

WHO WILL CARE FOR MY LOVED ONE WHEN I'M GONE?

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



HELPING PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES
THRIVE



PLANNED LIFETIME ASSISTANCE NETWORK OF NEW JERSEY

TOP SEVEN REASONS TO CHOOSE PLAN/NJ

Written by Lisa D.,
parent of PLAN/NJ client

1

TRUST

You can unequivocally trust the staff at PLAN/NJ to care about your loved one as if they were a family member (which they figuratively become when you choose PLAN/NJ).

2

KINDNESS

Every single person that comes in contact with your loved one is the nicest person in the world. Don't ask me how PLAN/NJ managed to get all of the nicest people in the world to work there... I don't know!

3

KNOWLEDGE

PLAN/NJ knows the laws inside and out, and they will keep a watchful eye on your loved one's needs — they really provide you with peace of mind.

4

EXPERTISE

PLAN/NJ has the necessary expertise required to navigate the State of New Jersey's complex rules and laws. They protected and quite literally saved my children's benefits.

5

ABOVE & BEYOND

PLAN/NJ repeatedly went the extra mile to help our family, staying late on conference calls and being available on a day off to help our family in order to meet a court deadline. That's commitment worthy of the highest accolades.

6

COMPASSION

Our family is most thankful for the compassionate, personal attention we receive from everyone at PLAN/NJ. They really do care about our family's well-being — as they have demonstrated in countless ways.

7

BLESSED

We are so blessed and proud to be a part of the PLAN/NJ "family."

PLAN/NJ offers practical solutions for families who are caring for individuals with disabilities, lessening their fear and anxiety when planning for the future





PLAN/NJ clients are actively engaged in activities like Special Olympics New Jersey

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PLAN/NJ's services provide clients with safety, security and independence



Clients are celebrated and inspired to grow

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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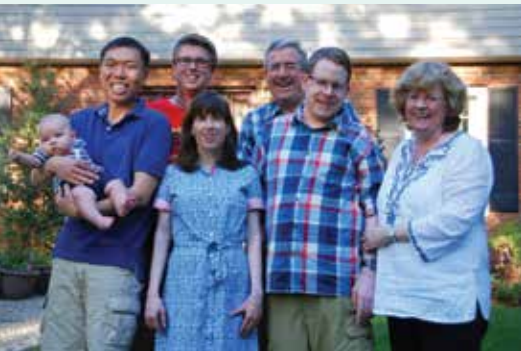
Sarah Mitchell, Esq.



Adam Wilson, Esq.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Board President Regina Tegeler celebrates the birth of her new grandson with her family

As the parent of an adult son living with disabilities, I appreciate every new opportunity that arises for him to more fully experience the joys that life offers. This year, he has enjoyed more outdoor hikes and more movies than ever, thanks to recreational time spent with my nephew. Matt has had many overnight stays with his twin sister, gone shopping at the Asian food market with her husband, and now — delightfully — he is sharing in the excitement of getting to know his own nephew, our newest family member, my grandson. Tonight we are gathering for a meal and a family photo session (see the result here!). As we bask in the glow of a new generation’s arrival, I am reminded of the many ways our family supports one another, and how the baton is gradually passing in support for my son and what he needs to thrive. I am especially pleased that Matt’s sister will have **PLAN/NJ’s** assistance when she needs to take more responsibility for her brother’s care.

While the trends in person-directed planning are positive, they require family members to devote even more time and understanding to select the best residential, recreational, work and health care options for a loved one. Complexities in fee-for-service options can read like a coffee shop menu, with so many options to consider. More than ever, I am reassured that **PLAN/NJ’s** many services provide practical solutions for families today, lessening their fear and anxiety when planning for the future.

This **2016 PLAN/NJ Annual Report** describes the comprehensive support that **PLAN/NJ** offers. In particular, you may be interested in:

- Our core service options and what we value, pages 10–13 and page 16
- Our Scholarship Program that helps ensure our services for our clients’ lifetimes, page 13
- The disabilities rights advocates that were honored at our May 2016 event, “A Celebration of Abilities,” page 15

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) recognized **PLAN/NJ’s** Executive Director, Ellen B. Nalven, with their 2016 President’s Award, citing her “dedicated and constant work done through **PLAN/NJ** to provide law-related information, awareness, knowledge and advocacy to families and professionals caring for individuals with disabilities.” Read more at www.plannj.org.

