



SPOTLIGHT



The Arc of Camden County

Issue #35 09/10

The “R-Word Bill”



We just returned from a spectacular event at the State House where Governor Christie signed S.1982, the “R-Word” bill into law. The signing took place in the Governor’s outer office. Several of the legislative sponsors, dozens of people from the advocacy community and of course several self-advocates who worked so hard on this bill were all present, along with a lot of press. Barbara Coppens, President of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network, was called back to the Governor’s inner office to meet the Governor prior to the bill signing and was asked to stand next to the Governor, Senate President Sweeney and the other sponsors of the bill as well as Commissioner Velez during the bill signing. During her remarks, Commissioner Velez specifically recognized Barbara and several of the self-advocates who were instrumental in the advocacy effort of the R-Word bill. It was a wonderful event.

Lifelong Dream Achieved

In a recent phone call from Florida, Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens let The Arc of Camden County know that she had achieved her lifetime goal of participation in a national board with her election to The Arc of the United States Board at the convention held this November in Orlando, FL. Barbara has held many key positions across the State of New Jersey, and we are thrilled that her voice will be heard at the National level representing People with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. The Arc of Camden County extends congratulations to Barbara on her election to The Arc of the United States Board.

Coffee House

The Coffee House gathering that is hosted by The Arc of Camden County on the first Monday of the month kicked off its post summer recess with two great presentations that were timely and produced much interest and reaction from the attendees of the September and October meetings.

The September Coffee House arranged for Division of Developmental Disability staff members, Linda-Lewis Day and Frank Kirkland from DDD Central Office and Jenny Zayschly from the Southern Regional Office of DDD to discuss how the Division provides services to people with Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey. The representatives from DDD engaged in an in depth dialogue on a wide array of topics related to DDD services, initiatives and plans, taking questions from family members and helping to generate solutions to problems presented.

October's gathering was honored to have three very experienced Self-Advocates, David Tag, Barbara Coppens and Josephine Messina, provide a description of what the self-advocacy movement is all about, how to access its services and what all can do to promote its cause. The R-Word legislation and registry bills were emphasized by the self-advocates as well as the importance of voting and voter registration in this year's elections. The audience was provided a keen insight into the lives, triumphs and struggles of the evening's presenters.

At the December 6th Coffee House we will host attorney Ira Fingles, who will discuss the Future of Services for Adults in the DD System in New Jersey. Please call 767-3650, ext. 24 to let us know if you will be attending this session. N.B., there will be no meeting on the first Monday in January. The next meeting in 2011 will be held on February 7th.

Employee News

Welcome to the following new employees who have recently joined The Arc of Camden County: **Kimberly Beebe**, Certified Nurse Assistant, **Yaw Konadu**, Residential Aide, **Shaleeka Lone**, Driver, Garvin ATC, **Lana Williams**, Instructor Lihn ATC.

Residential

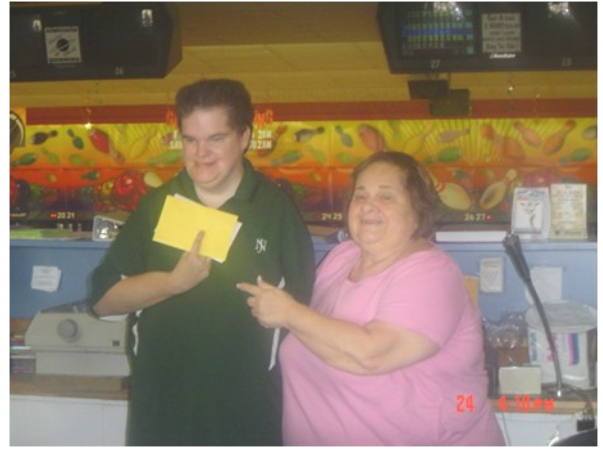
On July 17, 2010 Voorhees and Sherwood Group Home had their annual Kick Off to Summer Picnic. With great food games and tons of laughs for everyone, it is a special time for our residents and staff. We like to thank Melissa McMurray, Mary Ann Cooklin and their staff for their hard work and for hosting such a terrific celebration of upcoming season. We can't wait for next year!



LIHN CENTER DEDICATION CEREMONY

Special Olympics

At the beginning of this year's bowling season in September everyone stopped for a minute to acknowledge Jason S. great success over the summer at the National Special Olympics, which were held in Lincoln Nebraska in July. Of the more than 20,000 athletes that participate in Special Olympics events in New Jersey only a handful were selected for the National Team. Jason joined the athletes from New Jersey and competed with the bowling team. He earned fourth place at the National Games, which is a tremendous accomplishment given the skill of the athletes at the national level.



