

# WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Letter from John Whitehead,

*CEO of The Arc of Warren County*



On November 21st we will be holding our celebratory gala, **70 Years of Excellence**, at Panther Valley Golf and Country Club.

It is hard to imagine that what started as a handful of courageous parents joining together to advocate for their children has grown into what The Arc of Warren County is today: a thriving advocacy and service agency that annually supports more than 1,100 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

For another perspective, our first annual contract with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities was about \$50,000. Today we offer a wide array of services for infants, children and adults with a budget that eclipses 15 million dollars!

We have been blessed to have many wonderful staff that have been a driving force in this growth.

Equally important is the Warren County community. As a non-profit agency, the funds that we earn from our services often fall far short of what is required to provide the services that are needed. Therefore, we need to solicit additional funds from individuals, businesses, and other organizations in and around Warren County.

Unlike more urban counties, Warren County is not the home to many large businesses with extensive resources.

Despite this, I am always amazed by the benevolence

and generosity of our community. Without this support, much of what we do would be impossible.

Even more impressive is that these same individuals and entities also support the many other worthy non-profits in the county.

When I attend various dinners and fundraisers, I see the same people time and time again, who show their commitment by supporting the community. It is a great privilege to be part of Warren County where so many give selflessly to help others.

So, as we commemorate **70 Years of Excellence**, we share this success with the many people and businesses who have supported our mission on a regular basis.

The Arc of Warren County is truly grateful to all of you, and we will continue to do everything in our power to be worthy of your support.

## Letter from Annamaria Lalevee,

Chief Development & Communications Officer



The Development & Communications Department has been brisk with activity. Our summer and fall events have been successfully executed and at press time we are working diligently to finalize our final events of the gala details.

For the first time in ten years, The Arc of Warren County will be hosting a Gala to celebrate the

organization's 70th anniversary on November 21, 2024, at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club. What a milestone!

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the award recipients this year. They are as follows:

Coach Jim Dailey and Lafayette Swim Team will be receiving the *Legacy of Friendship Award*

Kelly Milazzo of Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation will be receiving the *Legacy of Impact Award*

Merrill Creek Conservation & Sportsmen Association will be receiving the *Legacy of Serenity Award*

Thomas Seiple will be receiving the *Legacy of Benevolence Award* (posthumously)

I am pleased to be able to share the following upcoming events for 2025:

**March 8, 2025** - Mini-Carnival with Hackettstown High School Key Club & The Arc of Warren County

**May 1, 2025** - The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Radiothon with WRNJ

**May 31, 2025** - The 6th Annual Food Truck Fest with Donaldson Farms

**July 19, 2025** - TRI Mountain Sprint Triathlon with DASH Multisport

Our Annual Appeal will also focus on the organization's 70 Years of Excellence.

Please join us in celebrating!

## In Memory of Jeff Hill

Members of The Arc of Warren County community would like to thank the Hill family for encouraging their friends and family to donate to The Arc Foundation in memory of Jeff Hill. He is greatly missed by those who knew him at The Arc, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and colleagues.

Jeff owned and operated his own business J. Hill Carpentry. Jeff's knowledge of Carpentry and historic preservation was significant. He never had to

advertise, his work was impeccable, and word of mouth grew his business rapidly.

Jeff and his crew at J. Hill Carpentry worked on countless projects throughout our organization, including the complete renovation of our newly opened group home on Jonestown Road that was completed earlier this summer.

Jeff's kind and generous spirit uplifted those around him. An avid supporter of The Arc of Warren County, Jeff received

the Distinguished Service Provider Award in 2022 at the Agency's annual Community Excellence Awards.

A donation of \$10,000 was made in Jeff's memory by an anonymous benefactor to name J. Hill Carpentry as the Platinum Sponsor at The Arc of Warren County's 70th Anniversary Gala.

We are deeply grateful to honor Jeff and his lasting impact on our organization at this event.



