



Helping people with developmental disabilities in our community

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Partner Agency



**THE NATIONAL INCLUSION PROJECT PARTNERS WITH THE ARC OF ATLANTIC COUNTY TO CREATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**April 12, 2010** – *Egg Harbor Township, NJ* — The National Inclusion Project has partnered with The Arc of Atlantic County to implement Let's ALL Play—Inclusion in Recreational Programs. The partnership will allow three additional children with developmental disabilities to enjoy a successful summer camp experience in an inclusive setting. As part of this initiative, the National Inclusion Project will provide a program model, training, expertise, and an award of **\$13,000**.

The National Inclusion Project has been actively developing its Let's ALL Play Program since the program's inception in 2004. In 2010, the Project is partnering with over 45 recreational programs in 23 states. Teaming with The Arc of Atlantic County is another exciting step toward their goal of full inclusion. "We feel that working with The Arc of Atlantic County will help us further our mission to open doors in communities nationwide for children with disabilities to experience everything life has to offer," says Jerry Aiken, Executive Director.

The Arc has been providing an inclusive summer camp program for children with developmental disabilities in partnership with the Milton and Betty Katz Jewish Community Center in Margate since 1999. The JCC's *Camp by the Sea* summer camp program runs for eight weeks and offers children a wide variety of experiences including performing and creative arts, sports and field trips. With financial support from the state, foundation grants and donations, The Arc is able to provide support to approximately 20 children each year so they may participate in this summer camp program. The National Inclusion Project partnership will provide the funding for additional children to attend *Camp by the Sea*.

Let's ALL Play helps bring an inclusive recreational experience to children with disabilities. It gives children with developmental disabilities the same experience as those without. Children with disabilities and their peers who are typically developing come together to participate in recreational

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activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, community service, physical fitness and more.

In 2008, the Project enlisted the services of The Center for Social Development and Education at the University of Massachusetts-Boston to assess the implementation of Let's ALL Play. Overwhelming evidence showed that children with disabilities improved self-esteem, social skills, confidence to participate, and sport and motor skills. Campers of all abilities were equally likely to develop friendships with each other.

“We are very excited to work with the National Inclusion Project. This partnership will open The Arc of Atlantic County’s summer camp program to more children with disabilities and enable them to participate in activities they and their families may have never thought possible,” said Deborah Davies, Arc CEO.

**About the National Inclusion Project:** The **National Inclusion Project**, formerly the Bubel/Aiken Foundation, serves to bridge the gap that exists between young people with disabilities and the world around them. By providing curriculum, training and financial assistance, the Project partners with communities and programs in creating awareness and opportunities for full inclusion where barriers break and doors open. It is their goal to create an environment for children where inclusion is embraced. To learn more about the National Inclusion Project or ways to get involved visit their Web site at [www.inclusionproject.org](http://www.inclusionproject.org).

**About The Arc of Atlantic County:** The Arc of Atlantic County is a private nonprofit organization that has been making a positive difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since its founding in 1961. Through direct services, advocacy, education and prevention activities, The Arc of Atlantic County works in partnership with individuals and their families to make choices possible about how and where they live, learn, work and play.

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