The Circle of Family & Friends presented Jason with a gift certificate and all the bowlers from The Arc's team gave Jason a round of applause at the 50 Strikes Bowling Alley.

Kurt S. also competed at the National Games and was chosen to represent the United States at the International Games which will be held in Athens, Greece next summer. Congratulations to Kurt, Jason and all the athletes on their outstanding performance

Barbara Badyna presents Jason S. with a gift certificate to celebrate his accomplishment at the National Special Olympic Games.

Riley Kennedy Golf Tournament

The luck of the Irish smiled down on the annual Riley Kennedy Golf Tournament at the beautiful Valleybrook Country Club on Friday, September 17th. Warm sunshine and gentle breezes greeted the more than 140 golfers of The Arc of Camden County who gathered for a grand day of golf while raising funds for a good cause. After a delicious lunch of sausage and ribs cooked up on the grill by Juarjanita, Tina, and their whole family, golfers headed out for a 12:30 Shot-gun start, playing best ball and shooting for magnificent prizes on selected greens. Plenty of refreshments were available throughout the day as the golfers competed for prizes for the best scores, straightest drive, and closest to the pin. New to the tournament this year was Code Electrical Contractors, installer of Solar Panels at Valleybrook. This company very generously stepped up to the plate with sponsorship of the tournament and arranged for a "Break the Solar Panel" contest with a significant cash prize. The Riley-Kennedy Tournament sported an updated logo, done by Patrick Riley, and reflected on all of the tournament materials. Last, but not least, good sports Dennis Riley and Jack Kennedy, Jr. allowed themselves to be the targets in a dunk tank to raise additional funds for people served by The Arc programs. Following a sumptuous dinner, prize winners were announced, auction items were distributed to the many winning parties and Patrick Riley announced the date for the 2011 Riley-Kennedy Golf Tournament....**Friday, September 30th**.

The Board of Directors, staff, people served, and their families at The Arc of Camden County extend their deepest, most heartfelt thanks to the members of the Tournament Committee for their deep commitment

A Touch of Color

On October 7, 2010 the Berlin Group Home received a wonderful face lift compliments of the staff of the Gloucester Township Prudential Fox and Roach office. Each year the folks from this office dedicate a day to the community. The project is called the Prudential Fox and Roach Community Service Day and this year the Arc of Camden County was chosen as the beneficiary.

Early in the morning of the, 10 people from Prudential came to the Berlin Group Home and got right to work. At the end of the day the interior of the house had been repainted in colors that were chosen by the women living in the house. At the end of the day the white walls had become violet and pink in the bedrooms and the living room looked wonderfully warm in autumn greens and browns. We sincerely thank Joe Rivera and all of the people from Prudential Fox and Roach who worked so hard that day.



Clock wise front row: Alisa D'Ambrosia, Mildred Wyatt, Tom Lillie Barbara McKale, Barbara Bowneef, Michele Kovalchek.

Clock wise back row: Liz Fitzpatrick, Mike Carducci and Laura Rothenhofer.

Marie Mortka The Arc of New Jersey Volunteer of The Year



Marie Mortka has served The Arc of Camden County in many roles over the years, most notably as the Secretary of the Agency's Board of Directors. After many years of dedicated service, she retired from that post this year. It is indeed fitting that she was nominated for The Arc of New Jersey's highly coveted Volunteer of The Year Award by Peggy Englebert, Executive Director of The Arc of Camden County.

Marie was one of many worthy nominees from across the state's family of Arc agencies. There was indeed a joyous exclamation from Marie's family, friends, The Arc of Camden County, and those whose lives she touched over her years of service to people with disabilities when she was selected to receive the award.

Marie, her family, Board of Director members and staff from The Arc of Camden County accompanied her to the Award's Banquet that was held on October 28, 2010. Marie's efforts over the years were praised as she received the award and she acknowledged the award with grace and humility to the delight of those in attendance.

It was indeed a proud night for Marie and her family, and for The Arc of Camden County, as well. Thank you for all that you have done for The Arc of Camden County, the people it serves and their families, and people with disabilities all over the State of New Jersey. Congratulations, Marie!

OTC Workshop

OTC participated in the 2010 SJ Chamber of Commerce Business Expo this past September. The theme of the event was "The Wizard of Oz". Not only did we work our magical selling powers at the show, but our tag line was advertised for all to see "There's no place like OTC to handle your assembly and packaging needs". The event was well attended by 20,000 business persons in the tri-state area.

We received a renewal purchase order for 300,000 bottles of shredder machine lubricant. Here at the OTC we fill 4 ounce bottles with a lubricant for a popular office supply store. This job has been a favorite one for many consumers for many years.