## Meet Olivia Pannullo:

*Recipient of the "Kevin Guyette Mover and Shaker Award" from Hackettstown Rotary Club*

Hackettstown Rotary Club awards the Kevin Guyette Mover and Shaker Award each year. The scholarship is named after the memory of Kevin Guyette, longtime Arc Foundation Executive Director and Hackettstown Rotary Club member, who passed away in 2018.

This year Olivia Pannullo was selected by her guidance counselor Kristen Sarte. This scholarship is awarded to a Warren County Technical School graduating senior who will be pursuing trade school, two-year college, or directly entering the workforce to begin their chosen profession. The recipient is recognized as demonstrating proficiency in organized and informal peer leadership and has been active in community service.

They are recognized as an enthusiastic motivator among their peers, a person who values integrity and loyalty to their cause and someone who is always willing to step up for tasks that will benefit others.



Olivia is a resident of Blairstown and studied Culinary Arts at Warren County Tech. "I always knew I wanted to go to Warren County Tech.," says Olivia. "It is a small community where you can focus on your area of study."

She was involved in many extracurricular activities, such as serving as Vice President for the National Honor Society. She was involved in the SkillsUSA wedding cake competition where she placed fourth.

Olivia regularly volunteered at high school events for the Key Club and the Student Government. She was also the Salutatorian for her high school. During her senior year in high school, she became ServSafe certified, which is a nationally accredited food safety program.

She also held a position at Race Farm in Blairstown. At press time, she studies baking and pastry arts at Sussex County Community College and plans to continue her studies at Johnson & Wales University.

"I am so thankful to Hackettstown Rotary Club for establishing this scholarship and that I was selected this year," says Olivia.

"I had the opportunity to learn more about Kevin Guyette at a recent Hackettstown Rotary meeting and I am honored to be the 2024 recipient of the scholarship that was named in her honor."

*70 Years of Excellence*

**A GALA CELEBRATION**





## Road Trip: From Lancaster to Woodstock and Beyond!

The Arc of Warren County took a road trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a three days and two nights in May.

The group of thirteen consumers and staff enjoyed unique cultural activities including dinner at the famous Miller's Smorgasbord, a bus tour through Lancaster's Amish country, and a horse and carriage ride through the area's scenic farmland.

In June, two consumers and two staff enjoyed a beautiful drive upstate to Woodstock, New York for a relaxing day trip as they learned about the 1969 Woodstock Music & Arts Fair.

"With the grant so far, we have taken a trip to Lancaster and a day trip to Woodstock," says Jennifer Speth, Director of Community-Based Services at The Arc of Warren County. "Everyone is already excited for what we have in store for next

spring! We are extremely grateful to be able to provide our consumers with new experiences and adventures."

Planning is underway for trips in Spring 2025, including to the Camden Aquarium, the Town of Jim Thorpe, and a Lehigh Valley IronPigs game!

Thank you so much to the Despres family for generously providing The Arc of Warren County with this opportunity.

## A Letter to Direct Support Professionals,

by Brianna Olson

The Arc of Warren County, spearheaded by the Fun Committee, celebrated Direct Support Professionals Week from September 9 through September 13.

In addition to giveaways, treats, surprise videos, and an outdoor luncheon, Brianna Olson, Program Coordinator and Fun Committee Chairperson, shared the following message to DSPs:

*"I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to the field of direct support and to all the individuals you support at The Arc of Warren County. Thank you for being there day and night for those who depend on you.*

*Your hard work is recognized for its depth and complexity. I know this firsthand, having once been a DSP myself.*

*You wear many hats—counselor, advocate, protector, and teacher. Your role demands a range of qualities: you serve selflessly, empower others, and make independent decisions that are ethical and person-centered. You embody a profession that is often misunderstood, but your commitment remains steadfast | Continue Reading on Next Page.*



## Donor Visit to Camp Warren

Camp Warren had another successful five weeks of Camp for children and adults this summer.

For the past several years, The Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation has sponsored the cost of the tee shirts for each camp season.

In addition, The Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation has also been the sponsor for our Autism Acceptance Month events that The Arc of Warren County spearheaded with Abilities of Northwest Jersey and

hosted by Warren Hills Regional High School.

