

Celebrating 70 Years of Advocacy 1949-2019



November 14, 2019 | Volume 7 - The 2000'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 the first six volumes, [click here.](#)

Advocating in the New Century



2000

The Arc of New Jersey wages a major campaign to draw attention to the low wages paid to direct care staff. Their successful advocacy leads to a \$1 an hour increase for direct care staff in the FY 2001 state budget.

2001

The US Surgeon General convenes conference on health care, inviting staff from The Arc of NJ. The conference leads to the publication of a National Blueprint to Improve the Health of Persons with (ID).

The Arc of NJ successfully advocates for the establishment of regional FAS centers across the state.

NJSAP receives a grant to hold statewide election training for people with I/DD. The trainings are held for 2248 people and lead to 380 newly registered voters.

The Arc of NJ starts services in Hudson County at the Hudson County Resource Center in Union City.

2002

The Arc of NJ works with local county chapters to launch a statewide walkathon. In the first year the event raises \$251,400. Over the next 17 years the event will bring in close to \$10 million to support the local county chapters.

The Arc of NJ establishes a Department of Education Advocacy with Liz Shea as Director. Liz moves on to become Director of Governmental Affairs in 2004.

The NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities adopts new waiting list procedures which address level of need and parental age.

The US Supreme Court rules that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment for people with ID.



2003

The Criminal Justice Advocacy Program receives a grant to work with juvenile offenders in Union County. The program is expanded to Hudson County in 2009.

The Arc of NJ advocates for Abuse and Neglect legislation which amends current statutes to increase the penalties for anyone leaving someone with I/DD alone in a motor vehicle. Strong statewide advocacy leads to a \$5.5 million increase in Early Intervention funding in the State FY 2004 budget.

The Arc of NJ holds its first annual conference on education advocacy in North Brunswick. The Arc of NJ forms Partners in Justice, a statewide disability response team to examine the issues facing offenders, victims and witnesses with I/DD.

2004

The Arc of NJ starts the Cost of Providing Care Coalition to advocate for 4% increase in provider contracts for organizations providing direct care to people with I/DD. The funding was included in the State FY 2005 budget.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), the federal law that reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), was signed into law.



2005

Governor Richard Codey signs the expanded bike helmet law which increases the age for mandatory bike helmets to youth age 17 and under, and provides funding for a statewide public relations campaign. Major League Baseball pitcher Al Leiter signs on as statewide spokesperson for the Step Up For The Arc walkathon.

The Arc of NJ travels across the state to provide more than 30 seminars on the new Medicare Drug Benefit for dual eligibles.

2006

The Arc of NJ Family Advocacy Program is launched in an effort to bring together families in an effective grassroots advocacy network.

The first of several grants are awarded by the Horizon Foundation for HJ to fund a Diabetes Awareness Project.

Legislation is passed which forms the NJ Department of Children and Families.

The Arc of NJ successfully advocates for the passage of legislation which strengthens parents' rights in special education and mandates the publication and distribution of the PRISE booklet.

2007

With more than 6,933 individuals still on the community services waiting list, The Arc of NJ launches a new campaign called the 10% solution. The November elections see passage of a public question ending offensive language in the portion of the NJ constitution on voting rights. The Arc of NJ along with dozens of disability advocacy organizations ran a massive public awareness campaign on the issue throughout the election season.



2008

The Arc of NJ launches an extensive campaign to reduce the community services waiting list which includes hearings, a day at the statehouse for families and widespread PR coverage, resulting in \$12.5 million in the FY 2009 State budget allocated strictly to address the waiting list.

In a major victory for parents of students in special education, Governor Jon Corzine signs legislation reallocating the burden of proof in special education due process hearings back to school districts.

Congressman Frank Pallone invites The Arc of NJ to testify before a congressional committee on changes in Medicaid and how they affect children and adults with I/DD.

The Arc of NJ begins a 3 year program called No Wrong Door, focusing on victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence with I/DD.

The Arc of NJ successfully advocates for legislation allowing students in special education to participate in graduation activities even if they are remaining in school past their fourth year.

The Arc of NJ and The Arc of the US are invited to participate in the filming of the Geraldo Rivera Show in NYC which focuses on the national waiting list crisis.



2009

The Arc of New Jersey celebrates its 60th Anniversary with a gala attended by Governor Jon Corzine.

President Barack Obama names a first-ever, federal level special assistant focused exclusively on disability policy.

The Arc of NJ's Self-Advocacy Project films a series of videos focusing on respectful language regarding people with I/DD. The organization uses the videos for public awareness as well as a

strategy to advocate with the NJ Legislature to pass respectful language legislation.

Fun Fact: In 2002 The Arc of New Jersey moves into a new building - but keeps the same address! in order to minimize expenses connected with an office move, The Arc of NJ petitions the post office to maintain its 985 Livingston Ave address.

Time is running out!

With only 1 week to go, the time is now to purchase tickets for The Arc of New Jersey 70th Anniversary Dinner.

Join us on Thursday, November 21st at The Imperia in Somerset, NJ as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary and honor six exceptional award winners.

President's Award

Todd Polyniak, Sax LLP

Advocacy Matters Award

S. Paul Prior, Esq.

Volunteer of the Year

Ralph Mastrangelo

Bill Sackter Award

Evelyn Ramundo

Martin Papish Award

Linda Cancro Lucas

Community Impact Award

The Porzio Family of Companies

(Porzio, Bromberg & Newman P.C.,

Porzio Governmental Affairs LLC,

Porzio Compliance Services LLC,

Porzio Life Sciences LLC)

The deadline ticket sales is today at 5 pm. For information, visit our [website](http://www.arcnj.org), email cfortin@arcnj.org or call 732.733.6013.

The Arc of New Jersey 70th Anniversary Campaign

As you can see, The Arc of New Jersey has had a wonderful history of advocacy and service. To continue our wonderful work, *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.

Every donation has the power to make a significant difference in the life of someone with I/DD and their family.

Please donate today to help us reach our goal!

DONATE NOW!

