

This Week at

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End of February News at

- Our **pre-vocational crew** volunteers at **From the Heart** elder care in Vernon. Their services make it possible for the elderly to remain in their homes and maintain as much independence as possible by providing personalized in-home assistance and companionship. Our crew is helping the company keep their office organized with assisting the staff with organizing supplies. In the photo, on the right, is **Linda Esposito** owner of From the Heart.



- Our seniors at our **Patty Dolan Senior Program** are experimenting with growing plants, including growing apple trees from seeds. **Judith and Greg** show off their successful mini-trees that may be planted outside the center. This may be an up and coming Johnny Appleseed club in the making!

- **Andrew Sharick** stands with **SCARC dietician Jenny Torino** to proudly show his certificate of adopting healthy eating habits and reaching his nutritional goal. Ms. Torino visits with individuals who live in SCARC residential programs to discuss healthy living and eating strategies, as well as setting goals to achieve throughout the year. We have had great success with healthy eating!



- We have news to share from the **Governor's Budget Address** this past Tuesday. ***"The FY2021 budget provides additional funding to continue New Jersey's emphasis on home and community-based services. In addition to \$42 million for wage increases for Direct Service Providers, the Governor also proposes an additional \$20 million to increase day program rates to ensure quality care and appropriate enrollment levels by addressing the funding need for uncompensated absences."*** ***"The budget builds on the Administration's commitment to a livable minimum wage by including \$65.2 million (Medicaid match included) to boost wages for those who work at subsidized child care facilities, with the elderly and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or mental health challenges."*** This is good news for employees at SCARC, and whatever we receive for Direct Support Professionals wage increases, we will pass that amount on to staff who work with our individuals. Our staff work hard and are very dedicated to our mission of providing quality services to children and adults with disabilities in our SCARC family. By the way, we are grateful to **Senator Steve Oroho** who has been supportive of our advocacy efforts to include this additional funding in the budget. Give him a call at 973-300-0200 to express a shout-out of thanks. Or give the Governor a shout-out at 609-292-6000.
- And, don't forget our **SCARC Foundation online auction** going on now at: www.biddingforgoo.com/scarcfoundation. There are lots of good items for sale!