Kelly Milazzo, President of The Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation, visited Camp Warren for its final week of camp, got a tour of the facility and had lunch.

Kelly is being honored at The Arc of Warren County's 70th Anniversary Gala on November 21, 2024, for her commitment to the organization with the Legacy of Impact Award.



## A Benevolent Bequest

The Arc of Warren County is extremely thankful for the generous bequest from Thomas Seiple.

Thomas' aunt, Joann Seiple, utilized The Arc of Warren County services and had a positive experience. Joann passed away in 1991. The bequest was made in his aunt's honor. The funds are earmarked for Camp Warren improvements.

"This bequest is so appreciated," says John Whitehead, CEO of The Arc of Warren County. "These funds will make such an incredible impact on the quality of our Camp experience."

Mr. Seiple will be honored with the Legacy of Benevolence Award at our 70th Anniversary Gala.

### *A Letter to Direct Support Professionals, Continued. |*

*As true advocates, you gain no personal reward beyond fulfilling your passion to protect and empower others. You are the voice for those who cannot speak for*

*themselves, offering support that ranges from daily living activities to fostering independence.*

*Your work builds relationships, maintains dignity, and enhances lives. You inspire and create meaningful*

*partnerships with those you serve, always grounded in respect and integrity.*

*Thank you for all that you do. Your dedication makes a profound difference in so many lives."*

## A Word from Trailblazer and Arc Member Kerry Wolf

The Arc of Warren County member, Kerry Wolf, is no stranger to the organization.

Last year, she received The Trailblazer Award for her leadership in the early years of our grassroots organization. She has worn many hats with the organization from volunteer, to leader, to parent.

If there is ever a need to ask about The Arc of Warren County history, Kerry Wolf is the person to consult with. Her experience with The Arc of Warren County began in 1970 as a parent when it was referred to under a previous name. It was affiliated with what is now known as The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc of The United States.

"My son, Christopher, was born with Down Syndrome and back then there were not a lot of resources for parents who had children who were born with disabilities," says Kerry. "We were a very dedicated organization with parent and community members."

At that point, Camp Warren was already established, but it was not as developed as it is today.

It featured a pool and a bathhouse.

***"Advocacy,  
Awareness,  
Action."***

Kerry mentioned that the strong support system that the organization has is as a result of three A's - Advocacy, Awareness, Action.

Her advice to parents is to get involved and stay involved. This is accomplished by becoming a member of The Arc of Warren County and renewing your membership each year.

"In early days, parents had to run our own fundraisers for programs," says Kerry. "We have come a long way."

Kerry also served The Arc of Warren County in a professional capacity. She was the part-time Executive Director initially, which evolved to a full-time position as the Agency developed new programs in residential services, early intervention and family support services from 1980 to 1985. At the time, her salary was made possible by funds from The United Way. She also served as Recreation Director for many years and served on the Board of Directors.

Her son, Chris, has been an employee at The Arc of Warren County for many years and all have come to love the Wolfs.

"Kerry Wolf has demonstrated such a huge commitment to The Arc of Warren County," says John Whitehead. "We are so thankful to have her as part of The Arc family."

We certainly are!

*Pictured are Kerry Wolf (left) and Julie Pruznick (right) at the The Arc of Warren County 2023 Community Excellence Awards held on November 16, 2023. Julie, retired Chief Compliance Officer and staff member of 41 years at the Agency, nominated and presented Kerry Wolf with the Trailblazer Award.*







## Celebrating 70 Years of Excellence:

### *The Arc of Warren County 70th Anniversary Gala*

Since 1954, The Arc of Warren County has pioneered a path toward empowerment for the people we serve and the families who support them. Community involvement has been an integral part of our organization since its founding.

In place of our annual Community Excellence Awards event, this year we are pleased to hold **70 Years of Excellence: The Arc of Warren County 70th Anniversary Gala** on Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club.

This event will honor four community partners that have made a significant impact in the lives of the people with IDD that we serve and their families.

Their individual and organizational efforts to empower and include people with IDD in the community have

created legacies of generosity and community service.

