

28th Annual Golf Outing

The 28th Annual Golf Outing was held on June 9 at the Black Bear Golf Club in Franklin, NJ. The event welcomed nearly 100 golfers and volunteers and raised over \$32,000 for the programs and services The Arc/Morris provides. We wish to thank the following sponsors for their generosity:

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And a big thank you to our Booster Club and our many door prize and silent auction donors!



13th Annual Walk Planned for September

The 13th Annual Walk will be held this year on September 25, 2016 at the Central Park of Morris County with registration at the F.M. Kirby Administrative Center. Visit arcmorris.org for more information or call (973) 326-9750, Ext. 211.



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



Outstanding Service Awards



Andrew Rubenstein and James Gallagher

Best Friend The Steven & Beverly Rubenstein Foundation

Several years ago, Sal Iannacone, our 2013 Distinguished Service Award winner, was about to begin overseeing the development of a new respite group home in Hanover Township. Realizing we were short of funding, he invited Andrew Rubenstein and Barry Mandelbaum from the Steven & Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation to visit one of our group homes to discuss the project.

They met Executive Director Bill Testa that morning, toured the facility, and before the end of the visit, made a pledge for a substantial amount of funding for what became the Rubenstein Respite Group Home.

For their incredible support in creating a facility that has truly filled a huge service gap, the Steven & Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation received the 2016 Best Friend Award.

Bill Sackter Award Bianca Galasso

The Bill Sackter Award is given each year to recognize an individual with intellectual disabilities who is an achieving, integrated member of his or her community. This year's winner is Bianca Galasso.

When Bianca was five years old, she moved into the Vineland State School. It was March 6, 1939—two years before we entered the Second World War. 41 years later, in 1980, Bianca moved to the North Jersey Training School in Totowa. It was from there, in 1984, that she returned to the community to live in our third group home in Hanover Township.

Bianca has experienced much over the last 32 years—and we have many wonderful stories. A favorite story involves the development of the Washington Township Group Home, just a year or two after Bianca moved to Hanover. Bianca and her housemates hosted a get together for ladies from North Jersey who were learning about what group homes were all about.

They were scared and uncertain about moving to the community. Bianca knew some of the ladies from her Totowa days, including Margie DeCamp.

Bianca and the other residents of Hanover were great sales people. They put the future residents at ease, and a wonderful and successful transition took place. Ironically, Bianca ended up moving to the Washington home in 2005, where Margie continues to live. They remain housemates today, Bianca a young 82 and Margie an amazing 95 years young!

For exemplifying the fortitude and spirit behind the award, we were honored to present Bianca with the 2016 Bill Sackter recognition.



Bianca Galasso and Bill Testa

Distinguished Service Award Peter J. Murphy

In his 25th year of service to The Arc/Morris Chapter, Peter Murphy was presented the 2016 Distinguished Service Award.

One of the most unheralded employees in the organization, Peter brought well over 15 years' experience to The Arc/Morris Chapter when he was hired in 1992. He immediately displayed both an intellect and a work ethic second to none.

Inheriting a budget that actually operated in a deficit the year before, Peter went to work in areas not completely within his experience. His incredible intelligence and will to learn anything necessary proved invaluable to setting the agency on a strong course to improve the administration and business operations.

Over the years, his work has been as diverse as the agency itself. Whether working in partnership with the public sectors through the state Division of Developmental Disabilities and the US Department of Housing & Urban Development, or in our own capital campaign nearly ten years ago—his mark on the agency is indelible.

Peter's genuine commitment to the people we serve has also been exemplified repeatedly. Advocating for improved management of consumer funds, he stepped up as we joined a DDD Representative Payee Pilot project over 15 years ago. Not knowing how critical this would be years later, Peter designed and implemented an accounting system that maximizes resources to the consumer, while assuring the maintenance of entitlements. This work was way ahead of its time and will prove invaluable as we move closer to the radical changes currently underway.

