The first agency wide Family Picnic in many years took place last fall at the Loretta & Julius Krauklis Center in Flanders. Despite a misty and cloud filled morning, over 250 people were on hand when the bright sun shone on an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Organized by the Recreation and Residential Departments of the agency, the free event was underwritten by several lodges of the Free and Accepted Masons. Providing and serving all of the food and refreshments was an incredible contribution. Assistant Executive Director Ann Espada noted that, “The effort on the part of the Masons was just amazing. Their quiet and understated contribution to the event made it the huge success that it was.”

Along with the delicious barbeque food, the festive atmosphere of bright tablecloths and balloons adorning the tables made for a beautiful setting. A DJ provided dance music that brought the crowd to their feet throughout the three hour event. In addition to a number of games and activities, a photo booth provided...
CONT. from front page > consumers, families and staff with various props to make for a great souvenir to remember a fabulous day.

But the highlight was definitely the faces of so many consumers upon seeing their parents and family members joining in on the fun. A photograph of virtually the entire group says it all! The photo is reminiscent of past agency wide consumer and family events celebrating various milestones at The Arc/Morris Chapter.

In these challenging times, the Family Picnic was a reminder of just how well we continue to care, support and advance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
Cascioli Elected President

Long time board member Katherine Cascioli was elected President of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting held earlier this year.

Originally elected to the board in 2011, Katherine’s roots in the organization run deep. Her mother served as an employee in the After Care Program when it was originally housed at our former center at the College of St. Elizabeth’s in Convent Station back in the mid-1990s. Deanna Cascioli’s passion for the consumers she served had a huge impact on her daughter.

Not long after her mother’s passing, Katherine’ good friend, former board President Kathleen Ingargiola, suggested she consider serving on the board. In addition to the family connections, her experience in Special Education made her an outstanding candidate to help govern the organization. And she hasn’t let anyone down!

Carefully preparing for every meeting, Katherine quickly earned the trust and respect of her fellow board members. In 2014, she began serving as First Vice-President under Wendy Utberg, who completed her third and final term as President in June.

Katherine is very confident in the direction the board continues to take with the organization, indicating, “While we continue to assure accountability in the day to day operations, the real challenge lies in making sure that our future is sound”. She goes on to say, “The changes underway in our major state funding source truly represent a paradigm shift. It is essential that we position for the fee for service system and not compromise all that we have accomplished in our rich history.”

With Katherine at the helm of the board of directors, we have every confidence that our future will be as bright as our past.

Katherine loves teaching her cherished students, reading, walking, cooking, the New York Yankees and spending time with family and friends. She resides in Towaco with her cherished pug, Lola.

Karanja Wins Jessie Rosenberg Award

The Annual Jessie Rosenberg Employee of the Year Award was presented to Joseph M. Karanja, a Skill Instructor at the Morristown Group Home.

Originally hired in August, 2009, Joseph began his career at the old St. Elizabeth’s Center and then moved to the Hanover program. Although he resigned his full time position and became a per diem employee in 2011, he soon returned to full time status at that same Hanover site.

In March, 2016, Joseph transferred to his current assignment. However, like many of our finest employees, he has filled in at multiple locations. Joseph has served the organization in three separate day program locations, as well as six of our residential sites in his nearly eight years with the organization.

During the award presentation, Joseph was heralded for always going above and beyond, meeting deadlines, and always being willing to help in whatever way necessary. His focused, calm and attentive demeanor draws the consumers to him and he serves as an incredible mentor for new employees.

In receiving his award, Joseph acknowledged his past work in engineering, but noted that working with machines just isn’t the same! His obvious love for the work is reflected in a commitment to excellence that truly embodies this much deserved recognition.

Recognizing Service

The single most important component to quality service is our workforce. Each year, The Arc/Morris Chapter recognizes our employee’s length of service by celebrating five year increments up to an individual’s 25th year with the organization.

This year’s event took place at the Krauklis Center and recognized 34 employees across the five milestones.

The three staff reaching their 25th year in the organization included Rebecca Harvey, Manager at the Horsehill Road Group Home, Craig Lang, Supervisor of Property, and Peter Murphy, Associate Executive Director.

Fall Membership Meeting Features Support Coordination

On Wednesday, November 15, our Fall Membership Meeting featured a presentation by Jennifer Joyce from the state Division of Developmental Disabilities. She provided an overview of Support Coordination, a key component of the new Medicaid fee for service system that is currently beginning to fund the adult service system. A number of agencies that provide the service in Morris County toured the Krauklis Center before the meeting and were on hand with literature concerning their services for those in attendance.
Online Donations
You can make online donations now through PayPal on our website (www.arcmorris.org). Just click the Donate Now tab under the How to Help section.

Car Donation Program
We are pleased to remind members and friends of The Arc/Morris that we have partnered with the Charity Car Donation Center to operate and manage our car donation program. Since the program started, we have received many generous donations of vehicles to support our programs and services. We are happy to accept donations of your used cars, vans or trucks, all of which are tax deductible.

To donate your car, please call 1-877-ARC-CAR0

Matching Gifts
Your donation to The Arc/Morris can be matched if your company participates in a Matching Gift Program. Check with your Human Resources Department to see if your donation qualifies for a matching gift.

Memorial Donations
Honor the memory of a loved one with a donation to The Arc/Morris. Please remember us in your wills and trusts.

United Way Contributors
If your company participates in the United Way, please designate your gift for The Arc/Morris. Our agency identifier number of 003864 must be included as well as our address of P.O. Box 123, Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Thanks to our many supporters for their continued participation.

AmazonSmile Program
Smile.amazon.com is an easy way to support our programs and services! When signing up, please select The Arc/Morris to receive donations from eligible purchases. Visit their website for more information.

Combined Federal Campaign
We are pleased to announce that we are eligible again this year for the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign of Northern NJ. This campaign is for Federal employees. CFC donors should use 15788 to designate their contribution to The Arc/Morris.

For more information, please contact The Arc/Morris at (973) 326-9750.