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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GRAND OPENING OF THE ARC, OCEAN COUNTY CHAPTER BILL BURKE WELLNESS CENTER**

**October 28, 2021 (Lakewood, NJ):** The Arc, Ocean County Chapter remembered longtime resident and friend William “Bill” Burke at the grand opening of the Bill Burke Wellness Center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Family, friends and members of the Ocean County community came together on Thursday, October 28th at The Arc’s Adult Training Center in Lakewood, NJ to unveil a new gymnasium featuring a basketball court, fitness equipment, sound system, and more.

Bill Burke was an all-around athlete who participated in Special Olympics, coached bowling, and loved to dance. He was a devoted fan of the NY Yankees and hometown team Jersey Shore BlueClaws. Bill was one-of-a-kind, enthusiastic, vibrant and always the comedian.

“Returning to NJ and being with The Arc community helped remind us what a happy life Bill lived among you all,” his brother Brian Burke shared before the ribbon cutting ceremony. “Our family is so grateful for the opportunity you provided for us to honor and remember Bill.”

His legacy will live on through the Bill Burke Wellness Center, sponsored by a memorial fund in his honor from family and friends. Visit [www.arcocean.org](http://www.arcocean.org) to donate to the Wellness Center.

### **About The Arc, Ocean County Chapter**

The Arc, Ocean County Chapter, Inc. was established in 1955 with the mission to advocate, provide opportunities and supports necessary for all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be accepted and valued as citizens of the communities in which they choose to live, learn, work and play. Today, the chapter serves more than 1,500 individuals and families through housing programs, job training and employment opportunities, family support and recreation activities.



*The Bill Burke Wellness Center ribbon cutting at The Arc, Ocean County Chapter Adult Training Center in Lakewood, NJ on October 28, 2021.*