Peter Murphy has truly exemplified all of what is embodied by our Distinguished Service Award.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Shortly after this year's Annual Awards & Volunteer Recognition Program, long-time volunteer, benefactor and board member Herman Rosenberg celebrated his 100th birthday. Acknowledging this milestone so soon after our recognition event served as another reminder of how one life can have such an incredible impact on so many.

Rosie was surrounded by family and friends on June 12 to celebrate a century of life. Growing up in Morristown, attending Drew University and serving in World War II only took up a quarter of what has been a truly remarkable run for this incredible man. As a member of the greatest generation, he, and so many others, lived through the Great Depression, fought to defend our country and returned home to pave the way to an era of prosperity unparalleled in modern history.

Connecting with our organization soon after the birth of their son, Mark, and daughter Gina, who was born with special needs, he and his beloved wife Jessie became an intricate part of our organization soon after its formation in the 1950's. And through this remarkable family, so much change came about. In many ways, they refused to allow the American dream to allude them—or their daughter. Choosing to keep Gina at home, like others, they were faced with misunderstanding, stigma and a world ill prepared for people with disabilities.

After the early organizing years, the fight for public education and community programs began. When Gina completed her school years and was faced with a life devoid of any meaning, they stepped forward and what emerged was the day habilitation service that, to this day, provides meaningful activities for individuals with significant intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Years later, faced with a crisis that nearly caused the demise of the Chapter, it was Rosie, Jessie, and many of their closest family and friends, that stood by the organization to make sure it survived.

And survive it did. As the modern era in our field began in the early 1980's, Rosie continued to be a workhorse behind the growth and development so evidenced in that decade. Whether bringing energetic and committed volunteers into the agency, mobilizing civic and social organizations, or rolling up his sleeves at board meetings, Herman Rosenberg continued to be a backbone of The Arc/Morris.

To this day, Rosie remains a trusted confidant, well aware of where we have come from—and as equally committed to where we are going as he was over sixty years ago. In his own words, "Keep going, don't stop", says it all.

BILL TESTA

Outstanding Service Awards CONT.

Distinguished Community Service Award

Morris County Parks Commission

The Morris County Park system has played a huge part in the services of our agency's recreation program, McARP, since its inception back in 1979. They have truly been a partner in helping us deliver programs that enhance the quality of life of individuals receiving our services. From the Band Concert Series at the county parks in the 80's and 90's to ice skating at the Mennen Arena—and everything in between—the Park Commission has been a true partner in community based recreation for people with special needs.

Hosting Membership meetings at various facilities across the county has ensured that our mission, the care, support and advancement of people with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities is widely known and embraced across the 39 communities that make up our great county.

And of course, the F.M. Kirby Administrative Center proudly sits in the heart of the Central Park of Morris County, perhaps the newest gem among one of the finest park systems in our state. We were so pleased to acknowledge



Cynthia Triolo and Kathleen Hyland

the incredible contribution our Morris County Parks Commission has made in the lives of those we serve for so many years.

THANK YOU TO ALL!

Teacher of the Year

Katherine Cascioli

Among the many things that make Katherine Cascioli an incredible teacher is her ability to see the student as a whole person. While she challenges them academically, she also supports them beyond the classroom. Her morning greetings are filled with questions about how their games went, what they did over the weekend and how their families are doing.

She not only realizes that supporting her students in every way possible will allow her to reach them academically, she acts upon it. Her personal support and genuine care for each student is simply amazing. If she knows that getting on that team is important, she'll see to it that it happens. If a



Katherine Cascioli and Kathleen Ingargiola

family has fallen on hard times, she'll be there in any way she can.

Katherine Cascioli is more than just a teacher of academics, for she is there for each one of her students. Their knowing that instills a desire to learn all they can and fulfill their full potential as students and as young people. For these and many more reasons, The Arc/Morris was pleased to recognize her as our 2016 Teacher of the Year.

Health Care Professional

Dr. Aijaz Nanjiani

For nearly ten years Dr. Aijaz Nanjiani has served residents of the various group homes and apartments here at The Arc/Morris Chapter.

