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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Arc, Ocean County Chapter Catalyst Awards Honors Community
and Celebrates 70 Years of Service for People with Disabilities**

Toms River, NJ (February 11, 2025) – The Arc, Ocean County Chapter, celebrating 70 years of service in Ocean County, NJ, will recognize fifteen award recipients from the community at the Catalyst Awards reception on Thursday, March 13th at the Toms River Clarion celebrating their commitment and dedication to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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 Pizzulo, Rutgers Master Gardener
- Youth Community Volunteer Partner Award ~ 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 ~ 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 is an opportunity to honor the employees, business partners, community members, and clients who go above and beyond to serve the mission of The Arc and make a real impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include passed hors d'oeuvres and dinner with a cash bar. Event sponsorship opportunities are available to recognize an awardee and The Arc of Ocean County, or advertise your business in the ad book. Please RSVP at www.arcocean.org.

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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