



# PLAN|NJ NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF PLANNED LIFETIME ASSISTANCE NETWORK OF NEW JERSEY  
FUNDED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR FOUNDATION

FALL/WINTER 2010

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**Who will care for your loved one when you are gone?**  
**PLAN NOW!**

## Strong Family Support and Higher Education Lead to Bright Future



*Joey Clawson, recent TCNJ graduate*

Thousands of students graduated from New Jersey colleges last May with aspirations of landing “that one great job.” In this unsteady job market many are still searching for employment. One of the lucky graduates is 22-year-old Joey Clawson of Ewing, NJ. Clawson, one of eight

members of The College of New Jersey’s (TCNJ) Career & Community Studies Program, succeeded in this quest due to his involvement in the four-year certificate program for students with disabilities. He has already started his new position with Sodexo, Inc., the food-service provider at TCNJ, and he is excited to begin a new chapter in his life.

During his time on campus, Clawson completed a liberal arts program and served in several internships that helped him to determine his future career interests. Clawson is an avid sports enthusiast and really enjoyed his internship with the TCNJ football team, where he assisted with equipment and various

other duties throughout four years of school. “I play receiver for my flag football team, so this offered me the opportunity to practice my catching skills with the team,” Clawson says. “The coach even gave me sideline passes for all the games.”

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## New Grants Help PLAN/NJ Grow

See page 3 for new grant funding from The Hyde and Watson Foundation, The Fred C. Rummel Foundation and ISP/ManSys.

## Strong Family Support and Higher Education Lead to Bright Future

*(continued from page 1)*

Clawson's draw to all sports has prompted him to participate in the Special Olympics. He played for the New Jersey Flag Football team during the summer Olympics in Nebraska and was a key reason their team won the bronze medal. "He is very athletic and sports-minded," says Wanda Holtzman, Clawson's grandmother, caregiver and one of his biggest fans. "Joey won his first gold medal in swimming at age eight and hasn't stopped since." When he is not on the football field, Clawson plays soccer, floor hockey, basketball and bowling.



Clawson looks back fondly on his time at TCNJ and of the support he received from staff in the program. He credits Professor Kelly Reymann with assisting him in finding jobs that matched his interests and for her job coaching support. He enjoyed so many of his classes that it's difficult for him to choose a favorite. "Film class was interesting since we were able to watch video clips and discuss scripts," says Joey. "Did you know there are many similarities between Harry Potter and King Arthur?" Clawson attended Ewing High School and excelled in all of his studies. He is surrounded by supportive family who are proud of the goals he has accomplished. "Joey is kind, considerate and is an amazing young man," adds Wanda.

## Impact of Healthcare Reform on Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey



In March, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act were signed into federal law. Both laws offer benefits for individuals with disabilities. Most importantly, they will create improved access to health coverage since insurance companies will no longer be able to consider disability and health status when setting premiums, or charge higher premiums for pre-existing condi-

tions. Private insurance companies will also be required to guarantee issue and renewal of policies, accept all employees, and provide coverage for dependents until age 26. Additional information about the benefits is now available, including information about Medicaid expansion, improved access to long-term care services, and disability-specific provisions, and can be found on The Arc of New Jersey's website at [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org).

## Thanks to Our Most Recent Grant Funders

As a non-profit organization, PLAN/NJ would not be able to provide the services that we do without support from foundations and grant funders. We are extremely grateful for the generous support received most recently from **The Hyde and Watson Foundation** to advance our computer and telecommunications needs; **The Fred C. Rummel Foundation** that supports our Representative Payee, Guardianship and Monitoring services; and **ISP/ManSys** for funding technology upgrades.

## Non-Profit Offers Reconditioned Home Medical Equipment

Your Resource, a non-profit organization in Ewing, offers gently used medical equipment at affordable prices for individuals in need. They collect wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches and hospital beds. The items are cleaned and repaired in their facility, prepared for resale at affordable prices and without the need for a prescription. Very often, medical equipment issued to insured patients in their homes or

hospital settings is discarded after the items are no longer needed. Your Resource has created a winning solution by refurbishing the equipment and offering it to individuals who otherwise may not have been able to afford it.

To contact Your Resource regarding equipment or if you are interested in donating gently used items, they can be reached at (609) 530-1513 or [info@yourresourcenj.org](mailto:info@yourresourcenj.org).



## Division of Mental Health Initiates Hospital Monitor Program

This summer the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) started a new program to improve the quality of care and treatment of patients in the state hospital system. The hospital monitor program aims to pull together professionals and families to improve advocacy and create improvements in services delivered to the thousands of patients currently residing in state hospitals. DMHS initiated a call for participants who were willing to complete an orientation and training in July and then visit any of the hospitals on an unannounced basis. Hospital monitors will convene on a quarterly basis to present information and develop plans for improvement. "By participating in this program, monitors will become better educated about all facets of the hospital environment. The results of the monitoring visits will be shared with Division-level staff and will form the basis for positive change," says Gregory P. Roberts, Assistant Director, Office of State Hospital Management, DMHS.

## TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Access to transportation services is a legal right and extremely important to individuals with disabilities. Transportation provides access to work, social activities, healthcare and independent living. For those who are in need of transportation, Legal Services of New Jersey recently posted a valuable list of resources and services for individuals with disabilities on their website at [www.lsnjlaw.org](http://www.lsnjlaw.org).



***Lifetime Advocacy for  
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**We're on the Web!**

*Visit us at:*

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For more information about PLAN/NJ, to schedule a presentation for your group or for help with planning for your relative's future, call: (908) 575-8300.

## ***A Time to Give***

**YES!** *I want to support Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey (PLAN/NJ): help us to be here for the lifetime of our clients.*

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of:

\$150    \$100    \$50    \$35    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to*

**PLAN/NJ**

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