

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024



3rd Quarter Update

We are officially into the fall season of 2024! We have had many exciting things happen already, and many things are still to come. From fun events at ArcWorks to new fundraising campaigns, our 70th anniversary celebration is going strong. We are excited to share a look back on all that has been happening here and what is to come at the Arc of Hunterdon County.

Celebrating 70 Years Strong

Thank you to all our 70th Donors! Your contributions are critical to our mission. With donor support we can continue to uplift and provide for our individuals. Our 70th Anniversary year is coming to a close soon and we invite you to celebrate with us throughout the rest of the year!



In this newsletter you will find:

↓ Latest projects, ArcWorks Updates, Rec Updates, and more. Keep Reading!

LATEST PROJECTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Grounds for Art Fest SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

The High Bridge Grounds For Art Festival was Saturday, September 14th! They invited us to be a part of the event by creating some murals that will be hanging on Historic Shop E in High Bridge. Please see the “What’s Up At ArcWorks” section on page 8 for more details on this event!

Our Latest Fundraising Campaign

THERE IS NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT WITH THIS FUNDRAISER!

We were blessed with the opportunity to partner with Old York Cellars for a custom label fundraiser. To celebrate our 70th Anniversary, we have special 70th edition wine labels, created with the help of our wonderful folks at ArcWorks! The fundraiser is still ongoing so please continue to share and spread the word!!

The Arc of Hunterdon County will receive a portion of each sale of our specially labeled bottles. Donation amounts can be found next to each option on the fundraising page.

So please sip and support The Arc of Hunterdon County!

Scan me



[CLICK HERE TO ORDER NOW!](#)



Put the Fun in Fundraise

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We have been supporting and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 70 years through the support of our donors. With the continued support from donors we can continue our mission and enrich the lives of those we support!

Scan me



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Self-Advocacy Hosts Summer Picnic

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH, 2024



Self-Advocacy hosted a wonderful picnic for everyone on Wednesday, July 24th! We all got together to enjoy sandwiches and cake. Our self-advocates presented about what they have been up to at their meetings and the importance of advocacy. Self-Advocacy is also always looking for new members!

Fun at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair!

AUGUST 21ST - 25TH, 2024

We had a fairly great time at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair! Our booth was set up in the Community Services tent and we loved getting to share what we do with the community and help get our name out there!

It truly was a team effort and was great to see the energy behind the volunteers all week long helping to spread awareness!



United Way Week of Caring

SEPTEMBER 9TH - 13TH

ExxonMobil once again this year volunteered their time with us during United Way's Week of Caring. This year the volunteers were out to one of our group homes to paint their kitchen and create a garden for the ladies. The volunteers also were to ArcWorks to paint the sensory room we are creating. They also built raised flower beds for our Day Program to be able to garden with!

A massive thank you goes out to both United Way and ExxonMobil!





It's A Party In The USA!

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

Thursday, July 4th (Independence Day) was celebrated in style all around The Arc of Hunterdon County! ArcWorks got their creative juices flowing with various 4th of July themed crafts, Recreation threw a 4th of July party, and our Residential department got together for a festive party!

The excitement for the holiday was definitely felt all around and it was a beautiful day to celebrate the independence of our country!



KEEPING UP WITH RECREATION



Having a Wildly Good Time! Lehigh Valley Zoo August 17th, 2024

The Recreation department was having fun in the sun for the whole month of July! From a trip to the Somerset Patriots, an Ice Cream Social, to their Summer Dance, great memories were made with a great group of people.

August was a travel heavy month for the Recreation department. From a trip down the shore to traveling to the Lehigh Valley Zoo it was a jam packed month!

September was a very exciting month for REC as they were able to enjoy their last trip to the Somerset Patriots ballpark for the last time this season.

Looking Forward: The Recreation department is very excited about their upcoming trip to Cape May! This is an annual event for the fall and is always very popular with the Recreation crew.

Recreation normally meets every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday for various activities such as movie days, bowling, mini golf and more! They are open to expanding programs to Monday and Tuesday as well, if that is of interest to anyone.



