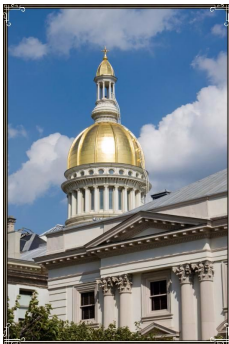




## October Filled with Legislative Testimony & Budget Advocacy



In the past number of weeks, The Arc of New Jersey has returned to the State House as the Legislature has resumed Committee meetings and the passage of bills. In the Senate Education Committee, we testified in support of legislation that would require immediate parental notification if a student is put into a seclusion room at school. A full report with additional details to the parent would be required within 48 hours of the incident. In addition, the legislation requires the Department of Education (DOE) to collect data from school districts about the number and times a physical restraint or a seclusion technique was utilized on a student with disabilities. The bill, S3027, and the testimony delivered by The Arc of NJ, also received media attention from [NJ.com](#), [NJ 101.5](#) and [KYW News Radio](#). S3027 was voted out of Committee and referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for next steps. To continue reading, [click here](#).

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## New Executive Director Leads The Arc of Cape May

The Arc of Cape May recently welcomed a new executive director, Laura Gaffney, to lead the Chapter and support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the most southern portion of our State. We welcome Laura to The Arc family and we want to use this space to introduce her to our readers and to learn more about her plans for the future.

**1. Tell us a little bit about your background and how you're using your past experiences in your new role.**

My background includes my lived experience raising my son, now 31 with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Andrew trained me to understand the complexities of autism and raised my awareness and compassion for all families and individuals living with the challenges and joys of intellectual and developmental disabilities. As I grew in my professional career, my personal and professional lives kind of merged. Through a strong parent-support network, I learned of a job opening as a Family Support Coordinator at Durand Inc. in Burlington County where I grew professionally thanks to the families I served and the amazing professionalism and support of my colleagues there. As I implemented the Fee-for-Service model in my department, I was able to carry out the competing demands of delivering services that families need and want within the regulatory environment of DDD and Medicaid Policies and Procedures. It was both gratifying and painstaking! [To continue reading, click here.](#)



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## The Arc Morris Hosts Walktoberfest in Morris Plains

Congratulations to The Arc Morris who held their Walktoberfest '22 Step Up For The Arc event on Saturday, October 22, in Morris Plains. The event helped raise awareness of people with intellectual and

developmental disabilities, as well as funds for those served by the Chapter. Pictured from left to right is The Arc Morris Executive Director Sal Moran, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto and The Arc Morris COO Naira Aslanyan.



## *The Arc of Cape May County Welcomes Community with Awareness Day*



The Arc of Cape May County engaged with the community and shared resources and information about the work they do and the individuals they support, at an Awareness Day event on October 12. The gathering was held at the Chapter's Thrift Shop in Rio Grande and it gave attendees the chance to learn more about the residential, supported employment, day program and recreational services available to individuals with IDD living in Cape May County. Pictured from left to right: Robin Watson, Chief program officer at The Arc of Cape May, Laura Gaffney, CEO at The Arc of Cape May, Celine Fortin, The Arc of NJ's Associate Executive Director, and Melissa Gurdgiel, Associate Chief program officer at The Arc of Cape May.

## *The Arc of Burlington County Tees Off at 9th Annual Golf Classic*



The Arc of Burlington County held their 9th Annual Golf Classic at the Burlington Country Club on Tuesday, October 18. The event included brunch, various golf contests, dinner, raffles, prizes and fun. Pictured from left to right is The Arc of Burlington County's Community and Public Relations Director Arlene Miller, Assistant Executive Director Charlene Tinnick, The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of Burlington County's Executive Director Joanna Nevadomski, and The Arc of New Jersey's Assistant Executive Director Michael Prendergast. To view additional photos from the event, [click here](#).

## **Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

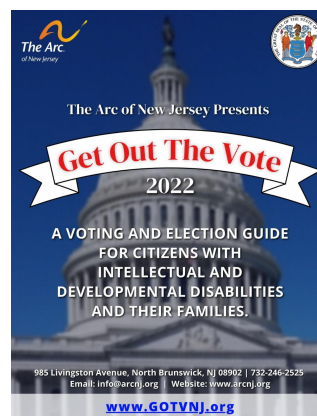
To recognize the vital role of people with disabilities in the nation's workforce, The Arc of New Jersey celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) throughout October. We used this opportunity to spotlight individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are competitively employed with the help of Employment Training Specialists. With that in mind, we invite you to meet Tyler, Eryn, Casey, and [Project HIRE](#) Employment Training Specialist Carla. [Click here to read more](#)



*Pictured left: Project HIRE ETS Carla Tiongson with Tyler M., a program participant who works at Verizon Ridge Hotel in Basking Ridge.*

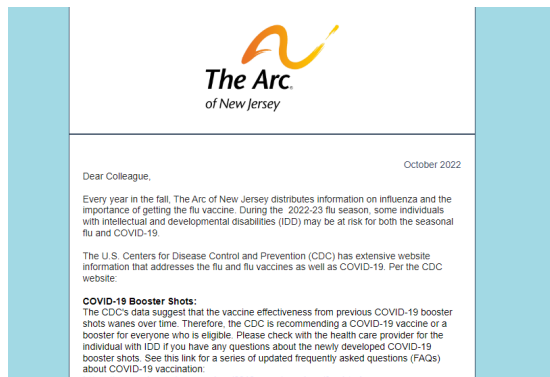
## 2022 GOTV Guide Now Ready for Download

Each year, The Arc of New Jersey puts together a voting guide to assist families and self-advocates as Election Day approaches. We are proud to share with you our 2022 GOTV Guide which outlines all the ways in which you can cast a ballot and which emphasizes the importance of voting and making your voice heard in the upcoming election. Also, we have created a companion [GOTV website](http://www.gotvnj.com) which includes the links to candidate pages, national voting resources and information about registering and how to find your polling location. In addition, we hear from a family member and a self-advocate about why voting matters and why it's a critical part of the democratic process. To download your copy of the Guide, make sure you visit [www.gotvnj.com](http://www.gotvnj.com) today to learn more about the voting process (drop-boxes, early voting, mail-in ballots!) and make your voice heard on Election Day!



