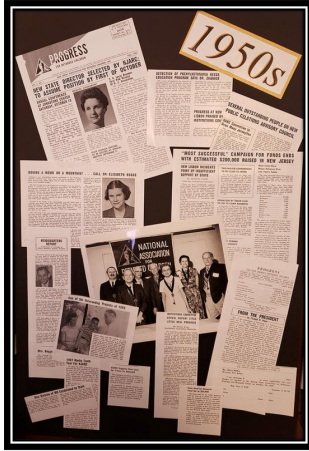


# Celebrating 70 Years of Advocacy 1949-2019



October 10, 2019 | Volume 2 - The 1950's



For eight weeks, The Arc of New Jersey is relating its rich history with a series of weekly emails celebrating the people and events that have made The Arc the strong vibrant organization it is today. To see Volume 1 - The 1940's, [click here](#).

Join us for a celebration of our past and present at **The Arc of New Jersey 70th Anniversary Dinner and Awards** on Thursday, November 21st. Tickets, journal ads and sponsorships are available by visiting our [website](#), emailing [cfortin@arcnj.org](mailto:cfortin@arcnj.org) or calling 732.733.6013.

## A Decade of Growth

### September 1950

The first national convention of the National Association of Parents and Friends is held in Minneapolis, MN.

### September 1951

The national convention adopted an amendment to change its name to NARC. As the NJ Parents Group was concerned that the name was not in keeping with the parent-based nature of the organization, it wasn't until April 1953 that they changed the name of the NJ Chapter to NJARC.

### October 1957

Theodore Lucas, 33 of Asbury Park, becomes the first Executive Director of NJARC, and an office is established in the Columbus Building at 524 1/2 Hamilton Ave, Trenton. This action was deemed necessary as the State Council grew to realize that volunteers alone could no longer support the growing chapters and ongoing statewide advocacy.

### December 1957

The annual statewide fundraising campaign is declared "the most successful ever" with more than \$200,000 raised. That would equal \$1.57 million in today's dollars.



During the 1950's, the major work of The Arc included:

- recommendations for amendments to the NJ State Statutes to establish preliminary hearings in criminal cases involving individuals with I/DD to determine level of disability
- the establishment of a Division of MR within the NJ Department of Institutions and Agencies
- advocacy to improve the conditions at the State's five institutions including addressing understaffing, aging facilities and poor food quality
- assisting local chapters to establish programs and direct services; by the end of 1959, the 17 chapters of The Arc operated 73 community programs
- advocacy with the NJ Department of Education to improve educational opportunities for children with I/DD
- the establishment of a research fund with the goal to raise \$1 million to fund research projects on the prevention and causes of I/DD
- advocacy to pass legislation requiring routine testing of newborns for Phenylketonuria (PKU), a treatable genetic disorder

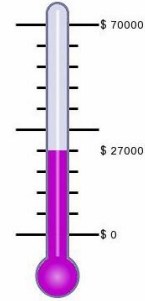
**Fun Fact:** The 1957 annual state conference of The Arc was held on October 19 at the Johnstone Training and Research Center, Bordentown. The theme was "The...Child (with I/DD) in the Community". Registration for the conference was \$.50 and lunch was \$1.50.

## Please Help Us Continue Our Great Work

### The Arc of New Jersey 70th Anniversary Campaign

To continue the wonderful work of The Arc of New Jersey, **we need your help!** In honor of our 70th Anniversary, The Arc of New Jersey is launching a special **70th Anniversary campaign to raise \$70,000**. Please donate today to help us reach our goal!

DONATE NOW!



The Arc of New Jersey | [www.TheArcofNJ.org](http://www.TheArcofNJ.org)

