

Arc hands out awards, elects officers in Morris Township

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MORRIS TWP. – The Frelinghuysen Arboretum on East Hanover Avenue was the site of The Arc/Morris Chapter's Annual Meeting and Awards & Volunteer Recognition event May 20.

More than 100 guests were on hand to recognize outstanding service to people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

The event honored nine individuals and organizations for their work in support of the non-profit organization, whose mission is the care, support and advancement of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Award winners included Gary Genovas with the Bill Sackter Citizenship Award, Mark Stephenson with the Professional of the Year Award and the Community Living Education Project at Rutgers University with the Media Excellence Award.

New Jersey Special Olympics Area 3 Committee was also recognized by being given the agency's Distinguished Community Service Award.

Geoff McGrane received the Best Friend Award, while the Waradzyn Family won the Family/Guardian Award.

Jennifer Yeager received the Teacher of the Year Award and Betty Lunn was given the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Reverend Wendy Abrahamson was given the organization's highest honor for lifetime achievement, the Distinguished Service Award.

Volunteers and volunteer groups were also acknowledged for their contribution to the agency.

They included local councils of both the Knights of Columbus and the Masons, as well as other



Marathoner Honored

The Arc/Morris Chapter honored Gary Genovas of Morris Township with the Bill Sackter Citizenship Award, as well as Geoff McGrane with the 2015 Best Friend Award. Both participated in the Boston Marathon in April, finishing the first in their division. McGrane, a marathon runner, partnered with Genovas using a specially designed wheelchair to push him through the 26-mile event. From left are Geoff McGrane, Gary Genovas, Bill Testa, the agency's executive director, and Gail Paradise, the agency's assistant executive director. For more ext. information about The Arc/Morris visit www.arcmorris.org or call 973-326-9750 ext. 211.

social and civic organization such as the Randolph Lions Clubs.

Local foundations and a number of area churches and schools were also acknowledged for their hard work with the non-profit agency.

Individual volunteers were also thanked for the thousands of hours of time contributed to the organization.

Prior to the awards ceremony, the annual meeting of the organization took place, highlighted by the election of officers and directors. Gwendolyn Utberg of Randolph was elected as president, Katherine Cascioli of Towaco as first vice president, Barry Levine of Denville as second vice president, Wendy Abrahamson of Madison as treasurer and Tom Horn of Long Valley as secretary.

James Gallagher of Rockaway Township will serve as immediate past president of the organization.

Two directors were re-elected to the board, including Walter Bender of Long Valley and Larry McEntee of Mount Olive.

The not-for-profit agency has been serving people with special needs and their families for more than 60 years.

Services include residential and day programs for adults; therapeutic recreation for all ages; and support and respite for families.

The Arc/Morris County Chapter is the largest provider of services for people affected by intellectual and related developmental disabilities and their families in Morris County.

For more information call 973-326-9750 ext. 211 or visit the website www.arcmorris.org.