If you are a relative of a New Jersey resident who is living with a disability, **PLAN/NJ** may be able to help you provide them with the life they deserve, increasing your peace of mind. Read more in this report and contact us for further information. And please consider making a gift to **PLAN/NJ** to help advance our mission, which is to help families answer the question, “who will care for my loved one when I’m gone?”

Sincerely,

Regina Tegeler

An individual with a physical, developmental or mental health disability needs and deserves a bedrock of carefully-designed support. For the family members trying to provide this support, there are current and future questions to answer, such as:

- What home environment is best?
- How will his medical costs be covered?
- What activities and care does she need to thrive?
- How will she still be supported even after her parents or other immediate family are gone?

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey, Inc. (PLAN/NJ) answers these challenging questions and more. **PLAN/NJ** ensures that all necessary supports are available to individuals with various developmental disabilities and mental health challenges, enabling them to live full and more independent lives.

Whether loved ones need these services now or in the future, we put this assistance in place whenever a family is ready, helping to maintain continuity and peace of mind for all concerned.

Our qualified staff and volunteers provide a lifetime of assistance, including:

- Exemplary care coordination
- Guided oversight of financial affairs
- Compassionate actions that enhance quality of life
- Expert assistance to siblings and caregivers to navigate the complex social service system
- Preparation for the years ahead
- Legal, financial and independent living supports that loved ones need and deserve

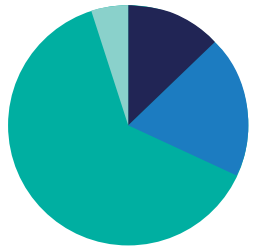
Imagining a time when they could no longer be their loved ones' primary advocates, a consortium of relatives of people with disabilities in New Jersey formed **PLAN/NJ** nearly 30 years ago. Today, at least 50% of the members of our Board of Directors are family members of people with disabilities or mental illness. Family members always play a vital role in developing the programs and services we implement. Our strong beginnings and our ongoing commitment ensure that **PLAN/NJ** keeps clients and their families at the center of all we do. We understand how important it is that we help your loved one thrive.

Learn more at www.plannj.org

WHO WILL CARE FOR MY LOVED ONE WHEN I'M GONE?

“The responsibility of being trustee for a person with a mental health challenge is far more difficult than I had imagined. PLAN/NJ guides me about my nephew’s needs and the resources available to him.”

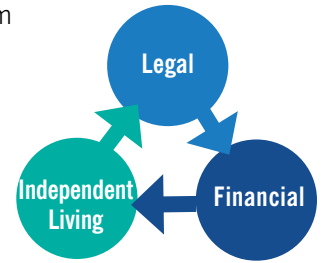
2016: DEEPENING OUR COMMITMENT



Funding Sources
Fiscal Year 2016 \$1,223,051

- Grants and Private Contracts
- Service Fees
- Community and Individual Special Needs Trust Fees
- Donations

All people deserve a life that provides them with safety, security and independence. Deepening our commitment to enhance quality of life for people with disabilities, **PLAN/NJ** provided our core services of fiduciary support, care coordination and life planning for 486 people. Families of loved ones with developmental and mental health challenges relied more than ever on the Private and Pooled Trust Administration, Guardianship, Representative Payee, Home Visit Monitoring, Advocacy and Life Planning services offered by **PLAN/NJ**. Educational seminars and special events increased families and professionals' awareness of future planning options. An additional 165 people and their families received our technical assistance services; therefore a total of 651 people ages 5 to 90 benefited from **PLAN/NJ**'s efforts. Some people participated in multiple services to meet their wide-ranging needs. In 2016 we provided the following services:



FIDUCIARY SUPPORT

Trust Administration **PLAN/NJ** served as Trustee for 431 Special Needs Trusts with small and large principal values, with minimum deposits as low as \$25,000 and several accounts with principles over \$1 million. **PLAN/NJ** increased by 13% the number of clients served in this area. Specifically, **PLAN/NJ**:

- **Managed** \$77 million in trust assets
- **Co-chaired** a committee to develop national standards for Pooled Special Needs Trust Administration

Guardianship **PLAN/NJ** provided 35 individuals with comprehensive guardianship services, taking responsibility for surrogate decision-making while promoting choice and self-determination, dignity and respect. This service ensured that these clients could achieve an optimal quality of life in all areas, including health, housing, education, employment, recreation and community living.