With a real lack of highly qualified psychiatrists serving people with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities, Dr. Nanjiani has proven to be invaluable. His remarkable skills at prescribing the correct medication, for the right individual, in the right situation, is uncanny.

However, what also sets him apart is his genuine commitment to listen to the consumer, staff and family. Checking in on residents between visits,

supporting staff and addressing any concern brought to his attention, is the professional standard he sets. This level of care and commitment is at a level we have never seen in this area of health care. We were most pleased to provide Dr. Nanjiani with the 2016 Health Care Professional.



Dr. Nanjiani and Tom Baffuto

Professional of the Year

Donna Gelegonya



Irene Hanson and Donna Gelegonya

This year's recipient of The Arc/Morris' Professional of the Year Award was Donna Gelegonya, veteran Physical Education Teacher and Varsity Swim Coach at Morristown High School.

Donna built a swim program renowned across the state. This year, her Boys Team was named Daily Record Swim Team of the Year—for the third season in a row. Of course, that was only topped by the Girls Team, which won their second sectional title in three years. As you would expect, Donna was named the Daily Record's 2016 Swim Coach of the Year!

But Donna has also taught her swimmers more than just how to win. Over ten percent of her 120 swimmers have special needs—and fully participate in all of the team practices and meets. And if they are unable to get in a particular meet, Coach Donna makes sure there is an additional event to give them that opportunity.

Instilling this sense of service in her swimmers has resulted in some remarkable young people. According to one of her athletes, 'seeing the special needs kids overcome great obstacles makes all of us better swimmers'.

Volunteer of the Year

Cheryl Schoch

In 2012, Cheryl Schoch began helping out with our recreation programs Special Olympics Swim Team, known as the McARP Gators. Clearly inspired by her son, Thomas, Cheryl stepped up as head coach two years later becoming an outstanding and enthusiastic supporter of her athletes and her team ever since!

Every Saturday morning from late January to mid-May, Cheryl can be found either poolside or alongside the athletes in the pool at the County College of Morris. Her coaching duties extend beyond Saturdays, as Cheryl is often communicating with the families regarding practice schedules and upcoming meets.

Cheryl always displays enthusiasm and patience as she urges the swimmers on during their practices and competitions. Equally important as a successful coach, is Cheryl's knack for identifying each swimmer's individual abilities in order to successfully compete at the area, regional and Summer Games. Many medals have been earned by the swimmers and the team continues to grow and flourish under her direction.

We were proud to present Cheryl Schoch with The Arc/Morris' 2016 Volunteer of the Year award for fully embodying the spirit of volunteerism.



Cheryl Schoch and Walter Bender

Giving to The Arc/Morris

AmazonSmile Program

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support The Arc/Morris every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to The Arc/Morris. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select The Arc/Morris to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. A simple and easy way to help support the programs and services The Arc/Morris provides throughout Morris County. Go to Smile.Amazon.com and sign up today!

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. [Call 1-877-ARC-CARO](tel: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.

Online Donations

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

United Way Contributors

If your company participates in the United Way, please designate your gift for The Arc/Morris. Our agency identified 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.

Combined Federal Campaign

We are pleased to announce that we are eligible again this year for the 2016 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 Development Office at (973) 326-9750, Ext. 211.

Annual Meeting

On May 25, 2016, The Arc/Morris held its Annual Meeting at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's Haggerty Education Center. The following were elected to serve as officers for 2016-2017:

President

Gwendolyn Utberg

1st Vice President

Katherine Cascioli

2nd Vice President

Michael Basile

Treasurer

Wendy Abrahamson

Secretary

Thomas Horn

Immediate Past President

James F. Gallagher

Board members for 2016-2017 include:

Alan Adler

Peter Babits

Michael Basile

Walter Bender

Mark DeLotto

Irene Hansen

Kathleen Hyland

Kathleen Ingargiola

Barry E. Levine

Lawrence McEntee, Jr.

Philip Sheehy