

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Arc of Atlantic County Opens New Computer Learning Center**

**May 13, 2016 – Egg Harbor Township, NJ:** In August, 2015, the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust awarded The Arc of Atlantic County \$12,000 in grant funding to create a new computer learning center for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust supports charitable organizations by strategically focusing funding to respond to the ever-changing needs of various segments of the population, especially the needs of youth and people who are disadvantaged either physically or economically.

The grant funding allowed The Arc to upgrade their existing computer learning center with up to date technology and equipment including personal computers, laptops, tablets and a smart board. The center offers people with I/DD in Atlantic County improved access to technology in a comfortable, accessible environment. In addition, The Arc designed and developed a computer training program that offers different and varied learning opportunities for people with I/DD.

On May 5, 2016, Valerie Mackie, a Trustee from The John Ben Snow Foundation, attended the opening of the new center, *“I was very impressed by what I have seen and what has been achieved by The Arc of Atlantic County with our funding”*. *This venture represents exactly the type of project that our Trust wants to support, it is unique, innovative and is improving the life experiences and choices of some of the most disadvantaged people living in our communities.”*

Pat Jones, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Atlantic County said, *“I would like to extend my deepest thanks and gratitude to the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust on behalf of the people and the families that The Arc of Atlantic County serves. The financial support given to us from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust has greatly assisted us in our work to improve the computer skills of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The skills learned are critical in supporting the people we serve to improve their employment prospects, recreational opportunities, and educational needs”*.

### **About The Arc of Atlantic County**

The Arc of Atlantic County works to improve the lives of people with I/DD in our community. Through direct services, advocacy, education and prevention activities, we work in partnership with individuals and their families to make choices possible about how and where they live, learn, play and work. The Arc of Atlantic County serves nearly 800 individuals and their families annually and is accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership.

**Note: The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.**

**###**

**HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**



The Arc of Atlantic County's, Lynn Lippert of Galloway Township provides training using the new "Smart Boards" funded by the John Ben Snow Foundation Grant.



People The Arc serve attending computer training at the new training center; use the newly funded computers provided The John Ben Snow Foundation.



Pictured from left to right are Scott Hennis, COO, The Arc of Atlantic County, of Ventnor; Valerie MacFie, Trustee of John Ben Snow Memorial Trust and The Arc of Atlantic County CEO, Pat Jones, of Galloway Township.