Personal Finances Management **PLAN/NJ** served as Representative Payee for 40 clients receiving Social Security benefits, providing them with assistance to budget, pay bills and maintain financial solvency.

CARE COORDINATION

Home Visit Monitoring and Advocacy 46 clients received Home Visit Monitoring and Advocacy services. These included making regular on-site visits to review the quality of their living arrangements, employment and day centers, and monitoring physicians and other providers to identify concerns and ensure good delivery of services. Advocacy efforts ensured that our clients made healthy life decisions for themselves and that their preferences were taken into account. An additional 146 individuals received short-term

monitoring, advocacy and family support services in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Child and Family Services (DCF).

LIFE PLANNING

Life Planning for Independent Living 165 families of people with disabilities were supported by **PLAN/NJ** through in-depth technical assistance consultations regarding legal, estate, and independent living planning. This led to 17 families being guided to develop a **LifePLAN** to better provide for their loved one’s legal, estate and social service support needs in perpetuity. **LifePLANS** are the most comprehensive programs available to ensure an individual’s lifelong protection and care.

BEST PRACTICES AND EDUCATION

Sustainability Practices PLAN/NJ focused on internal quality measures:

- **Upgraded** record-keeping systems to a digital, cloud-based format in order to increase efficiency and expand capacity to serve more people with disabilities and their families
- **Tracked** progress on Strategic Planning goals to enhance **PLAN/NJ**’s growth and sustainability, quality assurance and governance
- **Educated** families and communities by increasing outreach efforts to help them better understand the policies and best practices for supporting individuals with disabilities. A focus on the new federal Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act legislation helped families combine the use of private and public benefits in order to maximize their loved one’s access to housing and community participation. Throughout the year, **PLAN/NJ**:
 - **Reached** 1,794 parents, siblings, potential clients, partners, human service and related agency staff with 26 educational seminars, exhibits and events throughout New Jersey
 - **Recognized** disabilities rights advocates at the “Celebration of Abilities,” a fundraising event that attracted an 18% increase in attendance over the previous event
 - **Updated** www.plannj.org, making it easier for more individuals to find planning tools and information and to support our Scholarship Program with donations

For more information, see **Core Service Options** and **Family and Community Education Activities** on pages 10–16.

SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN

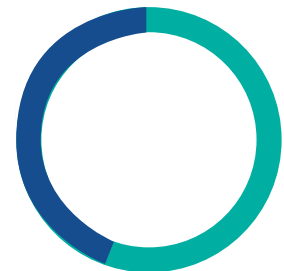
PLAN/NJ provides services to individuals ranging widely in age, from 5 to 90.

“PLAN/NJ

has always met my problems. You need more people in this world like your staff.

They are always very compassionate and kind to me. Not only do you help, you listen.”

Time & Services

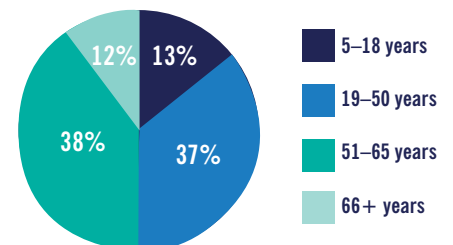


SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Guardianship
- Home Visit Monitoring
- Advocacy
- Life Planning
- Division of Child Protection and Permanency/Case Management
- Life Planning Seminars

FIDUCIARY SERVICES:

- Special Needs Trust Administration
- Representative Payee



CORE SERVICE OPTIONS

Maximizing Public Benefits and Private Support

Social Security, Medicaid and the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), among other state and federal agencies, provide essential services and funding to protect the health and well-being of many individuals with significant disabilities. This support is available to people who meet the disability definitions and “means” criteria. Special Needs Trusts are financial accounts that enable family funds to be set aside to supplement essential public benefits and services, and are allowable when the funds from the Special Needs Trust are used to improve the quality of life for their loved one. If a loved one is living with significant disabilities, establishing the trust early on will ensure peace of mind for families as they consider how to manage their assets on behalf of their family member, now and in the future.