Congratulations to the following legacy builders and award recipients:

**\* Legacy of Impact:**

Kelly Milazzo, Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation

**\* Legacy of Friendship:**

Coach James Dailey and Lafayette College Swim Team

**\* Legacy of Serenity:**

Merrill Creek Conservation & Sportsmen Association

**\* Legacy of Benevolence:**

Thomas Seiple, to be honored posthumously

Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey, will emcee the event. Live entertainment will be provided by the wonderful The Grover Kemble Trio.

### *Platinum Sponsor:*



*Made Possible By Anonymous Benefactor*

Attendees will enjoy an elegant dining experience as we reflect and celebrate the progress we have made and the people who made it happen.

Thank you to all of our supporters over the last seven decades for growing The Arc of Warren County into the leading service for people with IDD and their families in our community.





## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Arc of Warren County Food Truck Fest

This is the fifth year that The Arc of Warren County had partnered with Donaldson Farms for The Arc of Warren County's Food Truck Fest.

Established in 2019, it is a family-friendly event that has something for everyone!

Thank you to Katie Donaldson, Arc Foundation Board Member, for making this event possible.

Sponsorships directly support The Arc Foundation. Thank you to the following sponsorships this year:

**Greeting Sponsor**  
Newbaker Funeral Home

**Music Sponsor**  
John Johnson Auto Group

**Hayride Sponsor**  
Enterprise Fleet Management

**Biergarten Sponsor**  
Czig Meister Brewing, LLC.

**Cooling Tent Sponsor**  
Anonymous Donor

**Friendship Plus**  
Asbury Farms Real Estate  
Connell Foley, LLC

**Friendship Sponsors**  
Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc.  
Fulton Bank  
James on Main

**Friendship Sponsors (cont.)**  
Maguire Memorial Home  
David Santini, CPA.  
The Smashed Olive  
Unity Bank  
Viking Pest Control  
Warren County Community College

**Save the Date!** The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Truck at Donaldson Farms will be held on May 31, 2025.





# Going For The Gold

## *Special Olympics New Jersey 2024 Summer Games Highlights*

From the diving boards to the running track, more than a dozen athletes representing The Arc of Warren County competed in the Special Olympics New Jersey 2024 Summer Games.

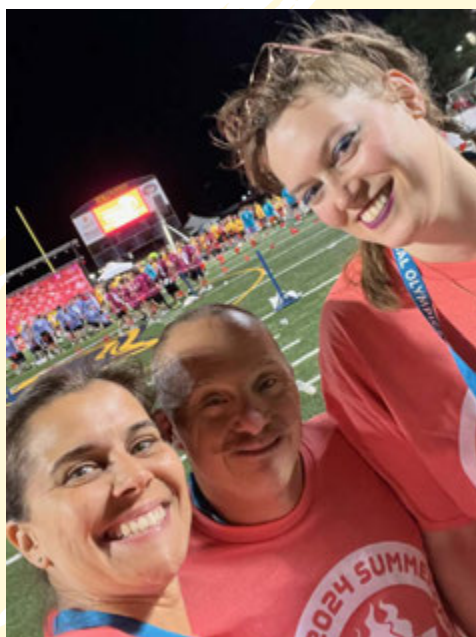
Athletes begin practicing in April and compete at local and sectional competitions to advance to the annual state Summer Games through programs offered by our Recreation Department.

This summer, The Arc of Warren County's delegation included thirteen athletes, including six swimmers and seven track and field athletes, as well as eight coaches and chaperone personnel. The Games were hosted at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ on Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9.

On Friday, almost 2,000 Special Olympics New Jersey athletes, along with thousands of spectators and volunteers, gathered for the Opening Ceremony.

The months of training, hard work and determination paid off for our athletes competing in this year's Summer Games. The Arc of Warren County athletes competed in over 25 events and received 12 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 3 Bronze medals!

Our track and field athletes did well and had a great time competing in a variety of Athletic Events including



throwing, running, and walking competitions.