## 2022-2023 Flu & COVID Vaccine Info from the CDC

Every year in the fall, The Arc of New Jersey distributes information on influenza and the importance of getting the flu vaccine. During the 2022-23 flu season, some individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) may be at risk for both the seasonal flu and COVID-19. To read this year's distribution from our Mainstreaming Medical Care Program, [click here](#).



## Tell Congress: Support the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act!

The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program provides critical support for millions of people with disabilities and their families to be able to afford necessities like food and rent. But it has many rules that make it hard for people to save money and get out of poverty. **TAKE ACTION:** Urge your U.S Senators to support people with disabilities and their families by cosponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act ([S.4102](#)) which would raise these asset limits.



**Tell Congress: Support the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act NOW!**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides critical support for millions of people with disabilities and their families to be able to afford necessities like food and rent. But it has many rules that make it hard for people to save money and get out of poverty. SSI has an asset limit that has not been updated since 1980. Assets include money in bank accounts, property, and savings. Right now, people who get SSI can only have \$2,000 in assets. Married couples can only have \$3,000.

These asset limits mean that people cannot save money and force people with disabilities into poverty.

**TAKE ACTION:** Urge your U.S. Senators to support people with disabilities and their families by cosponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S.4502) which would raise these asset limits.



Send an email to your officials with one click!

Title

Full Name

Address

Zip  city and state not required

Phone

Email

I am a member of The Arc and your constituent. Please support the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S.4502).

## It's Time for the Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is one of the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaigns. Its mission is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. CFC reaches nearly 10 million potential donors — active and retired federal and military employees and contractors. CFC opened on September 1, 2022, and runs through January 2023.



### **How to Give and Support The Arc of New Jersey**

Federal civilian, postal and military donors can support The Arc of New Jersey by going to the [campaign website](#) and using The Arc of NJ's CFC code 92741. Thank you for your support!

## Upcoming Virtual Events!

Click below to register for one of our many upcoming virtual events/webinars. And be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other future events.



### **Mondays with Michael:**

Every week at 10 am, catch a brief update from Michael Pearson Jr., Assistant Director, Children's Advocacy, on a topic or featured resource related to special education. Click [here](#) to view upcoming dates/topics. Mondays with Michael are Facebook Live events.

### **Virtual Events:**

- Wednesday, November 2, at 6 pm: [FI Fireside Chat with Susan Freedman from Special Child Health Services](#)
- Thursday, November 3, at 1:30 pm: [The 2023 Medicare Part D Changes for Persons Who Have Both Medicare and Medicaid \(The Dual Eligibles\)](#)
- Friday, November 4, at 1 pm: [Zoom with Us Afternoon Edition: Post-secondary \(college\) Options for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
- Tuesday, November 15, at 6 pm: [FI Fireside Chat with Carmen Bannon from Special Olympics of New Jersey](#)
- Wednesday, November 16, at 6 pm: [Be Prepared for the Unthinkable: If Your Student Enters the Criminal Justice System](#)
- Friday, November 18, at 2 pm: [Exploring a Closer Look: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder \(FASD\) and the Criminal Justice System: A Review of Symptomatology](#)
- Wednesday, November 30, at 1 pm: [Zoom with Us Afternoon Edition: My Student Just Turned 18. What Do I Need to Do?](#)

### **Stay Healthy at Home - a webinar series hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project - every Tuesday at 2 PM on GoToWebinar**

The webinar series covers a variety of topics related to advocacy, life skills, employment, and civic engagement. Sessions are designed to be accessible to self-advocates, parents, and support staff. Live viewers can share comments, ask questions, and access resources. Live transcription is available.

- November 1: [Know Your Rights! An Overview of Title I of the ADA](#)
- November 8: [REPLAY: Resolution Solutions & Healthier Habits](#)
- November 15: [REPLAY: Managing Minutes for Productive People](#)
- November 22: [REPLAY: Love Languages: Healthy Relationships & Communications](#)
- November 29: [REPLAY: Augmentative & Alternative Communication](#)

### Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE! - every Wednesday at 11 AM on Zoom

This interactive series of events is hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project and focuses on activities to promote health and wellness education for students and adults with I/DD. Live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in activities led by professionals *in real time*.

- November 2: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- November 9: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)
- November 16: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- November 30: [Art Workshop](#)

We also have Fitness Fridays at 1 PM: [Click here to register](#).

## A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

# Thank You

Thank you to all our generous donors who, over the past number of months, have made donations to support us. These critical funds will help us in our efforts to assist individuals with IDD and their families, as well as our local county chapters. To put your donation to work for individuals with IDD and their families, [click here](#). If you have questions or need assistance, our staff is here to help. [Click here](#) to access information about our Programs.

## Use Your Amazon App to Support The Arc of New Jersey

If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support The Arc of New Jersey, Inc. in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
3. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon shopping App, update your App. Click [here](#) for instructions.



[DONATE NOW!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | [info@arcnj.org](mailto:info@arcnj.org) | [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)