PLAN/NJ offers individualized attention that aims to fully support our clients’ needs now and in the future. We act on behalf of our clients and their families by offering **Core Service Options** in **Legal and Fiduciary Support, Future Life Planning, Family Support** and **Care Coordination** as follows:

FIDUCIARY SUPPORT

Special Needs Trust Administration Good financial planning is a crucial part of a well-designed ‘whole person’ approach to providing for a loved one’s care, comfort, enjoyment and engagement in life. Hundreds of individuals’ families entrust **PLAN/NJ** with the responsibility of ensuring that funds set aside for support of a loved one are used solely to improve their loved one’s care and quality of life.

PLAN/NJ serves as trustee of Third-Party and Self-Settled private, stand-alone Special Needs Trusts. We also operate the **PLAN/NJ** Community Trust, a pooled Special Needs Trust, that serves as Trustee of Third-Party and Self-Settled sub-accounts. Our Director of Trust Services works with families, attorneys, and other professionals to determine which type of trust is most appropriate, then provides assistance to set up the trust. She and her staff:

- **Operate** in a fiduciary role for clients, providing oversight and monitoring of client funds in order to help them maintain their Medicaid and other public benefits
- **Help** develop budgets and spending plans
- **Pay** bills according to the trust document and government benefit rules
- **Help** clients apply for and maintain public benefits and other social services
- **Assist** with and monitor health insurance claims and disbursements as needed
- **Provide** financial accounting and reporting to public benefits agencies, courts, and legal representatives as required
- **Supply** referrals to attorneys or financial planners when needed
- **Provide** Spanish-speaking services for clients who speak English as a second language
- **Interact** directly with beneficiaries and/or their representatives for the trusts we manage

Legal Guardianship Some individuals with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness need support to make important life decisions, such as where they should live or what medical procedures might be necessary and appropriate. They may also become susceptible to fraud or undue influence. In such cases, they may require Guardians to assist them in making decisions to address their needs. **PLAN/NJ** serves in the role of Legal Guardian when there are no family members to serve in this capacity.

As a Legal Guardian of Property, **PLAN/NJ** protects real and personal property, tangible and intangible, including anything that may be the subject of ownership. As a Legal Guardian of Person, **PLAN/NJ**'s role is to:

- **Provide** all aspects of Case Management/Home Visit Monitoring services, including a minimum of one monthly in-home visit
- **Ensure** quality of life in all areas including health, housing, education, employment, recreation and community living

The need for a Guardian is determined by due process in courts of law. **PLAN/NJ**'s approach as Guardian is to develop a **LifePLAN** and to offer supported decision-making, helping to achieve goals and ensure that the individual's needed supports, wishes and preferences are respected. In this role **PLAN/NJ** takes responsibility for surrogate decision-making while promoting a client's choice and self-determination, dignity and respect. Because establishing Guardianship may remove considerable rights from an individual, it should only be considered after alternatives to Guardianship have proven ineffective or are unavailable.

Representative Payee Services **PLAN/NJ** serves as Representative Payee for individuals who need assistance with budgeting and bill paying to maintain financial solvency. We manage their Social Security benefits to ensure that their basic requirements for food, clothing and shelter are met and that required reporting is submitted to the Social Security Administration. In addition, we:

- **Protect** people from potential financial exploitation
- **Monitor** and assist with paying bills
- **Help** develop a budget and other day-to-day financial management needs
- **Provide** reports, accountings and re-determination reviews as required by governmental agencies

LIFE PLANNING

Future Life Planning and Family Support **PLAN/NJ** guides and collaborates with families to design and write a comprehensive **LifePLAN** on their loved one's behalf. Throughout the process, **PLAN/NJ** also helps parents and siblings improve their capacity to advocate for their relative who is living with a disability or mental illness.

A **LifePLAN** is a comprehensive document that enables families to plan for the future care of their loved one. The process of developing this document helps families answer certain questions that are of real concern: In the future, who will do for her what we do now? How will he continue to have a good life and have quality care in his home, at school, and at work or at his day program? How will we make sure she is comfortable — socially, financially and emotionally?



Enjoying an enhanced quality of life can simply mean a chance to relax in the park

LIFE PLANNING *(continued)*

The **LifePLAN** addresses all aspects of life, including independent living, and legal and financial planning. Personal and professional relationships and support systems are identified so that the variety of assistance best reflects the supports that a person needs to live well. Specific roles may need to be filled to promote the person's quality of life and self-determination. These roles may include an advocate, case manager or Legal Guardian who oversees his or her home and work environments and day-to-day needs. A Trustee and/or Representative Payee may be needed to manage financial responsibilities.

