

This Week at ASCARC

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March COVID-19 News at ASCARC

- As the **COVID-19 coronavirus disrupts and changes everything in our lives**, we at SCARC are adapting to this major disruption with the best skilled staff and the best array of resources at our disposal. Working with the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, the NJ Department of Health, the Sussex County Department of Health, and the Sussex County Office of Emergency Management, we at SCARC have the most updated information and resources for us to continue to provide the best supports to our program participants.
- As everyone knows, **our day habilitation and employment programs are closed** (at the mandate of NJDDD), and our day program staff have been redeployed to work in our residential programs. We are well staffed with well trained staff to provide activities and supports in our 22 group homes and our supervised apartments. In the photo (right) are two of our residents in our Holly group home in Frankford Township engaging in “day time” fun art activities under the direction of redeployed day program staff. We are not sure at this time how long our day programs will be closed.
- Our **SCARC board of trustees** is in complete information mode with updates emailed frequently to keep the board in the mainstream of information of the goings on with the virus and its effects on the SCARC family. Administrators, directors, and others are meeting daily or as needed to keep the communications moving throughout the organization. Although committee and board meetings have been cancelled at this point, communications are ongoing and robust with information.
- We are disallowing all visitors to program locations to protect against the spread of the virus. We are in **“SHELTER IN PLACE”** mode. **We are practicing “social distancing”** within the work environments and at activities. All of our outings into the community have been curtailed, and all work placements and recreation activities are cancelled. All Special Olympics competitions have been cancelled or postponed. Our SCARC Foundation Honors dinner has been postponed to June 17, and we are watching what will occur with our Hudson Farms Clay Shoot and the annual Walkathon. We remain hopeful that some of our future events will happen on the original dates.
- Many of our administrative employees will be working from home, but **our SCARC office in Augusta will remain OPEN at this point**, although visitors will be discouraged from entering the building. Only a skeletal work crew will be present. Our maintenance workers will be traveling to program sites to assist wherever needed, and they will be delivering mail and supplies to our homes.
- **We will get through this crisis**, and we will be stronger at SCARC because of it. All of our emergency management skills and plans are proving to be capable and showing that we are prepared to face such a time as this. Any questions about us, contact Richard Lecher, SCARC CEO at rlecher@scarc.org.