In Recognition of Disability Pride Month



Disability Pride Month occurs every July, to recognize the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law on July 26, 1990, The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including employment, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

“Disability is a part of the rich tapestry of human diversity, and something that nearly all of us will experience at some point in our lives,” explains Jackie Dilworth, communications director at The Arc of the United States, a disability rights organization. “It’s also a significant identity that defines how we experience the world. Yet people with disabilities have been marginalized and misunderstood for generations.” The CDC reports that nearly 27% of the US population, or one in every four people, has some kind of disability. “As Dilworth notes, most people will experience being disabled at some point in their lives, whether temporarily or permanently.” Whether is a temporary or permanent disability, accessibility and inclusion should matter to everyone.

The disability pride flag, featured in the image above, originally featured bright colored stripes that zigzagged over a black background. The flag was created in 2019 by writer Ann Magill, who has cerebral palsy. In an interview following the flag’s creation, she explained, “My first design idea was to make the stripes zigzag, to represent how disabled people have to maneuver around all the barriers we face. We have to go this way and then we have to go that way, and then we have to go this way and then we have to go that way. And that’s how we move through the world.” However, after its releasing to the public, it was brought to Magill’s attention that individuals with visual disabilities that viewed it on their phone/computer screens were having symptoms, including seizures and migraines due to the bright colors. Magill immediately went to work on figuring out how she could change the design, and also received anonymous suggestions from people on improvements. As seen in the image above, she softened the colors and made the lines straight lines to make it easier on the eyes. She also changed the order of the stripes to accommodate people with red-green colorblindness (the most common form of colorblindness).

Disability Pride month is important because, although the ADA has broken down many barriers, there are still barriers that exist. With more awareness, inclusion, and power given to the voices that deserve to be heard we can continue breaking down these barriers and continue to enact the change that needs to be seen. “But barriers still exist, which is why we need to unapologetically normalize disability, the people who experience and identify with it, and the wide range of supports they need to thrive.”

Sources:

<https://www.womansday.com/life/a43964487/disability-pride-flag/>

I did not include a picture of the original flag design in this newsletter, but if you would like to see the original design, [click here](#)

OUT OF THE ARCHIVE: ARC OF HUNTERDON HISTORY

Square Dancing HUNTERDON STARS

Featured to the right are some photos from our Square Dancing days! The Hunterdon Stars were a square dancing group that competed in nationwide competitions throughout the year. We often teamed up with the Mercer County group, the Mercer Angels.



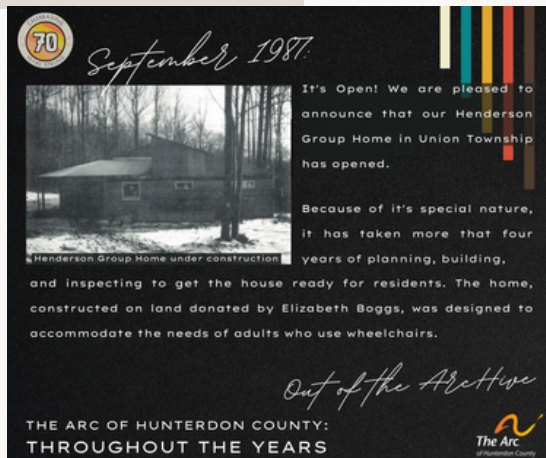
Spirit Cruise & Camping Trip



To the left are some photos found from a 2004 Spirit Cruise and Camping trip to New York!

Group Home Opening SEPTEMBER 1987

Featured to the right is a bit of history from a 1986 job posting for staffing the soon to be open Henderson group home. Also featured is a 1987 announcement of the official opening of our Henderson group home!



April 1, 1986 — United Way Agency —

Dear Members:

As you know, our Agency will be opening a new group home for six non-ambulatory adults. The Henderson Home is scheduled to open mid-May.

At this time, we are advertising for staff for the following positions:

Residence Supervisor: Full-time R.N. with experience. Staff development, administrative responsibilities, medical coordinator.
Hours: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. (flexible)
Salary to \$16,500 annually.

Assistant Supervisor: Full-time L.P.N. with experience. Administrative responsibilities, direct care service.
Hours: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Salary to \$15,000 annually.