The **LifePLAN** identifies what roles family and friends will play. **PLAN/NJ** can also serve in any or all of these roles, helping families to ensure the future care, support and quality of life of their loved one. It also articulates what **PLAN/NJ** staff will do to fill in the gaps and to coordinate the efforts of all involved. **PLAN/NJ's** role is to see that the plan is implemented according to the family's wishes, all the while keeping the individual in the center of their own preferences and needs to the best of their abilities.

“Everyone is fantastic and wonderful in every way. They have been courteous, professional and totally understanding. There are no words to describe how they handle a crisis. One in a million.”

CARE COORDINATION

PLAN/NJ promotes the vitality and well-being of individuals with disabilities and mental illness through the unique and vital service of home visit monitoring, which is especially crucial for people whose families cannot make regular visits or who have no living relatives. We maintain our client's care coordination, social engagement, personal support and emergency response needs. **PLAN/NJ's** experienced service coordinators:

- **ACT** as the eyes and ears of distant relatives
- **TRAVEL** to the client's homes and day programs regularly
- **UPDATE** families after each visit

PLAN/NJ can provide the following services:

Case Management/Home Visit Monitoring/Advocacy

- **Support** siblings and family members to advocate on behalf of loved ones in all areas of life
- **Negotiate** the disability and mental health service systems
- **Monitor** living arrangements, employment, day center, physicians, and other providers to identify concerns and ensure good delivery of services
- **Advocate** so that clients make healthy life decisions for themselves and that their preferences are taken into account
- **Make certain** all of their medical, employment, social, legal and financial needs are met
- **Organize** private home health care, nursing home placements, and hospice care as appropriate

- **Accompany** clients to medical appointments, visit them in hospitals and advocate on their behalf with medical personnel
- **Attend** meetings to represent family concerns and assist in developing person-centered support plans
- **Provide** practical assistance with housing, personal, medical or financial concerns
- **Help** apply for public benefits and other social services
- **Assist** in life transitions, such as a move from a family home to supportive housing, or the loss of a parent

Social Engagement

- **Support** clients in making healthy decisions for themselves
- **Arrange** outings and recreational activities, take clients on shopping trips
- **Celebrate** birthdays
- **Assist** clients to continue relationships with neighbors, family and friends

Personal Support and Emergency Response

- **Respond** to client calls for assistance: act as “first responder” when needed
- **Ensure** that personal needs and financial obligations are met
- **Make** extra visits when health or other crises arise
- **Provide** support to live safely and to the best of their ability in their own community
- **Advocate** for access to emergency and planned housing, education, food, medical, financial and other supports from the Social Security Administration, Medicaid, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Mental Health Services, housing authorities and others
- **Maintain** the safety and well-being of individuals during natural hazards

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thousands of individuals living with disabilities in New Jersey are not yet receiving the vital independent living planning services that **PLAN/NJ** provides. **PLAN/NJ** assists a small group of individuals with no other source of funding to receive Guardianship, Home Visit Monitoring, Advocacy and/or Representative Payee Services. Donations to **PLAN/NJ** help to ensure that more of New Jersey’s families will have access to these services now and in the future.

For more information on **PLAN/NJ**’s Core Service Options, visit www.plannj.org or call 908-575-8300.



PLAN/NJ provides clients with a variety of life-enhancing programs and services

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

PLAN/NJ is committed to families and communities throughout New Jersey. We regularly collaborate with stakeholders and increase awareness of our services. These activities reinforce the abilities of families to plan for the future of their loved one, put required services in place, honor their preferences, and help them build personal relationships.

We continue to:

- **Offer** educational seminars and events
- **Expand** our digital presence
- **Host** events to recognize leaders and key clients

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

In-person family and community engagement activities are vital to help more people understand the legal, estate, and independent living planning needs of people with disabilities. Our seminars and events attract family members; individuals with disabilities; and professionals in human services, schools, and other organizations. Seminars review available legal and financial protections and examine sample legal documents often encountered when attending to housing, medical, employment, recreation and other quality-of-life concerns. Topics include how to:

- **Maximize** private resources and public benefits to enhance housing and other quality of life decisions
- **Plan** legal, estate, and independent living for the future care of people with developmental or psychiatric disabilities, and learn why planning is important
- **Utilize** Special Needs Trusts (SNT) to improve quality of life while preserving access to essential public benefits
- **Obtain** Guardianship and legal protections as alternatives to Guardianship: Powers of Attorney, Representative Payee, Trustee for Special Needs Trusts, and Psychiatric Advanced Directives
- **Use** person-centered practices to promote self-determination
- **Protect** the legal rights to medical, residential, education and employment services for individuals with disabilities

“Nice presentation!
I learned a lot about
Guardianship for
my son.”

