

December 1, 2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Arc, Ocean County Chapter serves many roles for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community. We're a cozy space to call home, a familiar face to talk to, a night out with friends, a helping hand to navigate services, and an opportunity to discover a dream job. We strive to provide the programs and services people with disabilities will need throughout their lifetime to achieve their goals and live full and productive lives.

**We need your support to help us fulfill the goals and dreams of people with disabilities at The Arc, Ocean County Chapter with an end of year gift.**



### *Say Hello to Annie*

*Annie is a 2011 graduate of Brick Memorial High School and joined the Journeys and Discovery day program in 2013. She loves attending program and interacting with her co-workers and supervisors. She is a role model to her friends, showcasing her independence and advocating for herself. Since joining The Arc, Annie has found a job with the Jersey Shore BlueClaws and hopes to one day be an Administrative Assistant. She's developing her office skills by practicing phone etiquette, photo copying, and filing with staff who call her the "Clerical Queen."*

The Arc is proud to offer extensive programs and support services for 67 years in Ocean County that promote value, respect and acceptance to individuals with IDD. Our goal is to continue to grow with our families, to meet the needs of our constituents, and create innovative programming for a bright future. The pandemic forced us to rethink our services, through capacity limitations and virtual learning, we found ourselves always looking to our community-based options as the path for the next generation.

### *Phil's Point of View*

*Phil joined The Arc's Employment Supports Trial Work Experience (TWE) program and found amazing growth and confidence week after week with his job coach encouraging him every step of the way. After completing the program he worked with the staff to assist with his job search, complete applications, and prepare for interviews. His job hunt was a success and now is employed in a job that is a great fit for his skills and special needs. "During TWE, I was able to develop into someone who was ready to join the workforce," said Phil, "I am very grateful to The Arc of Ocean County for all they have done to support my professional growth."*



Strengthening the skills for productive employment for people with disabilities through job training and career development is an important part of The Arc's Vocational Services program model. Every participant at The Arc has unique goals and requirements to meet their individual needs and we aim to provide that person-centered level of support. Sometimes that means we must reevaluate and establish new programs to reach the next step to community employment.

### *Meet Xenia*

*Xenia has been employed with the Arc Employment Center for seven years earning a paycheck for her assembly skills and janitorial work with the Cleaning Crew at the local DMV and Trader's Cove. This year, Xenia joined the PASSE program, Pathways to Achieving Successful Supported Employment, where she received additional training and learned a variety of new skills for a referral to Supported Employment or Trial Work Experience. Xenia is a dedicated employee who loves to keep busy, and hopes to find a cleaning job in the hospitality industry.*



The Arc, Ocean County Chapter provides a lifetime of programs and support services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the days of high school transition services to the golden years of retirement. Our Adult Training Centers can be the beginning of career development or a space to socialize and stay active with compassionate care and engaging direct support staff.



### *Introducing Didi*

*Edith, lovingly known as Didi, is a resident of our Pier 3 Group Home and attends the North Bay ATC. She has lived an exciting life at 64 years old, working many different jobs in the restaurant industry over the years as a dishwasher, busser, hostess and cook at Perkins, Farmingdale House, Driftwood Restaurant and others. Didi also had experience working alongside her mother, whom she is very close to, as a secretary for the Metro Association and now-a-days helps the staff at NBATC with hole punching and filing documents. Didi really enjoys arts and crafts, building castles with blocks, coloring, and community outings with her peers.*

**Your thoughtful donation this giving season to The Arc, Ocean County Chapter means a lifetime of support services for people with disabilities.**

As another year closes, we reflect on the incredible support of our community, the heart and dedication of our staff, and the wonderful new friends and partners we have met along the way. We are grateful for you and appreciate your unwavering commitment to the individuals with disabilities we support at The Arc, Ocean County Chapter. Your loved ones are why we are here, and we will continue to be here supporting people with disabilities for generations to come.

Wishing you and yours a very warm and happy holiday season!

Laura Williams, Executive Director

Visit [www.arcocean.org](http://www.arcocean.org) to donate to the 2022 Annual Appeal online!