



THE NEWSLETTER OF PLANNED LIFETIME ASSISTANCE NETWORK OF NEW JERSEY

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Welcome Theodore R. Goyins, Jr.

The PLAN/NJ Board of Directors recently announced a new slate of officers, including Samantha J. Herrick as President. We will feature Ms. Herrick in a future issue of PLAN/NJ News. The Board also welcomed Theodore R. Goyins, Jr. as its newest member.

Growing up in a family with four children, one of whom lived with significant developmental disabilities, Ted says he observed firsthand how his parents dedicated themselves to his sister's needs; she lived with them long into adulthood. He realized that siblings had much to learn if they were to be ready to take over the caretaker role as parents grew older, and that

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Celebrating 30 Years

Join us November 1, 2018 to celebrate **PLAN/NJ's 30th anniversary** and recognize New Jersey's leaders in advocacy for individuals who are differently abled. Honorees include Steve Sweeney, President, New Jersey State Senate; Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director, New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) and C. Vivian Stringer, Head Coach, Women's Basketball, Rutgers University. Musical guests include pianist Brandon Smith, vocalist Chelsea Palermo and the Vincent Troyani Jazz Trio. See you there!

For more information, visit plannj.org and click on '2018 Celebration'.

This Family Agrees: Every Day Is a Gift

This spring we received a treasure trove of digital photos from the parent of a PLAN/NJ client. The photos document her son Daniel's many activities and travels; these and other documents are added to his LifePLAN to help provide a complete picture of his quality of life.

Dozens of photos depict Daniel in health and strength-building activities, such as training for the Special Olympics held in May at Bridgewater High School. He has been walking on a treadmill up to 800 steps with a little speed while supported by his walker — a new milestone for him. He has also participated in hippotherapy — physical therapy using a horse to

improve weight bearing — for over 17 years.

"I provide what I feel will excite Daniel and I take advantage of my good health," his mother Carmelita explained.

Daniel attends music therapy once a week, and last month participated in a choir concert using his left hand switch. When prompted by the conductor, he hit the switch, which elicited a sound through a music synthesizer. In addition, he is a longtime member of Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports.

CLIENT VOICES

In the past few years, Daniel and his mother have visited Tokyo, seen in the accompanying photo with women in colorful, traditional kimonos. Hong Kong and Argentina were recent stops, too. Carmelita explained that "one of Daniel's favorite Broadway shows is *Evita*, so we went to Buenos Aires to track down Eva Perón's roots."

"We are willing to share our travel experiences and civic event participation to inspire others who may feel that a person living with a

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PLAN/NJ

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Thanks for your generous support!



This Family Agrees (continued from page 1)

tracheostomy and feeding button is restricted in what he can do,” she explained. “Every day is a gift! And every day we look for something to do better. And we are able to travel this way because we do not own a dog,” laughed Carmelita.

PLAN/NJ is proud of the quality of life that loved ones help our clients achieve. And when those family

members are no longer able to provide the necessary attentive care, the information in their LifePLAN means that our clients are prepared for the future and for the possibility of additional or other caregivers. We encourage all families of loved ones with disabilities to seek the life planning, care and trust coordination services that PLAN/NJ provides.

The family has granted permission to reproduce photos and information.

Welcome (continued from page 1)

they were sorely in need of the type of specialized life planning assistance that PLAN/NJ provides.

“We were always taught to understand that to whom much is given, from him much is required,” said Ted. “That’s what motivated me then, and it’s what still motivates me today.”

For over 30 years, Ted worked as a Senior Vice-President of Wells Fargo Dealer Financial Services, directing

the sales and service activities of the Northeast Commercial Team to provide commercial financing and other banking services to automotive dealers.

“We are delighted that Ted has agreed to join the PLAN/NJ Board of Directors. His experiences as a sibling, as well as in banking, are the perfect blend of skill and commitment that we seek in a board member,” said Ellen Nalven, Executive Director.

For Ted Goyins’ complete biography, visit plannj.org/board-of-directors.



New Program Helps Young Adults with Special Needs to Live Independently

by Michael T. Byrne, ChFC

Life planning for independent living is a challenge for families whose loved ones live with a disability. After he turns 21, options for self-determined independence are reduced, with families providing most or all of the systems and supports. JEVS Human Resources has worked to establish their first supported independent living program in New Jersey.

For the Franoliches, talks of a new supported independent living program in South Jersey got them excited. Their son Michael, age 23, could have the opportunity to leave the nest of his parents' home and go out on his own, land a job, and make friends.