OTC is preparing to sell convenient size ice melt products coming this winter. That's right you can buy it here at the OTC. We will employ persons to convert bulk amounts of ice melt into smaller quantities. We plan to offer plastic buckets and bagged product.

It's never too early to prepare for the snowy winter meteorologists are predicting. Be on the look out for future communications on pricing and availability.


Our newest job at the OTC is bottling a revolutionary household and stain remover cleaner. The company is based in Philadelphia and is about to premier their products in December. OTC is labeling and filling the bottles with liquid product.

Look for our article again in the Fall newsletter for more exciting work updates. Rumor has it we will be assembling a 22 phase project for a vehicle suspension system. From Loret McClain

The ARC of Camden County

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*The Arc of Camden County
Circle of Family & Friends has
applications available at all times
for anyone interested in joining the
group. If you have any questions
regarding memberships please feel
free to contact: Anne Gundle
(856) 767-0010.*

Adult Training Centers

BERLIN

July 2010 was a very hot month. Consumers and staff watered and cultivated the gardens here and they thrived despite the extreme conditions. We were able to harvest tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squash and cabbage. We ate much of the produce ourselves and even sold some to staff. The butterfly garden drew many species of insects. We captured a few of the caterpillars and were able to watch them cocoon and grow into moths and butterflies. We had a traditional Independence Day celebration on July 2 and finished the month with a pizza birthday party.

The heat wave continued into August. We went bowling, to the casinos and Pet Smart as we tried to keep cool. The Community Integration Program was thrilled to add Deanna B. to their group, bringing their number to six. Deanna likes to exercise so Planet Fitness has been added to the CIPs destinations.

We began September with a Labor Day Barbeque on September 3. The excitement is building as everyone at the center prepares for our 11th annual fall luncheon. This year is the 35th Anniversary of the Berlin Center. The sit down luncheon will take place at Venice Plaza. Consumers will present songs and skits representing various eras from 1975-2010. Props and even some costumes are being designed and created. We were delighted to help The Muscular Dystrophy Society again by stuffing envelopes for them for their "Hoppathon". We ended the month with a pizza party for two consumers' birthdays.

Lihn

Everyone at our center had a very enjoyable summer despite the very hot weather. Several groups enjoyed swimming at the Atsion Lake. E. Ferguson one of our consumers with Cerebral Palsy can swim like a pro. Although, he only has the use of one hand, that doesn't stop him from diving into the water with such accuracy and speed.

We planned an outdoors carnival, but we moved it indoors because of the heat. We were amazed to see 100% participation because everyone wanted to win a prize. They really enjoyed the balloon game, and spinning the wheel. All consumers were recipients of assorted prizes.

We would like to wish a speedy recovery to Mrs. Delma Wells one of the parents here at the center. Also, we would like to wish two of our consumers, J. Austin and K. Santiago a speedy recover. In addition, our thoughts are with Ms. Ottie who is recuperating at home. We really miss them all, and wish them the best.

At this time we would like to give recognition to Keya Brown for being an asset to our center as a substitute. She has added a lot of spark to the program. We also thank the Pennsauken Center for giving us the opportunity and willingness to share Keya with us.

Hammonton

At the Hammonton Center we started the summer off with a bang. We had our Patriotic Picnic on Thursday July 1st; we ate outdoors under our picnic pavilion and enjoyed many outdoor activities. We played Frisbee, and ball toss, and had a bubble popping contest. We ate flame broiled double cheeseburgers, potato salad, and watermelon. When things became too hot we all headed inside to enjoy cool and creamy water ice.

The summer months were especially hot and humid this year, but everyone at the center has found many ways to stay cool. Trips to the Library for their ongoing book sale, and trips to McDonald's were two inexpensive ways to "beat the heat" while being in the community this summer.

HATC's annual Hawaiian luau took place on Thursday August 16th; we decorated the center in luau regalia. Our sumptuous Polynesian inspired feast included Pineapple Roasted Pork, Sweet Potato fries, Hawaiian Cole Slaw, Ambrosia Fruit Salad, and Island Punch. The meal was very delicious and enjoyed by all. On the day of our luau staff greeted each individual with leis as they entered the building, we listened to authentic luau music, danced the hula, and even drank fruity frozen pineapple and coconut flavored smoothies. A great time was had by all.

Also in the month of August, Atlantic City Cruises in the Historic Gardner's' Basin gave us a wonderful hour long boat ride along the beautiful skyline of Atlantic City; afterwards we stopped for a picnic lunch at Pleasantville Park and followed up with a quick trip to McDonalds for ice cream on the way home. Those who did not attend the boat ride enjoyed a sea life themed day at the center, which consisted of sea life and ocean themed activities and a tuna salad platter lunch. We had such a good time that we plan on taking more trips next summer.