“Thanks to
this seminar, I feel
confident about setting
up a Special Needs
Trust with the help of
PLAN/NJ.”

EXPANDED WEB OUTREACH

Our refreshed website at www.plannj.org fits all desktop monitors, laptops, tablets and smartphone screens, and we have made it easier for individuals and partners to find information and to support **PLAN/NJ**. The site includes tools and fact sheets developed by **PLAN/NJ** designed to raise important questions, inspire ideas, and help families gain control over the planning process:

- Initial Life Planning Questions
- What is a Special Needs Trust?
- Planning for the Future: Special Needs Trusts as Tools to Enhance the Quality of Life
- Creating A **LifePLAN**: Twelve Steps to Peace of Mind

SPECIAL EVENTS

PLAN/NJ recognizes disabilities rights advocates whenever possible, and this year we did so at **“A Celebration of Abilities”** on May 12, 2016. Over 130 guests gathered to attend the event at The New Jersey Law Center, including several people who were honored for their significant and long-term contributions to persons with disabilities and mental health challenges in New Jersey.

- **Mental Health Award of Excellence:** The Honorable Richard J. Codey, former governor of New Jersey
- **Trailblazer Award:** Ari Ne’eman, Co-founder, Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and Chairman of the National Council on Disability’s Policy & Program Evaluation Committee
- **Business Champion Award:** Donna Custard, President, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- **Parent Advocate Award:** Bruce Dalziel, former **PLAN/NJ** Board Member
- **Leadership Award:** Jennifer Joyce, Director, Employment, Transition and Day Services, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities
- **Outstanding Staff Member Award:** ChayIn Bryant, **PLAN/NJ** Service Coordinator
- **Life Planning Partner Awards:** Chelsea Palermo, Efrain “Frankie” Santos, Christina Sabo

“The object of autism advocacy should not be a world without autistic people, it should be a world in which autistic people can enjoy the same rights, opportunities, and quality of life as any of our neurotypical peers.”
— Ari Ne’eman

Ari Ne’eman, 2016 **PLAN/NJ** Keynote Speaker, Trailblazer Award recipient and advisor to the Sesame Street and Autism project





Ellen Nalven, Executive Director pictured with 2016 PLAN/NJ Life Planning Partner Award recipients Frankie Santos and Christina Sabo

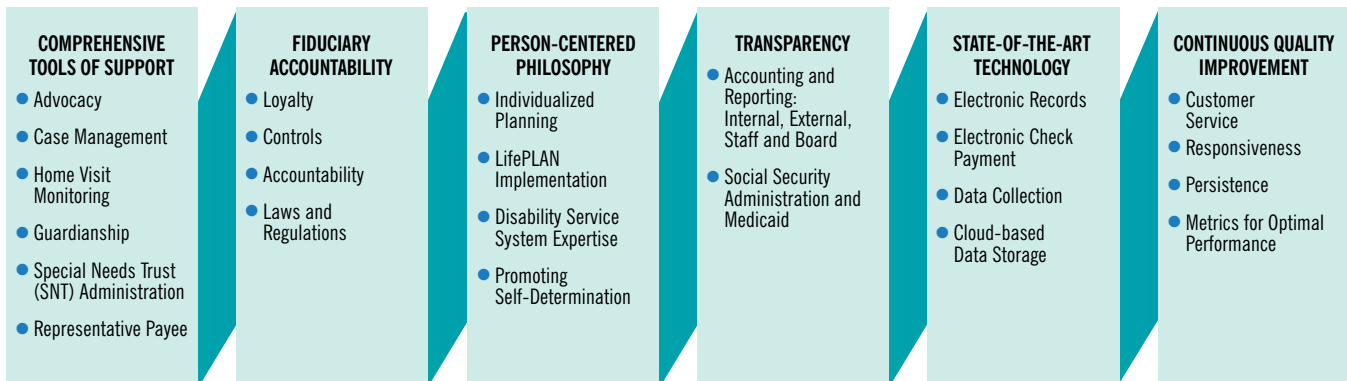
2016 Life Planning Partner Award Recipients

