

The Arc Gloucester's History



- **1957** - The Arc Gloucester was incorporated in 1957 under then President, Robert H. Weir. The unit launched a program to help adults with intellectual and related developmental disabilities, 16 participants found vocational training. The unit also co-sponsored a home training program to provide sick care for member's children.
- **1960** - The unit entered an agreement with the Camden County Office of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to transport clients to sheltered workshops in South Jersey.
- **1961** - A two-week summer camp was offered at the American Legion Home in Woodbury. A two-week long swim program for youngsters with intellectual and related developmental disabilities was held at the Raccoon Valley Swim Club.
- **1964** - The unit was one of seven sponsoring agencies of the Occupational Center of Gloucester County (later renamed the Abilities Center).
- **1966** - The unit hired William Thurston as its first executive director and opened an office at 39 Cooper Street in Woodbury.
- **1968** - Camp Sun 'N Fun opened in Williamstown, offering two weeks of residential camping and four weeks of day camping.
- **1972** - The unit opened Hessian House, its first group home, in Woodbury, as a state pilot project.
- **1975** - The unit changed its name to the New Jersey Association for Retarded Citizens - Gloucester County Unit.
- **1976** - For the first time Camp Sun 'N Fun offered eight weeks of camping for residential camping.
- **1980** - In a show of solidarity for the national movement, the unit changed its name to The Arc Gloucester County.
- **1987** - The seventh group home, Herbert House, in Monroe Township opened.
- **1988** - Camp Sun 'N Fun expanded with the purchase of 10 acres adjacent to the north side of the camp. The purchase was possible with the help of a \$10,000 grant from Commerce Bank.
- **1989** - The Olympic-sized Jerry Campbell Pool was built at the camp with private donations and support from the Mobil Foundation. Jerry's dad, Mobil's Bill Campbell, was a major Arc supporter.
- **1990** - Mike Carlin, after 16 years with the unit, succeeded Marge Hull as Executive Director.
- **1996** - Following Arc-US, the local unit adopted the trade name, The Arc Gloucester.
- **1996** - The annual golf tournament was taken over by former Glassboro Mayor, Bill Dalton, whose efforts immediately tripled proceeds for Camp Sun 'N Fun.
- **1997** - Assistant Executive Director, Ana Rivera, followed Mike Carlin as Executive Director.
- **2001** - The Arc Radio show started and continues today.
- **2003** - The Arc TV show debuts.
- **2005** - Mobile Dental services started at the Chestnut Ridge ATS in partnership with the New Jersey Foundation of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities.
- **2006** - The North Main group home opened, serving four women from the community waiting list.
- **2007** - The unit was qualified as a service provider for the Olmstead Initiative for the transition of individuals from developmental centers to the community.
- **2009** - The Arc Gloucester is awarded a 3-year, \$100,000 grant from The Arc US through the Walmart Foundation for 'School to Community Transition' services. The Arc will be collaborating with Gloucester County Adult Center for Transition (GC-ACT) on this project.
- **2010** - The Arc Gloucester opened Sunshine Inn on the grounds of Camp Sun 'N Fun.
- **2012** - The Arc Gloucester celebrated Camp Sun 'N Fun's 50th anniversary.
- **2013** - Contracted services for children under the age of 21 with developmental disabilities were transferred to the Department of Children and Families effective January 1, 2013. This change required restructuring of our In-home Respite, Saturday Drop Off and Inclusive Recreation programs.
- **2016** - A ballroom dancing program began in collaboration with Gene LaPierre's Ballroom Dancing for a Better U Foundation.
- **2017** - The Arc Gloucester celebrated its 60th anniversary with a Gala held on April 29, 2017. Four acres of land was purchased from Monroe Township on June 23, 2016 for \$100.00. The land is contiguous to the existing Camp Sun 'N Fun property.
- **2018** - The official groundbreaking for The Arc Gloucester's newest group home located on East Avenue in Glassboro was held on March 27th. The house will be home to four men with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **2020** - Ana Rivera, executive director, retired after 28 years of service to The Arc Gloucester. Jake Jones began as CEO of The Arc Gloucester in January 2020.
- **2021** - Lisa Conley became Chief Executive Officer in April 2021.
- **2023** - The Arc Gloucester's Community Inclusion program, Achieve with Friends began