The Grande family felt the same. They embraced the idea of helping their 26-year-old son Chris to become self-sufficient: to have the chance to cook for himself, manage his money and travel around the area, practicing daily life skills that so many of us take for granted.

Michael and Chris are now founding members of JEVS Independence Network, launching this spring in Collingswood, NJ. Replicating their successful model program which was started in 2011 in Narberth, PA, JEVS Human Services is providing this new option for young adults with disabilities who want to live independently and thrive in the community. Through the Independence Network program, JEVS provides individuals the freedom to learn, experience, and achieve their life goals. Program members live in their own apartments throughout the nearly 2-square mile town and receive support from the organization.

"Every parent of a child with disabilities wonders about their future, especially how they will live after we are gone from this earth," said Chris' father, Phil. "A program like JEVS Independence Network provides an opportunity for our young adults to live on their own, as independently as possible, yet supported. We know that they are safe, well-cared for, and on their way to becoming a thriving part of a great community."

Fulfilling the JEVS motto of "making hope happen" and the organization's mission of helping individuals achieve fulfilling and productive lives, the success of this model program lies in the myriad of opportunities that JEVS provides to its members.

"I was attracted to the program because of its community structure and the opportunity it gives Michael to live his own life," said his mom, Ellen. "I believe it will keep him active. The small program size helps ensure that Michael's goals and needs will be met. And when emergencies arise, we know he's going to be taken care of by people he trusts, whether the issue is an illness or trouble at the supermarket." His father, Mike, added, "Michael likes the idea of freedom that his apartment represents and the chance to meet a bunch of new friends in a cool town. This program, in our own area, is a gift."

JEVS selected the town of Collingswood to pilot their first independent living community in New Jersey because it is vibrant, active, and encourages its diverse residents to get involved in the close-knit town.

"The selection of a community is really important for us," said Jay Spector, JEVS President and CEO. "It needs to be a place that is accessible and rich with opportunities for members to become a part of the community, to live, work, volunteer, and build relationships—the things we all look for when choosing a place to live."

"We are honored that JEVS feels Collingswood will be a supportive and welcoming place," said Collingswood Mayor James Maley. "That JEVS feels this is a great place for their members to live happy, supported, involved lives speaks not only to our revitalization as a walkable and accessible town, but to the character of our current residents," he said.

For more information, email NJSupports@jevs.org or visit jevshumanservices.org/program/independence-network-collingswood.

Governor Appoints Aronsohn to Head New Office

NJ Governor Phil Murphy announced in April the appointment of **Paul Aronsohn** to head up the newly created Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families, serving as the administration's lead advocate and ally for New Jersey residents in need of critical services ranging from early childhood through adulthood. Aronsohn brings to the table years of government experience, having worked for the administrations of President Bill Clinton and Gov. Jim McGreevey, including a stint with the U.S. State Department's U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

He also served 8 years on the Ridgewood Village Council, including 4 years as the town's mayor. More recently, he served as a member of the Human and Children Services Committee for Governor-Elect Murphy's Transition Team, which involved working with families and advocates of individuals with disabilities in order to cultivate recommendations for the incoming administration. The Office of the Ombudsman was created by law in January, granting the governor appointment authority. *To read the complete announcement, visit nj.gov/governor/news/news/562018/approved/20180419c_ombudsman.shtml.*



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PLAN/NJ Receives Family Bequest

We are pleased to have recently received a generous family bequest in the amount of \$49,000. The bequest was established by Audrey Wreszin, mother of a PLAN/NJ client. This bequest supports our work to provide vital services to those who live with significant disabilities. **Thank you!**

GOING GREEN! In 2018 we are reducing the need for printing and postage. We will continue to provide you with pertinent information by email, website and U.S. Mail, and will keep your personal data private. Please update your email address and phone number online at plannj.org/contact-us. State 'My current contact information' in the comment box. **Thank you!**

YES! I want to help PLAN/NJ support individuals like Daniel with the financial planning, care coordination, and self-determination guidance they need and deserve.

- I would like to learn more about establishing a bequest
- I have included PLAN/NJ in my estate plans
- I would consider including PLAN/NJ in my estate plans
- I am interested in establishing a tax-free IRA rollover

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

\$150 \$100 \$50 \$35 Other _____

In Honor of or In Memory of (please check one and print name):

Name _____

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Please make your checks payable to **PLAN/NJ** and place them in the mail to PLAN/NJ, P.O. Box 547, Loeser Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876-0547. We also accept online donations through PayPal. Visit plannj.org and click on 'Donate'. We reserve the right to publish donor names in the PLAN/NJ Annual Report unless otherwise requested. If you would like your name removed from the donor list, please check here: _____