Efrain “Frankie” Santos leads an active life, with interests ranging from sports to community work to group travel. He is well-known for his smile and his upbeat disposition. He loves to shop, has a toy car collection, and likes to eat out every week. He has a particular affinity for the Yankees, and is an avid collector of the team’s baseball hats. Recent travel has taken him to Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts. When he’s not visiting another part of the country, Frankie is engaged in community activities. He volunteers at the Salvation Army and at St. Anthony’s Church, helping with recycling and with Meals on Wheels delivery. **PLAN/NJ** enjoys keeping up with Frankie’s many interests and helping him live his life to the fullest.

Christina Sabo is confident and friendly, with a love of life that helps her fill it with purpose and meaning. She enjoys fashion and loves her many outings with her **PLAN/NJ** Service Coordinator such as going to the movies, skating, musical performances and animal shows. Christina likes to keep fit, engaging in a variety of fitness activities; she regularly rides an exercise bike, goes to the gym and has a trainer to help her stay healthy. She loves animals, particularly cats, and she recently worked on her group home’s quarterly newsletter to create a new section highlighting stories of pets that need to be adopted. Christina considers **PLAN/NJ** staff her surrogate family, and she also has a social life with friends from her group home and day program. **PLAN/NJ** works to help Christina achieve her dreams.

WHAT WE VALUE

PLAN/NJ strives to be the standard-bearer in our roles as fiduciary, guardian and coordinator of support services for families who have loved ones living with disabilities. Our goals and activities are under continuous review by our staff and Board of Directors, and we seek to improve in all areas. We build upon best practices from the field, stay abreast of evolving research and national trends, and review our own program assessment results, data analytics, lessons learned, and partner and funder feedback. Our clients’ needs remain at the center of every decision.



Every member of a family — and a community — deserves to lead a safe, secure, engaged and vibrant life. When a loved one has a disability, families need high-quality, sustainable, life-enhancing solutions. **PLAN/NJ** offers families an array of programs that provide a continuum of independent and community-based living, legal and financial supports and services. Our agency helps families maximize public benefits and private resources.

We help individuals with disabilities thrive.

Planning is more important than ever to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals with disabilities. **PLAN/NJ** will be here for the long term, providing protection for families. Concerns are growing in light of significant changes in state regulations, which are creating uncertainty as to how much support will be available to loved ones in the future.

PLAN/NJ works closely with attorneys, financial and human service professionals regarding legal and policy shifts, focusing on organizational stability and implementing new systems that help us meet the increasing demand for our services.

PLAN/NJ is improving its ability to aid families in the support of their loved ones throughout the lifespan, and to maintain essential records on their behalf. We've raised awareness of our services by upgrading our website and expanding our seminars and events. Institutional supporters and individual donors help us ensure that **PLAN/NJ** continues to have a vital impact on the health and well-being of New Jersey residents, and we're very grateful for their support. With the continued strong governance of our Board of Directors, the daily planning and support services provided by our excellent staff, and the guidance gained from ongoing partnerships with experts, we will be here for you and for your loved one — now and in perpetuity.

Call me to discuss your family member's needs at **(800) 704-PLAN**.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.plannj.org.

Sincerely,



Ellen B. Nalven, M.Ed.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**GET
INVOLVED!**

The most recent national census reports that 7.5% of people ages 16-64 in New Jersey are living with a disability.¹ In order to meet a growing need for support services, **PLAN/NJ** relies upon a dedicated network of donors, volunteers and staff. Each day, we work toward our mission to help New Jersey families answer the question, **“Who will care for my loved one when I am gone?”**

If you'd like to help, please spread the word about **PLAN/NJ**. The more people who know about our services, the more families we are able to assist.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, we accept tax-deductible donations that help us stabilize and grow to meet the needs of the residents of our state. Perhaps you'd like to help in this way as well.

Every donation to **PLAN/NJ** ensures that families will continue to be served, now and in the future. Donors may choose to support either or both of the following:

- **Scholarship Program** Helping us serve individuals with no other source of funding to receive Guardianship, Home Visit Monitoring and/or Representative Payee Services
- **General Operating Fund** Helping us build financial strength and organizational stability

¹Source: United States Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey.

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