The Hammonton Center created the favors for the 28th annual Riley/Kennedy Golf Tournament. This year we packaged "Coffee & Tee" for the golfers, a play on "coffee and tea" but with a golf twist. The consumers packaged bricks of donated Melita coffee into decorated gift bags for the golfers. We spent the first two weeks of September placing labels on bags, and adding special ribbon and wooden golf tee embellishments to the bags of coffee. Everyone was very excited about working on this project, and really got into the groove. In the end we were all excited about presenting the golfers at this years' tournament with such a high quality take home gift.

The first week of September we had our Labor Day picnic here at the center. We enjoyed cheeseburgers, potato salad, and brownies. We played beach ball and listened to beach music. It was a fun day for everyone. Also this September we welcomed Charles M. to our center, who has embraced the many activities we offer each day. "Fun Flick Fridays" continue to be the highlight of our months and we have enjoyed many movies with our friends from the Berlin Center, the Pennsauken Center, and the Atco and Garvin Centers. The movies, friendship, and of course the popcorn are something we all look forward to.

The summer went by very quickly and we will miss the long days of sunlight, but not the heat and humidity. We all look forward to the cooler days of autumn and the fun we will share.

Pennsauken

First of all, we would like to welcome James W. to our Pennsauken family. James transferred from another program and immediately made a lot of friends. We are looking forward to having a lot of good times ahead in James' future.

With the hot weather we enjoyed a lot of new experiences as well as continued with some annual traditions.

We tried to stay cool by going to free movies both at the Moorestown Theater as well as the Hammonton ATS. We are always grateful for the wonderful time we have when we visit our friends in Hammonton, and as always, they prove to be the best hosts and hostesses.

Gardner's Basin also proved to be a cool spot to spare us through the heat. After enjoying a boat ride touring the coast of Atlantic City, we enjoyed a picnic lunch complete with a dip of homemade ice cream.

We picnicked at Cooper River Park for our annual all Center extravaganzas where we had a water balloon toss, water gun competitions and a visit from Mr. Softee.

Our annual all Center trip to Bellmawr Lake turned out to be a huge success. Most of us stayed in the water the entire day except to take a quick break for a delicious KFC lunch.

In September we went on our annual all Center trip to the Playdrome in Cherry Hill. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of bowling and the competition was fierce! Congratulations to our top five scorers for the day. Cathy O., Andrew M., Matthew S., George P. and Kara B. won the respect from all as they even beat most of the staff.

We look forward to the cooler months with Fall bringing more exciting adventures and the holidays just around the corner.

Stratford

Our consumers at the Stratford Center enjoyed a variety of activities and outings this summer. We traveled to Atlantic City to see the annual Air Force air show “Thunder Over The Boardwalk”. The jets performed an amazing show and afterward we went out to eat. Later in the summer, a joint trip with some consumers from the Garvin Center went to see the unbelievable at Ripley’s Believe It Or Not Museum, also in Atlantic City. Other outings included a visit to Camden County College for the stage presentation of Alice in Wonderland, trips to the movies, Chinese buffet, the library and the Berlin Farmers Market.

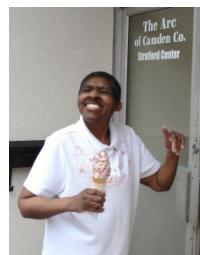
In September, we were privileged to send some of our “guys” to welcome Sgt. Evan Graham home from his deployment to Afghanistan. Evan, whose brother attends the Stratford Center, was honored with a parade of police and fire vehicles, the yellow ribbon motorcycle club, and other local dignitaries. We waved flags and cheered as Sgt. Graham arrived. Welcome home Evan.

The Atco Center helped us to kick off our new “Game Day Friday”. We team up with a group from another center for a morning of socialization, games, and prizes. It’s a great opportunity for consumers to interact with friends from other centers. Thanks, Taneya for a great idea and following through with it.

Our Meals on Wheels crew, occasionally dubbed “Men on Wheels” by one consumer, continues to deliver twice a week.

Thanks to John Painter, the brother of an Arc consumer, for the donation, delivery, and installation of 4 computers to our center. The computers now add a new dimension to our activities.

Profits from our 1st annual Flea Market allowed us to have a Mister Softee Day. Consumers selected ice cream cones of their choice from the available menu. “I scream, you scream, we all scream ...” well, you know how it goes.



And, thanks to Dan Riiff for adding a sign to our Plaza directory along the Black Horse Pike allowing new visitors to locate the center with ease.