

# The Arc of Monmouth's 2008 Annual Report

*The mission of The Arc of Monmouth is to improve the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. This is accomplished through advocacy, services and supports, cooperation with community partners and community education. The Arc of Monmouth also works to prevent the causes and effects of intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

You will read in this annual report of Fiscal Year 2008 (FY 2008), quotes from served individuals and family members expressing their happiness and satisfaction with The Arc of Monmouth and the services it provides to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families. You will see how lives have been improved through the services provided by The Arc.

You will read about individuals who obtained jobs, learned a new skill, received therapy, enjoyed trips and special events and overcame fears. With each step, big or small, another life was enhanced, improved ... made more enjoyable.

## Adult Services

*"John\* seems to enjoy himself. He comes home looking happy and says he enjoys his day."*

*"Paul\* is very happy with his job and current staff. He has never been happier. Thank you."*

**-Parents of individuals served by Adult Services**  
*\*Name changed.*

The Adult Services department operates five adult training centers funded by the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and four cleaning crews. The centers and crews provide work and volunteer opportunities for served persons, as well as skill-building, social and recreational activities. This department also oversees the daily transportation for the agency.

The centers' main focus is community integration whether it be through volunteerism, outings, trips or jobs. Activities during the year included delivering Meals on Wheels, contract work, Arc sponsored Self Advocacy Groups, the Proud to be Safe Group and music groups. Exercise and cooking groups were held, which not only provide social interaction, but teach daily living skills. Some individuals took trips to zoos and the Algonquin Theater, attended monthly movies with Search Day program, went shopping and attended seasonal events throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

An "Arc Idol" competition was hosted

by this department, allowing served individuals to display a myriad of talent. In addition, some individuals caroled at a retirement center and joined in advocacy efforts for increased Casino Revenue funding for transportation.

## Employment Services

*"I am very happy working at Express and thank you to The Arc of Monmouth for all the services they provided for me. This program helped me out a lot because I needed services that I can't provide for myself like getting a job. I was assigned a job coach, who helps me with questions and preparing for interviews and other stuff."*

**-Individual served by Employment Services**

The Employment Services Department helps individuals with developmental disabilities work in the community. During FY 2008, the department provided two employment services programs, one afternoon respite program, Access Link Assessment Services and the Red Horse Art Gallery.

The department celebrated their first annual "Mentor Day", acknowledging the mentors of served individuals in the workplace. The art gallery at the Freehold Arc Resources Unlimited location that exhibits art created by individuals with disabilities was deemed the "Red Horse Gallery" at its one-year anniversary reception. Due to a grant received from the

Monmouth County Arts Council, the gallery added some evening and weekend hours, increasing The Arc's visibility in the community and allowing more people to view and purchase the beautiful art.

In FY 2008 fourteen individuals were placed in new community employment, and 34 replacements were made. The department actively worked with 143 individuals in employment during the fiscal year. Sixteen attended the afternoon respite drop off program.

## Dorothy B. Hersh High School

*"The teachers and staff at Hersh High taught me a lot and encouraged me to do my best. I had a lot of community experiences and learned a lot at Hersh High."*

**-2007 Graduate**

The Dorothy B. Hersh High School is a fully accredited private school for students with developmental disabilities who are between the ages of 14 and 21. It operates from classrooms at the Arc Center in Tinton Falls.

Hersh High continued its emphasis on preparing students for life outside the walls of the school by teaching life skills and preparing them for employment. Eleven employers gave job opportunities to students on their quest to adulthood. In addition to outside employment and curriculum academics, students learn home economics and community awareness.