Athletes won the Gold Medal in their respective divisions for the Women's 100M Dash, Men and Women's 100M Walk, Women's 200M walk, and Women's 400M walk. The Arc of Warren County team took home a total of 6 Gold medals, 3 Silver medals, and 1 Bronze medal.

The Warren Stingrays swim team competed in the 25M Freestyle, 50M Freestyle, 4x25M Freestyle Relay and 4x25M Medley Relay.

Our Relay Team took home the Gold in their division for the 4x25M Freestyle Relay with a final time of 01:18.58 and Bronze in their division for the 4x25M Medley Relay with a final time of 01:53.18! In all, the Warren Stingrays took home 6 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

The Warren Stingrays performed exceptionally well all season, in large part thanks to the guidance of Coach James Dailey and the Lafayette College Swim Team.

This partnership has continued for nearly three decades!

Coach Jim Dailey of Lafayette College and the Lafayette College Swim Team will be recognized for their volunteer service in November at The Arc of Warren County 70th Anniversary Gala.

The Arc of Warren County Recreation Department staff, volunteers, and athletes were proud to be a part of the Special Olympics New Jersey 2024 Summer Games. Their hard work and dedication certainly paid off.

Congratulations to all the SONJ Summer Games Athletes!



## Gift-in-Kind Donations Make a Difference:

### A Focus on The Arc of Warren County's Triathlon Food Sponsors

Everyone loves participating in events, such as our annual TRI Mountain Lake Sprint Triathlon with DASH Multisport. Sponsorships are an important part of any event, especially this one. We are so thankful to our sponsors that support this event.

This year, we had the following businesses sponsor this event and we even bundled sponsorships with Food Truck Fest. Thank you to our TRI Sponsors, including:

#### Gold Sponsor

Newbaker Funeral Home

#### Silver Sponsors

A&A Foot and Ankle Specialists  
Feet N' Beyond of New Jersey  
Sanico, Inc.  
St. Luke's University Health Network

#### Bronze Sponsors

Crunch Fitness  
David A. Santini CPA, LLC\*  
Hop & Vine Liquor  
Hunterdon Medical Center  
Preferred Business Systems  
Valley Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Lawn Sprinklers, LLC  
Warren County Community College\*

#### Friendship Sponsors

Abilities of Northwest Jersey\*  
Blackstone Bar & Grill  
Flowerland Growers  
Lakeland Logistics  
Maguire-Scala Memorial Home  
Terranova's Pizzeria  
Unity Bank

\*Denotes Summer Bundle Sponsor

We would be remiss, however, not to mention our food sponsors who help eliminate the cost of having to purchase nourishment for our triathletes!