Resident Technicians: Full-time, experience working with the developmentally disabled helpful, but will train. To provide direct care services for physically handicapped adults.
Hours: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Salary: \$6.00 per hour.

If you know of anyone who fits the above criteria, please contact me at the ARC office. Your support and assistance are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Leora Shabay
Leora Shabay
Housing Coordinator

WHAT'S UP AT ARCWORKS

Into The Swing of Summer

THERE IS NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT ARCWORKS

July was a great month for ArcWorks! From making Fourth of July decorations for the office doors to creating and making their own clay bowls, the creative juices were definitely flowing!

August was a busy month for us! We got invited to participate in the Grounds for Art Festival in High Bridge by making up murals for them to display on a historic building! After sketching the designs on our panels, ArcWorks got to work bringing the designs to life!

September was a crazy busy month celebrating events like Disability Voter Rights Week and Field Day. Everyone is also very excited about the start of football season. They made football jersey ornaments to decorate with everyone's favorite team and hang up throughout the season!



SPECIAL EVENTS

DSP Appreciation Week SEPTEMBER 9TH - 13TH

Our DSP's are the heart and soul of support and this week is just a small fraction of the appreciation they deserve! We had a special surprise each day of the week from a special surprise of t-shirts to hosting a spirit week and raffle drawing each day. We hope our DSP's felt the love and appreciation, not just during week of appreciation, but everyday. We could not do this without them!

DSP Appreciation Week also played host to a special edition of our Open Forum! Members of our board got together to discuss the week and provide valuable insight on what DSP's mean to each of them and show their gratitude and appreciation for everything DSP's do for those we support.



Shown from left to right: Elaine Buchsbaum (Corresponding Secretary), Betsy Ellis, Loretta Luzzo (Treasurer), Jeffrey Mattison (Second Vice President), and Colleen Dennis (Executive Director)



Disability Voter Rights Week SEPTEMBER 9TH - 13TH

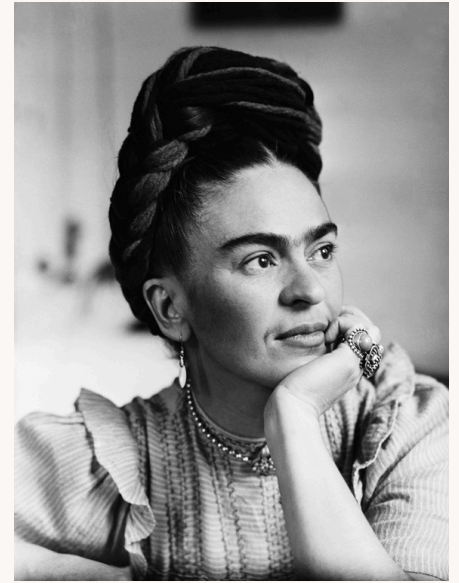
Also this week we celebrated Disability Voter Rights Week. Disability Voter Rights Week is a movement hosted by the American Association of People with Disabilities and REV UP. The week is about advocacy, celebrating community, and building power. We celebrated by having both the League of Women Voters and the Hunterdon County Board of Elections hold presentations at our office, and ended the week with a fun and creative poster contest!



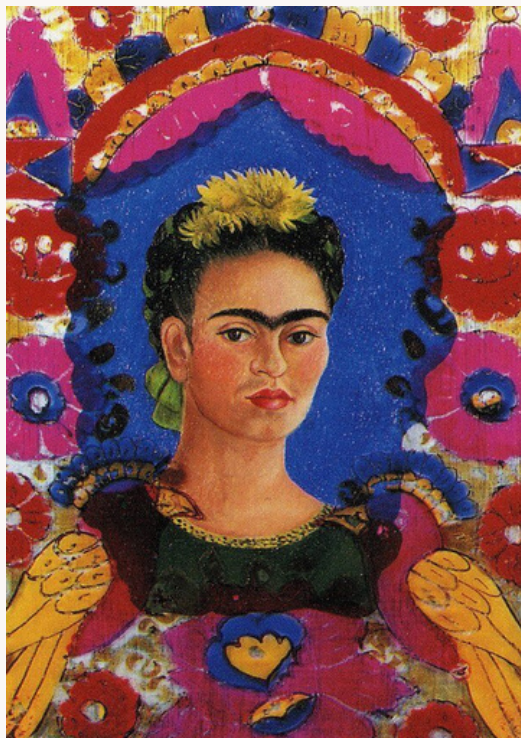
In Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, this edition of the newsletter will highlight a prominent figure who many may not know was also apart of the IDD community, surrealist painter Frida Kahlo. Magdalena del Carmen Frida Kahlo Calderón was born in Mexico City on July 6, 1907. At the age of 6, Frida contracted poliomyelitis "(a disabling and potentially fatal disease caused by the polio virus). The polio left her with a permanent scar: her right leg was much thinner than her left." As a teenager she was also involved in a traumatic accident that caused her to "suffer from multiple fractures of her spine, collarbone and ribs, a shattered pelvis, broken foot and a dislocated shoulder."



