



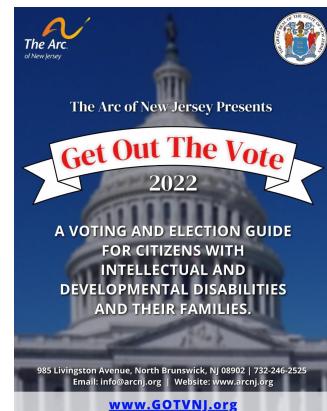
## The Arc of Atlantic Hosts DHS Leaders for Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

On September 9, NJ Department of Human Services Deputy Commissioner McGuire and Assistant Commissioner Seifried toured The Arc of Atlantic County, met with individuals, spoke with staff, and presented hardworking DSPs with a [proclamation](#) from Governor Phil Murphy in honor of Direct Support Professional Week. DSP Recognition Week is an important chance to celebrate and honor the incredible workforce that does so much each and every day to support people with IDD and their families. We thank the Department of Human Services for helping us celebrate this occasion. To view more photos, [click here](#). In addition to this wonderful event, The Arc of New Jersey and local county Chapters of The Arc used the hashtag [#NJDSPweek2022](#) to highlight DSPs and local celebrations and recognition events taking place all around New Jersey. Celebrations included giving out gift cards, lawn signs recognizing DSPs, catering breakfasts and lunches, a virtual recognition board, a full page ad in a local newspaper thanking DSPs, posting testimonials on social media, gifts, chocolate, and more!



## 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](#) 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!



## Self-Advocates From Around NJ Attend Virtual Conference

Approximately 140 people from across the State attended the

# THANK YOU

For attending The 38th Annual NJSSAN  
Fall Conference!



DISABILITY RIGHTS  
NEW JERSEY



BLUE LIGHT

New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network's 38th Fall Conference on Saturday, October 1, via Zoom. The theme of the event, which ran from 9:30 am to 12 pm, was "Sharing Our Skills." The annual conference is an opportunity for disability advocates to network, learn about current advocacy issues and attend professional development workshops. Topics of note for the event included: supported decision making, mental health care access, and staffing issues impacting the daily lives of people with IDD across the state. Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner Jon Seifried, The Arc of New Jersey's Board President Kevin Sturges, and Executive Director Tom Baffuto all provided opening remarks to begin the event.

## The Arc of Camden's Former Executive Director honored by ACCSES NJ



The Arc of NJ congratulates The Arc of Camden's former Executive Director Peggy Englebert who was celebrated by ACCSES New Jersey at their honorary dinner last month at the Molly Pitcher Inn. Peggy was recognized for her years of service to people with IDD. **Pictured from left to right:** The Arc of Ocean County's Executive Director Laura Williams, The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties' President/CEO Kathy Walsh, Peggy Englebert, and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto.

## Long-time Self Advocate from Morris County Celebrated at Community Building Awards



The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities celebrated outstanding advocates and supporters at their Community Building Awards event on September 22, at the Estate at Farrington Lake in East Brunswick. The event recognized and honored leadership and new IDEAS for inclusive communities. Self-Advocate Bill Byrne, who has done tremendous advocacy for many years and who is connected with The Arc/Morris, was honored with the Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award. **Pictured from left to right:** The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Self-Advocate Bill Byrne, The Arc of NJ's Planning for Adult Life Director Jerisa Maseko, and Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin.

## The Arc Mercer Cuts Ribbon on New Group Home

## The Arc Ocean Raises Money with Mini Golf Fundraiser



The Arc of New Jersey congratulates The Arc Mercer who held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on September 28, to celebrate the grand opening of their newest group home in Hamilton. Speakers at the event included The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Hamilton Mayor Jeff Martin, County Executive Brian Hughes, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, The Arc Mercer's Executive Director Steve Cook and Board Members from the Chapter.



The Arc of New Jersey congratulates The Arc of Ocean County who hosted a Mini Golf Tournament and Gift Auction at Barnacle Bill's last month. The event raised more than \$21,000 to support programs and services provided by the Chapter. ***Pictured from left to right:*** The Arc of Ocean's Executive Director Laura Williams, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of Ocean's Board President Ruth Churchill, and The Arc of NJ's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin.

## *Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Shares Information at Camden Resource Fair*

On September 13, The Arc of New Jersey's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program (CJAP) was on hand for the Camden County Resource Fair held at the Voorhees Town Center. The aim of the event was to provide information and resources regarding community services under the umbrella of mental health. Vendors, state agencies, counselors and psychiatrists, support coordination agencies and more, all participated in the Fair. The CJAP program provided a wealth of information to both individuals and professionals throughout the day. ***Pictured below from left to right*** is CJAP Director Robyn Holt and CJAP Community Resources Coordinator Pat Gerke. To learn more about the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, [click here](#).



## **Community Health Law Project President/Executive Director Honored**



The Arc of New Jersey congratulates Hal Garwin, retiring President/Executive Director of the Community Health Law Project, who was honored at the organization's 34th Annual Ann Klein Advocate Awards Reception on September 15. The event was held at the The Wilshire in West Orange. ***Pictured from left to right:*** Hal Garwin, CHLP and Tom Baffuto, The Arc of NJ's Executive

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

**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 1989. 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.4102) 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.4102).

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## Self-Advocates Learn About Voting Process During National Voter Registration Week

During National Disability Voter Registration week, The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project met with self-advocates at SCARC, Inc. to discuss voting and the voter registration process. NJSAP also distributed some great voting swag provided by The Arc of the United States. Registered voters Melissa, Victor, Andrew, Spencer and Richard are pictured in the image on the right.



## 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.

### College Tours:

- Friday, October 7, at 10 am **IN PERSON:** [The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley](#)

### Virtual Events:

- Thursday, October 6, at 6 pm: [Person Centered Life Planning: Securing the Future for People with Disabilities PLAN/NJ](#)
- Tuesday, October 18, at 6 pm: [How to Navigate the Medicaid Maze for Individuals with IDD](#)
- Wednesday, October 19, at 6 pm: [The Ins and Outs of Supported Employment: How to Get and Keep a Job](#)
- Thursday, October 20, at 2 pm: [Exploring a Closer Look: IDD and Social Justice Within the Criminal Justice System: An International Perspective from Australia](#)
- Tuesday, October 25, at 6 pm: [FI Fireside Chat with Susan Freedman from Special Child Health Services](#)
- Friday, October 28, at 1 pm: [Zoom with Us - Afternoon Edition: Post-secondary \(College\) Options for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
- Thursday, November 3, at 1:30 pm: [The 2023 Medicare Part D Changes for Persons Who Have Both Medicare and Medicaid \(Dual Eligibles\)](#)

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.

- October 5: [How to Hear “You’re Hired!”: Tips for Job Searching](#)
- October 12: [REPLAY: The Picture Perfect Filter: Using Facebook & LinkedIn to Find Work](#)
- October 19: [REPLAY: STRIVE Creating Safe Spaces: Digital & Personal Boundaries](#)
- October 26: [REPLAY: You’re Hired! Preparing for Post-COVID Employment](#)

#### 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*.

- October 6: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- October 13: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)
- October 20: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- October 27: [Halloween Party & Tricks for Healthy Treats](#)

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

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## 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.

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## 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



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