#### PrimoHoagies of Hackettstown

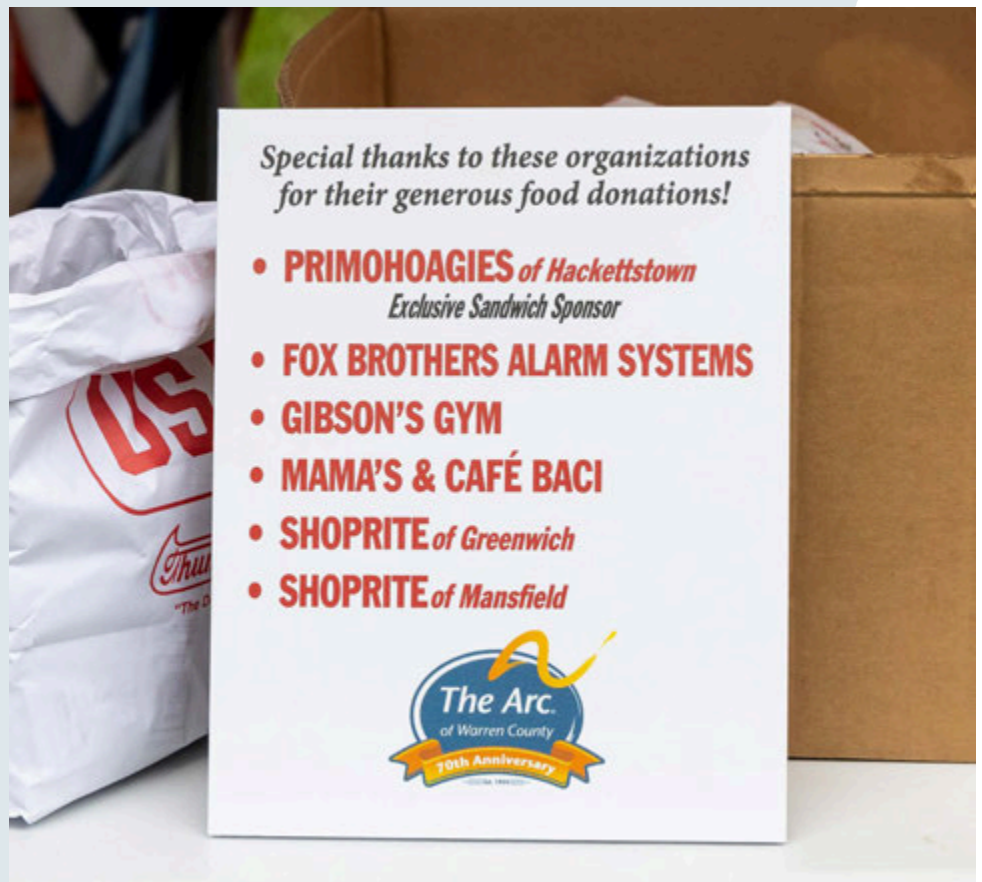
donated over \$1,200 worth of sandwiches for all our participants. This lessened the burden of securing hoagies from multiple sources. Thank you to Ryan Dougherty, owner of the Hackettstown location, for this generous gift-in-kind.

#### Mama's & Café Baci in

Hackettstown donated a pasta platter and **ShopRite of Greenwich** provided gift cards to purchase food and water.



**Save The Date!** The 2025 TRI Mountain Lake Sprint Triathlon will be held on July 19, 2025.







## The Arc of Warren County's Golf Classic

Seventy-five golfers enjoyed The Arc of Warren County's Golf Classic on September 16, 2024, at Hawk Pointe Golf Club. The weather could not have been better, and the course was pristine.

Thank you to Norman Worth of WRNJ Radio for emceeding this event once again. Thank you to all of the organizations and individuals who sponsored this year's event!

**Platinum Sponsor**  
KPM Logistics Partners, Inc

**Gold Sponsors**  
Newbaker Funeral Home, Inc.  
Nisivoccia, LLP

**Silver Sponsors**  
Gallaghers Plumbing & Heating  
Otterstedt Insurance Agency  
J. Hill Carpentry & Construction  
George Salamy In Loving  
Memory of Barbara Salamy  
WRNJ Radio, Inc.

**Bronze Sponsor**  
Robyn Jensen, CFP®, AAMS™ and  
Erin Madonna of Edward Jones

**BBQ Plus Sponsor**  
Anonymous Donor

**BBQ Sponsors**  
Blue Ridge Lumber  
Assured Partners  
Connell Foley  
June Cooper  
Atlantic Health Systems-  
Hackettstown Medical Center  
Unity Bank

Petty's Tire & Auto Center  
John & Peggy Post

**Tee Sign Sponsors**  
Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc.  
AmeriHealth  
Cochran Funeral Home  
The Collinson Family  
Czig Meister Brewery, LLC.  
Frederick Butcher & Company  
Fulton Bank  
Good Impressions Print  
Communications  
LPL Financial Services  
Max Spann Auctions Company  
Jim Sheldon, Realtor™  
Sanico, Inc.  
Terranova's Pizzeria  
Visions Federal Credit Union

**Keep an eye out for  
information about next year's  
Golf Classic!**



**Thank you for supporting The Arc of Warren County through your annual membership each year! Together, we are making the world a more inclusive place for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**



**Follow Us for Events, News & More!**

Facebook @ArcWarrenNJ

Instagram @arcnjwarren

LinkedIn @ArcWarrenNJ

319 West Washington Ave  
PO Box 389  
Washington, New Jersey 07882

**arcwarren.org**