It was during her recovery from this accident that Frida found the joy in painting. She would often paint while sitting down and had a custom easel she could use for painting while laying down in bed. "Her physical and emotional pain are depicted starkly on canvases, as is her turbulent relationship with her husband, fellow artist Diego Rivera, who she married twice." Her painting most often depict portraits of her self/her body and the pain from her injuries and procedures.



"The Frame" by Frida Kahlo (1938)

"Kahlo did not sell many paintings in her lifetime, although she painted occasional portraits on commission. She had only one solo exhibition in Mexico in her lifetime, in 1953, just a year before her death at the age of 47." Frida Kahlo passed away on July 13th, 1954 from pulmonary embolism set on by pneumonia.

Today, her works sell for very high prices, with one self-portrait being sold for \$5.62 million. That portrait set "a record as the most expensive Latin American work ever purchased at auction, and also makes Frida Kahlo one of the highest-selling woman in art."

While her life was short, Frida Kahlo "has become a countercultural symbol of the 20th century, and created a legacy in art history that continues to inspire the imagination and mind." She achieved a celebrity status worldwide and is known as "the mother of the selfie, her indelible image recognizable everywhere."

Sources:

<https://www.fridakahlo.org/>

<https://nccdd.org/news-media/action-alerts/1417-national-hispanic-heritage-month-frida-kahlo-disability-and-art-intertwined.html>

<https://www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-the-frame.jsp>



WHAT'S UP AT ARCWORKS

Field Day Fun!

September 24th, 2024

IT WAS A FUN FILLED FIELD DAY AT ARCWORKS!



Thank you ArcWorks staff!

It was all smiles for the annual Field Day at ArcWorks! There were so many activities from indoor activities such as sand art and karaoke to outside lawn games such as bowling and ladder golf. One of the biggest hits of the day was a balloon artist who visited and created balloon animals for anyone who wanted one or multiple creations!

Everyone enjoyed a special lunch of homemade ziti before heading outside for the egg races. Some of the eggs were real so it was a funny surprise when one would drop and crack open. We had an egg-ccellent time racing and cheering other racers on.

After the egg races everyone got to celebrate the day with cake and cookies! ArcWorks once again put together a wonderful and eventful day!



LOOKING FORWARD

Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power!

OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with The Starthrower Group, our RevUp mission is well underway! We have had a lot of great community events, guest speakers, and contests that are helping to increase awareness and accessibility to voting information! Please reach out to Scott Feltes if you have any questions about RevUp or would like more information!



Tricky Tray 2024

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Due to some licensing issues we have had to postpone the event to Saturday, December 7th! Tickets go on sale as soon as we get the license back, so mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!



Sensory Room for ArcWorks

CURRENT FUNDRAISING PROJECT

News from our Fundraising Department! We are very excited to announce a new big fundraising project, creating a sensory room for ArcWorks. We have recently released an Amazon Wishlist for anyone to donate an item to our Day Program for the Sensory Room. Scan the QR Code to the right to see our wishlist!

[Click here to view the wishlist!](#)



Social Media Presence

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US!

Be sure to check out our website archunterdon.org for more information. Follow us on our social media platforms to see all that we are up to and stay engaged with us! We love highlighting the incredible individuals we support.



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