April 2018

UNION COUNTY YOUTH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

BUILDING SUPPORTS FOR OUR KIDS

The difference between winning and losing is most often not quitting.

-Walt Disney

To get involved, contact us:

Tanya Johnson
908-354-3040 x4251 or
tjohnson@caunj.org

Nicholas Scalera
201-532-5851 or
nick@scalera.com

OUR MISSION

*The **Union County Youth Services Steering Committee** is committed to increasing the number, availability, and accessibility of youth services to youth and young adults, and works to ensure that Union County's youth/young adults know how to secure the resources they need to develop and realize their potential for productive, self-sufficient lives as adults.*

Members of the Steering Committee represent public and non-profit youth-serving agencies, child advocates, volunteers, and faith-based organizations. They meet regularly to share information and resources, identify and close any major gaps in youth service programs, and to disseminate found resources through websites, media announcements, public forums and an annual conference.

GOALS

∞ Serve as a vehicle for fostering communication and networking among youth services providers and youth consumers

∞ Improve youth service effectiveness and outcomes.

∞ Share information, resources and expertise among providers and youth and parent consumers.

∞ Improve coordination of and access to services by youth and parents.

∞ Encourage development of an integrated youth and young adult services system.

∞ Improve utilization of existing youth resources and promote development of new services.

∞ Foster cross systems coordination, encourage collaborations and build linkages among youth service providers and resources.

∞ Stimulate use of innovative and evidence-based practice models through research projects and pilot demonstrations.

∞ Provide training and educational opportunities for staff working with youth and young adults.

∞ Develop and share standardized outcomes, performance measures and evaluation tools.

RESULTS

∞ The establishment of a strong county-wide foundation within the Union County Youth Services Steering Committee

∞ An annual Union County Youth Services Networking Conference that happens in October.

∞ Creation of a network that conducts and shares meetings and forums to share information, resources, and services for youth and young adults

∞ The development of the **Union County Youth Directory,** a computerized public database rich with resources for youth and service providers

∞ A group of strong advocates interested in participating in public information and awareness campaigns to encourage additional youth service groups to join in the cause.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

SID BLANCHARD is the founder and executive director of Community Access Unlimited. CAU began in 1979 with a $90,000 grant to move 20 individuals out of institutions to community living and has grown the agency to no support over 6000 people throughout the state in areas of housing, support services, vocational supports, recreation, money management, advocacy, and more. Services in the home are provided to anyone in need including at-risk youth and adults with developmental disabilities, seniors and veterans.

In the most recent years, Sid has created more opportunities for increased community integration – starting three councils to join the interfaith community, youth services, and non-profit leaders with the common goal to bring upon community wide benefits together.

Sidney is a pioneer, leader, and ardent advocate in providing community supports for people in need. He is active in both local and national level organizations that further initiatives for individuals with special needs.

TANYA JOHNSON began her career as a childcare worker at the Berea Children's Home in Berea, Ohio. After 14 years in the Ohio social service world, she decided to make a change. After relocating to the tri-state area in 1998, Tanya began her career at Community Access Unlimited as a coordinator. Tanya worked her way through the ranks at CAU to become the Senior Assistant Executive Director of youth services in 2008.

Tanya has a passion for working with youth to help them grow into young productive adults. Through her passion Tanya has worked with aging out youth, runaway homeless youth and community based youth who have been successful in transitioning to adulthood.

NICHOLAS R. SCALERA has over 40 years' experience in youth and family services management. He was State Director of the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) from 1989-94 and DYFS Assistant Director from 1972-89. Previously, Nick worked as a public information officer for the NJ Department of Community Affairs (1967-72) and NJ Office of Economic Opportunity (1966-67) and was a reporter for the *Associated Press* (1966) and *Newark News* (1964-66).

In 1995, Nick formed Scalera Consulting Services, which works with public and private agencies that serve at-risk youth and/or vulnerable adults.

Scalera holds a BA in Social Studies from Seton Hall University and an MS in Journalism "Cum Laude" from Columbia University. In 2007, he established the Nicholas R. Scalera Scholarship Fund at Seton Hall University to help academically qualified students with substantial financial and social needs secure a college education.

Nick has received many honors, including: Humanitarian Award from Seton Hall University; Public Administrator of the Year from the New Jersey Chapter, American Society for Public Administration (ASPA); Man of Achievement Award for services to at-risk youth from Phi Kappa Theta National Fraternity; and Humanitarian of the Year from the Association for Advancement of the Mentally Handicapped (predecessor of Community Access Unlimited, Inc.).

THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE

Sidney Blanchard
Community Access Unlimited

Lisa M. Bonanno
Union County Workforce Development Board

Hawa Bonds
Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)

Danielle Cioffi
The Gateway Family YMCA,
Elizabeth & Five Points Branch

Pamela Capaci
Prevention Links, Inc.

Karen Dinsmore
Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)

Felicia Frazier
Families and Community Together (FACT)

Maureen Segale Glenn
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Marla Higginbotham
CASA of Union County

Pastor Pamela B. Jones
Communities in Cooperation (CIC)

Jim Kimberling
Cooperative Counseling Services

Leila Molaie
NJ Dept of Labor & Workforce Development (DLWD),

Betsy Montalvo
Office of Adolescent Services, NJ
Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Carol Russell
Family Support Organization of Union County

Cathy Waters
Reconnections Program,
Urban League of Union County

Haydee Zamorea-Dalton, MSW
Middlesex/Union Area Office DCP&P

Transitional Living Program

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

"Promoting Recovery, Stability, and Well-Being"

The Transitional Living Program provides supports to youth in achieving housing stability, education and employment, permanent family/community connections and social and emotional well-being.

