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Guests Give Wings to The 2015 MonArc Awards **Event Raises \$65,000 to Benefit The Arc's Programs**

Egg Harbor Township, NJ – *April 16, 2015* – Like a monarch butterfly, the symbol of The Arc of Atlantic County's signature fundraising event, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are on a journey of transformation, requiring the right conditions to reach their greatest potential. Those conditions are often enhanced by support from agencies like The Arc, and the generosity of those who donate to support programs that enrich their lives. That was the inspiration behind The Arc of Atlantic County's **2015 MonArc Awards** dinner, held April 10th at the Carriage House in Galloway, NJ.

The Arc's CEO Mike David-Wilson said, "**The MonArc Awards** is an opportunity to celebrate individuals and corporate citizens who go above and beyond to make life better for people with developmental disabilities. It's also an opportunity to honor someone we serve for having the courage and determination to truly embrace life's opportunities and achieve her greatest potential."

The MonArc Awards: 'Celebrating Those Who Give Our Mission Wings' featured a red carpet photo opportunity for each guest; cocktail reception, craft brew sampling, elaborate silent and chance auctions loaded with overnight stays, restaurant gift certificates, and even a 32" flat screen Smart TV donated by Art Handler Appliance Center, Guests also enjoyed live music by Stockton University Faculty Band, Jazz Subset; an awards presentation; and a powerful video presentation by A-PIX Imagery about each of **the 2015 MonArc Award** winners. Each award winner received a special message of congratulations from someone important to them in each video. Chick Pinto, Executive Vice President of Cape Bank and Board member of the event's presenting sponsor, CapeBank Charitable Foundation, served as emcee. The event raised more than \$65,000 to benefit The Arc's programs that impact more than 780 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families each year. Approximately 170 guests were in attendance.

About the Honorees

The MonArc Butterfly Award – Danny Philippi, Life Time Achiever Just like the monarch butterfly, the people we support are on a unique journey, testing their wings and soaring to new heights **The MonArc Butterfly Award** honors the personal courage in those we serve who are actively engaged in their personal journey... transforming, emerging and achieving their full potential. This year's deserving recipient of our **MonArc Butterfly Award** is Danny Philippi, a young man who has achieved many accomplishments and continues to strive to reach his dreams. Danny is a high school graduate from Egg Harbor Township, and he has also attained two degrees: a Bachelor's Degree in communications from Stockton University and an Associate's Degree from Atlantic Cape Community College. While attaining these degrees, he worked hard at his job at the Sports Authority in Mays Landing. Danny has a keen interest in becoming a sports statistician. Additionally, he began a second job with his high school alma mater assisting with their football game statistics, now for their 5th season together. August 2014, Danny was recognized for his dedication, passion, and achievement by Assemblyman Vincent Mazzeo and Senator Jim Whelan. Along with his accomplishments in school and work, Danny was also the

winner of the Gold Medal for Golf at the Special Olympics 2014 USA Summer Games. He is known for his amazing tee shots and continues to show off his skills at golf competitions, including, The Arc's ***Golfing for Good Tournament***.

The MonArc Citizenship Award – Michael Charlton, President and CEO of Icon Hospitality The Arc of Atlantic County has chosen Michael Charlton as recipient of our ***MonArc Citizenship Award***. Michael Charlton is the President and CEO of Icon Hospitality. Icon Hospitality serves as an enthusiastic employer of individuals in The Arc's Supportive Employment Program. By providing employment and job sampling opportunities, Michael helps secure their futures. Michael Charlton has said, "If these employees do not succeed, it is our failure - not theirs." All of Icon's employees are treated with respect and dignity, which they pass on to one another and to their patrons. These employees have worked in four of five companies under the umbrella of Icon Hospitality. Icon Hospitality always welcomes employees we recommend to them. They give each of these employees the opportunity to be productive, gain self-respect, and most importantly, to be treated like a valued member of the team.

Michael has empowered his team to be creative and proactive in providing opportunities for our consumers. Michael Charlton has also served as a long-time supporter of The Arc of Atlantic County. He provides space for our meetings and retreats along with assisting in fundraising, recreational programs, and our holiday dances.

The MonArc Corporate Citizenship Award – Stockton University Stockton University has been a long time partner of The Arc of Atlantic County. The University donated a beautiful mural for our multipurpose room. It helped brighten the room for the children and other service recipients who use it and provides an inspiration to all who view it. Stockton University has also partnered with The Arc of Atlantic County in many ways, including: providing case management interns, numerous programs including ***GetFit***, in partnership with their Physical Therapy students, and ***Life Skills*** sessions to teach skills to help consumers live the lives they choose. These programs allow the people we support to learn about nutrition, begin to exercise, and check their weight and blood pressure. Stockton University was also an original partner in our day camp, which allows children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to go to an integrated day camp with extra support through The Arc of Atlantic County. Additionally, Stockton provides numerous volunteers and interns with significant hours of service annually making an incredible impact. They work hand in hand with our residents and have continuously contributed in many ways over the years. Stockton University is consumer driven and provides significant support to help keep the adults and children at The Arc healthy and happy.

About The Arc of Atlantic County

The Arc of Atlantic County is a member-supported nonprofit organization that has been making a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since its founding in 1961. The Arc is one of more than 700 state and local chapters across the country working on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the course of their lifetimes. In 2013 The Arc of the United States was recognized as the number one national not-for-profit serving persons with disabilities. Through direct supports, advocacy, education and prevention initiatives, The Arc works in partnership with individuals and their families to provide them with as many choices as possible about how and where they live learn work and play.

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