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## The Arc/Morris Elects Offices & Honors Community Leaders

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John Pecoraro of Mendham was recently given The Arc/Morris Chapter's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Recognized for his outstanding work as Morris County Surrogate Judge for nearly 25 years, he is shown receiving the award from the organization's President, Katherine Cascioli. For more information call 973.326.9750 x211 or visit [www.arcmorris.org](http://www.arcmorris.org).

Morristown, NJ – The beautiful Frelinghuysen Arboretum was the site of The Arc/Morris Chapter's Annual Meeting and Awards & Volunteer Recognition event last week. Over 120 guests were on hand to recognize outstanding service to people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

Following a long and successful career in public service, Morris County Surrogate John Pecoraro, of Mendham, was recognized with the agency's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Acknowledged for his office's commitment to people with special needs and their families, Pecoraro's work in guardianship, trusts and wills has had a major impact on the agency's constituency.

During the award presentation, Katherine Cascioli, The Arc/Morris President, noted, "With a spirit of service and outreach, John attended Membership Meetings and took steps to modernize the Surrogate Court and streamline many of the processes impacting individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities. His genuine commitment to his office and interest in people with special needs helped forge a very good relationship with our organization ever since."

The evening was also very rewarding for Brianne McBreen of Chester and Richard Eva of Long Valley. McBreen, the Randolph School District's Transition Coordinator and Eva, a Special Education teacher, each received the agency's 2019 Educator of the Year Awards. They were recognized for their outstanding work in developing and operating a Transition House for students with special needs to gain real hands on experience in daily living skills leading to greater independence and self-sufficiency. According to William Testa, Executive Director of The Arc/Morris, "So much of what the Arc/Morris does in our residential services area will only be enhanced with programs like the one they have developed."

The event also honored seven other 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 Ricky Bullion with the Bill Sackter Citizenship Award, Keith Cortright with the Professional of the Year Award, and Drs. Susan Arnold and Aaron Manella with the Health Care Professional of the Year Awards. Kids to Kids, Inc. was recognized with the agency's Distinguished Community Service Award, while

Chris Luongo received the Best Friend Award and Louis Grassi was given the 2019 Volunteer of the Year 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 social and civic organizations. Local foundations and a number of area churches and schools were also acknowledged for their work with the non-profit agency. Individual volunteers were also thanked for the many hours of time contributed to the organization.

Just prior to the event, the organization's Annual Meeting took place. Katherine Cascioli of Towaco, was re-elected to a second term as President of the Board of Directors of the \$16 million agency, which operates an extensive service system throughout Morris County. Tom Horn of Long Valley was re-elected as First Vice-President. Others assuming officer positions include Walter Bender also of Long Valley, who will serve as Second Vice-President, Larry McEntee of Mt. Olive, who will serve as Secretary and Phil Sheehy of Randolph, who will serve as Treasurer. Jim Gallagher of Rockaway and Barry Levine of Denville were both re-elected to the Board.

The not-for-profit agency has been serving people with special needs and their families for 65 years. Services include residential and day programs for adults; therapeutic recreation for all ages; and support and respite for families.

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