager, "Dr. T speaks directly to the individual, not the staff. They feel so comfortable in his presence."

There is little doubt that the bedside manner of this outstanding physician only enhances the skill he has brought to his career. And for two of his lucky patients at The Arc/Morris, we are truly appreciative.



Joe Tekula from the Knee Deep Club (left) receives the Distinguished Community Service Award from Phil Sheehy

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Distinguished Community Service Award

► Joe Tekula / The Knee Deep Club

We know June is right around the corner when Joe Tekula calls to remind us about the annual Special Needs Fishing Derby that the Knee Deep Club sponsors each year. The organization has been hosting this event since 1975 and The Arc/Morris has been part of it for over ten years.

Each year, dozens of children and adults with intellectual and related developmental disabilities enjoy a day of fun while fishing at Mount Arlington Pond. The Knee Deep Club supplies all of the fishing tackle, bait, and other fishing equipment, along with trophies and t-shirts. Club members are on hand to provide assistance and the pond is well stocked with fish ahead of the event.

But even if they don't catch any, the day is full of enjoyment and relaxation as everyone is doing something they would not typically be able to do. And of course, the day would not be complete without a barbeque lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and refreshments served by the Knee Deep Club members.

Media Excellence

► Robert Burt

The Media Excellence Award recognizes outstanding efforts to create better understanding of people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities and their families. This year's recipient was Robert "Bob" Burt.

Since 2008, Bob has photographed various Arc/Morris Chapter events. With the quality of a professional photographer, he has voluntarily contributed many hours of his time in both photographing and editing hundreds of incredible pictures. His work appears on The Arc/Morris website, agency brochures and publications, and in countless press releases.

Many years ago, Bob also worked with the consumers to create a vegetable garden at their Furnace Road Group Home. They have sustained it over the years, and

it will long be remembered by the photo of two of the residents proudly standing in front—reminiscent of the famous *American Gothic* painting that currently is hung at the Kirby Center.



Bob Burt (left) shown receiving his Media Excellence Award from Tom Baffuto

Best Friend

► Lakeland Bus Company

Participation and inclusion in the many communities where the people we support live and work is a hallmark of The Arc/Morris Chapter. But another aspect of being part of the community is *playing*—and this year's Best Friend Award winner has been a big part of helping us do that.

For over ten years, individuals from our many residential programs have been attending tours through Lakeland Bus Lines. Twice a year, this Dover based company established back in 1952, publishes an event schedule of bus trips to exciting and interesting destinations. Whether the Yankees or Mets, Broadway Shows, New York museums or a broad range of other destinations, the outings are well organized and provide great opportunities for day trippers across our county—and that includes people with special needs.

Melissa Ottoson, who handles Lakeland's Tour Desk, goes above and beyond to ensure that our consumers get the best service possible. Not only do our residents thoroughly enjoy themselves, but they meet other travelers, often making a new friend or two along the way.



Irene Hansen presented Lakeland Bus Company's Melissa Ottoson with this year's Best Friend Award



Bill Sackter Citizenship

► Bonnie Marie Paulding

The Bill Sackter Citizenship Award is given to an individual who has become an integrated, achieving member of their community and has overcome adversity to accomplish beyond expectations.

Bonnie Marie Paulding has lived in her own apartment at Ketch Road since the program originally opened in 1993. She sees her family often and treasures her role as Aunt to her sister's two sons.

Quiet and unassuming, Bonnie is very active at the Notre Dame Church in Cedar Knolls and the Jacksonville Chapel in Montville. There are few things in life as important as relationships and Bonnie is truly a great friend. She has frequently attended the Annual Awards and Recognition event, especially when her friends received the very award she did this year!

Bonnie currently attends the Hanover Center, where she frequently visits the Special Needs Program. She can often be found holding the hand of another consumer, a relationship they both cherish—and one that enriches their lives greatly.

During the nearly 25 years that Bonnie has called Ketch Road her home, she has continued to grow. She is a kind and caring person who has been a friend and volunteer to many, both within The Arc/Morris and in the broader community.



Bill Testa recognized Bonnie Paulding with the 2017 Bill Sackter Citizenship Award

Giving to The Arc/Morris

Online Donations

You can make online donations now through PayPal on our website (www.arcmorris.org). Just click the Donate Now tab under the How to Help section.

Car Donation Program

We are pleased to remind members and friends of The Arc/Morris that we have partnered with the Charity Car Donation Center to operate and manage our car donation program. Since the program started, we have received many generous donations of vehicles to support our programs and services. We are happy to accept donations of your used cars, vans or trucks, all of which are tax deductible.

To donate your car, please call 1-877-ARC-CARO

Matching Gifts

Your donation to The Arc/Morris can be matched if your company participates in a Matching Gift Program. Check with your Human Resources Department to see if your donation qualifies for a matching gift.

Memorial Donations

Honor the memory of a loved one with a donation to The Arc/Morris. Please remember us in your wills and trusts.

United Way Contributors

If your company participates in the United Way, please designate your gift for The Arc/Morris. Our agency identifier number of 003864 must be included as well as our address of P.O. Box 123, Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Thanks to our many supporters for their continued participation.

AmazonSmile Program

Smile.amazon.com is an easy way to support our programs and services! When signing up, please select The Arc/Morris to receive donations from eligible purchases. Visit their website for more information.

Combined Federal Campaign

We are pleased to announce that we are eligible again this year for the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign of Northern NJ. This campaign is for Federal employees. CFC donors should use 15788 to designate their contribution to The Arc/Morris.

For more information, please contact The Arc/Morris at (973) 326-9750.

Annual Meeting

On May 24, 2017, The Arc/Morris held its Annual Meeting at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's Haggerty Education Center. The following were elected to serve as officers for 2017-2018:

President Katherine Cascioli	2nd Vice President Irene Hansen	Secretary Peter Babits
1st Vice President Thomas Horn	Treasurer Philip Sheehy	Immediate Past President Gwendolyn Utberg

Board members for 2017-2018 include:

Wendy Abrahamson, Michael Basile, Walter Bender, Mark DeLotto, James Gallagher, Kathleen Hyland, Kathleen Ingargiola, Barry E. Levine, Lawrence J. McEntee, Jr.