



The Arc, Ocean County Chapter Catalyst Awards Honors Community

Toms River, NJ (March 13, 2025) – The Arc, Ocean County Chapter recognized fifteen award recipients from the community at this year’s Catalyst Awards on Thursday, March 13th at the Toms River Clarion celebrating their commitment and dedication to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Ocean County, NJ.

Congratulations to the following The Arc Catalyst Award Winners:

- Lifetime Achievement Award ~ Tom Baffuto, The Arc of New Jersey
- Bill Sackter Award ~ Tiffany Buccino
- Competitive Employment Achievement Award ~ Ilene Willis
- Distinguished Community Partner Award ~ John and Nancy Hughes, Jersey Mike's Subs
- Volunteer Engagement Award ~ Susan Priolo, Rutgers Master Gardener
- Youth Community Volunteer Partner Award ~ Heather Staples, Manchester High School
- Health Educator of the Year Award ~ Natalia Wlodkowski, Ocean County Health Dept.
- Healthcare Professional of the Year Award ~ Dr. Samantha Boyd
- Employer of the Year Award ~ Jen and Dale Stuban, Vogelsang
- Support Coordinator of the Year Award ~ Heather Chick, Disability Services & Advocacy
- Newcomer of the Year Award ~ Gabe Offerman
- Part-Timer of the Year Award ~ Lauren Gandulla
- Employee of the Year Award ~ Tammy Boud
- Employee of the Year Award ~ Jacob Appignani
- Enduring Commitment Award ~ Steve Lazar

The Catalyst Awards was an opportunity to honor our employees, business partners, and the individuals we support who go above and beyond to serve the mission of The Arc and make a real impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

The evening included a cocktail reception, super raffle, and silent auction which raised \$30,000 with proceeds benefiting The Arc, Ocean County Chapter’s programs and support services. To support the event, please visit www.arcocean.org.



Photo of Catalyst Award Winners (L to R): Tom Baffuto, Heather Staples, Jacob Appignani, Steve Lazar, Kathy D’Antonio, Tiffany Buccino, Tammy Boud, Gabe Offerman, Ilene Willis, Natalia Wlodkowski, Jen and Dale Stuban (Not Pictured: John and Nancy Hughes, Dr. Samantha Boyd, Heather Chick and Lauren Gandulla)

About The Arc, Ocean County Chapter

The Arc, Ocean County Chapter, Inc. was established in 1955 with the mission to advocate, provide opportunities and supports necessary for all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be accepted and valued as citizens of the communities in which they choose to live, learn, work and play. Today, the chapter serves more than 1,000 individuals through residential services, vocational services, recreation services, family support, and clinical support services.

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