



## Election Day is Tomorrow. Read Our Get Out the Vote Guide Today!



Every year, The Arc of New Jersey publishes a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families navigate the voting process. Tomorrow, **November 2, is Election Day.** If you haven't done so already, visit our voting website, [www.govnj.org](http://www.govnj.org), to download a copy of the Guide and to access additional resources and information. Voters in this year's election will choose a Governor, one State Senator, and two members of the General Assembly. These officials will then represent you in our state capital. Check out our GOTV Guide and then make sure your voice is heard by casting a ballot!

## Chapters Celebrate with Awards & Recognitions

Congratulations to The Arc, Ocean County Chapter who celebrated the grand opening of the Bill Burke Wellness Center in Lakewood last month. This multipurpose gymnasium will encourage health and wellness for people with



disabilities, providing fitness classes, competitive sports and recreational activities. The Wellness Center is named in memory of Bill Burke, a long-time resident of The Arc, Ocean County Chapter. Pictured above on the left is The Arc of New Jersey's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin with representatives from The Chapter at the October 28, grand opening event.



Congratulations to The Arc of Gloucester County on their 2021 Golf Tournament which took place at the Scotland Run Golf Club last month. This event helps to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Gloucester County. Pictured above from left to right is The Arc of Gloucester's Chief Executive Officer Lisa Conley, Inspira Health's President and Chief Executive Officer Amy Mansue, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, and The Arc of Gloucester's Treasurer Pam Corrigan. Mansue

was honored as part of this wonderful event.

The Arc of NJ was honored to receive an award from The Arc of Somerset County, at their "Unmasking Our Heroes" Awards Reception, on October 15, at the Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater. Award recipients were recognized for their commitment to the Chapter and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic. Pictured to the right is The Arc of Somerset County's Executive Director Lauren Frary and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto.



## Workshops, Speakers Highlight Self-Advocacy Conference

Outstanding presentations, distinguished speakers and great exhibitors were all part of The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network's 37th Annual Fall Conference that was held virtually on Saturday, October 9. The Department of Human Services Acting Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner delivered remarks, as did the NJSSAN Advisory Board President, The Arc of NJ's Board President, and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director. Workshops focused on financial management for Self-Advocates and self-determination for people with guardians. Thanks to all who attended and made the event such a success.

37th Annual NJSSAN Fall Conference Speakers

List of Speakers

Evelyn Ramundo, President, Advisory Board of the NJSSAN	Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director, The Arc of NJ
Kevin Sturges, President, The Arc of NJ Board of Directors	Acting Commissioner Sarah Adelman, NJ Department of Human Services
Asst. Commissioner Jonathan Soffried, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities	Ashley Bitchey, Director, NJ Self-Advocacy Project

37th Annual NJSSAN Fall Conference Exhibitors

Prism Support Services  
NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Disability Rights New Jersey

Transition to Adulthood: A Guide to Understanding DD Services

PRISM

Make a Difference

About Disability Rights New Jersey

Disability Rights New Jersey is the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency for New Jersey.

We are proud to and across the nation, and our goal is to ensure that every person with a disability has the opportunity to live a life of choice and self-determination.

Exhibitors: Ian Griffiths, Frank Iatham, Barb Coppens

## Recognizing Workers with IDD For Employment Month



Every October, The Arc of New Jersey takes some time to highlight and celebrate individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are working in competitive employment across the state. National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is the perfect opportunity for individuals to explore the path of employment and for employers to consider ways in which they can make their workplaces welcoming and accessible to those with IDD. On a federal level, the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy selected "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion," as this year's NDEAM theme. It

reflects the importance of ensuring people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. If you missed this year's special edition newsletter recognizing NDEAM, [click here to view it.](#)



## The Arc of NJ Welcomes New Director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program

The Arc of NJ is very pleased to announce Robyn Holt as the new director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program (CJAP). CJAP provides alternatives to incarceration on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities who are defendants in the criminal justice system, and it is the only program of its kind in New Jersey. Next month we will feature Robyn in a spotlight for you to learn more about her and her plans for the program, but if you have criminal justice related questions or issues in the meantime, you can reach Robyn at [RHolt@arcnj.org](mailto:RHolt@arcnj.org).

## Act Now: Share Your Story About the Importance of HCBS



Congress is currently working on legislation, as part of the budget reconciliation, or Build Back Better Agenda, that will greatly affect the lives of people with disabilities and their families. Urge your members of Congress to meet the needs of people with disabilities, their families, and the direct care workforce by investing in Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) to expand access to those services and create more and better direct care jobs. [Click here to Share Your Story: Why Home and Community-Based Care Matters.](#)

[Matters.](#)

## Recognizing National Family Caregivers Month



National Family Caregivers Month – celebrated each November -- is a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country. Celebrating Family Caregivers during National Family Caregivers Month enables all of us to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers

If you are a family caregiver in need of support or assistance navigating the service delivery system, please visit The Arc of NJ's Family Institute website [here](#) or email the director at [Lford@arcnj.org](mailto:Lford@arcnj.org). The Arc of NJ commends all the caregivers who do so much every day for their loved one with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## 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.



#### Zoom with Us:

- November 3 at 6 pm: [Postsecondary Options for Students with IDD](#)

#### Webinars:

- November 9 at 6 pm: [Transportation Options for People with IDD](#)
- November 15 at 10 am: [The 2022 Medicare Part D Changes for Persons Who Have Both Medicare and Medicaid](#)
- November 16 at 1 pm: [Supportive Housing for People with IDD](#)
- November 16 at 6 pm: [Special Education Series: Social Emotional Learning and the COVID Pandemic](#)
- November 17 at 6 pm: [PFAL Webinar Wednesday Series: Introduction to Self-Direction and Support Brokerage Services from DDD](#)
- November 18 at 2 pm: [What I Need to Know About: Criminal Justice Reform and Pre-Trial Detention Hearing in NJ](#)

#### 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.

- November 2: [REPLAY: Ready to Poll: What You Need to Know to Cast Your Vote](#)
- **\*\*NEW** November 9: [NJ Relay](#)
- November 15: [REPLAY: Empowering Legislative Advocates Through Video](#)
- November 23: [REPLAY: Healthy Communication & Staying Connected](#)

#### 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 3: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- November 10: [Zumba: Dance-based Fitness Class](#)
- November 17: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- November 24: [REPLAY: The Right Fit: Find Your Exercise with Adaptive Fitness](#)

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 I/DD and their families, as well as our local county chapters, through the COVID19 crisis. To put your donation to work for individuals with I/DD 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.



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## Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

- **Visit our website** to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- **Join our advocacy network** to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[Visit our website](#)

[Join an Advocacy Network](#)

[DONATE NOW!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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