Services include:

- 24-hour assistance for female youths ages 16 up to but
- excluding 22
- Gateway services including food, drink, clothing and hygienic supplies
- Intake and needs assessments
- Safe transitional housing accommodations and nutritious daily meals
- Case management
- Individual and group life skills, social skills and counseling services
- Educational and employment assistance
- Linkages to a full complement of services within CAU and the l
- local continuum of care
- Connection to permanent housing
- Aftercare follow-up

Referrals may be made by:

- Teachers, school social workers and school administration
- Social services agencies
- Law enforcement/juvenile
- justice
- Community provider
- organizations
- Families, friends and peers
- Good neighbors
- Safe Place participants
- Youth self-referral

The CAU Transitional Living Program is physically located in Elizabeth, NJ

If you know someone who is in need, call our hotline:

1-800-RUNAWAY

For more information, contact:

Intake Department, Youth Services at Community Access Unlimited
80 West Grand St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202

908-354-3040 | info@caunj.org | www. caunj.org **Ext. 4394**

Helping you live independently in your community... that's THE cau ADVANTAGE

Academic & Career Exploration to Success Program (ACES)

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Coaching youth to pursue independence through education, personal development, relationship building, and extended support.

Program Description:

The ACES Program works to prepare youth ages 16-21 located in Essex and Union County for college and/or employment.

Youth in the program complete an initial assessment with an ACES Coach that builds their individualized service plan. Using the member's service plan as a guide of their individual goals, an ACES Coach may assist the youth by:

- Coordinating pre-requisite and preparatory courses and testing (such as GED, PSAT, SAT, AT, and Accuplacer exams) as identified for each youth
- Arranging college visits, tours, and interviews
- Helping youth connect to financial aid, grants and work-study possibilities and scholarships (where applicable)
- Educating youth on all accommodations in post-secondary educational institutions
- Providing linkages to college retention programs

To above and beyond enrich the lives of youth as they pursue independence, CAU will provide supports that:

- Make meaningful social connections, positive and productive decision making, and critical thinking
- Teach self-advocacy and empower youth to seek services available to them
- Encourage civil engagement
- Prepare youth for employment or provide youth with job readiness skills and work experience

Services are provided 7 days a week from 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM to provide maximum flexibility and access to services based on varying youth scheduling needs.

Referrals to the ACES Program must be made by the Department of Children & Families, Division of Child Protection & Permanency for Essex and Union Counties.

Additional information regarding Youth Services at CAU can be found at www.caunj.org

For more information, please contact:

Latanya Palmer
TOP Intake & Referral Department at Community Access Unlimited
80 West Grand St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-354-3040 x4394 | info@caunj.org | caunj.org

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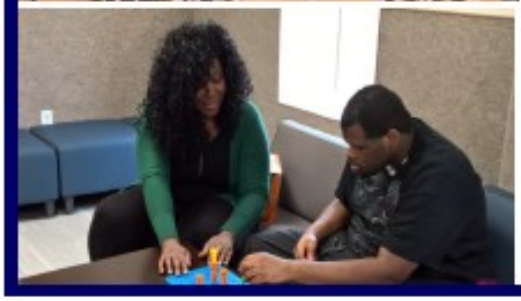


JOIN OUR TEAM!

Community Access Unlimited welcomes those with a big heart! Due to our continuing expansion, there are a number of ***full time*** and ***part time*** openings for those interested in guiding people with disabilities and youth at risk who are on the road to independence.

For those looking for part-time positions, CAU offers available house on the weekends and overnights! Minimum requirements are:

- Valid driver's license
- Access to vehicle daily to use for work purpose
- Original High School Diploma/GED/College Degree

Experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or youth at risk are a plus! Of course compassion for the work and a flexible schedule is also required when providing support to our members.

Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

Please take the time to visit our agency website www.caunj.org for more information and current openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CAU Hosts a weekly Open House
Mondays from 4 PM -6 PM

The Cafeteria at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Don't forget your resume and come prepared to fill out an application

To make an appointment, please call an HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext 203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to rwright@caunj.org.

UCICC –CAU COMMUNITY HELP LINE

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH FOOD? HOME HEALTH OR PERSONAL CARE
HOME AND PROPERTY CARE
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Call CAU's Information and Referral Office at
908-354-3040 [X 4272] for answers and resources.

CAU's community service mission includes providing direct services to people in need as well as information on how to locate services provided by other agencies. This month we highlight **three CAU services available to qualified recipients** in our Union County communities.

1] **Free home delivered meals** [6 week program; one meal per person per day] for Union County residents who are US citizens and their families who need food and who are:
*Age 59 or younger [head of household];
*Living in low income households;
* Unable to access adequate food for themselves and their families.
* Documents and interview are required to qualify.
Contact Gene Tavera X 4272.

2] **Homemaker-home health aide personal care assistance** in home for persons who require help to live independently at home. Services are provided at $20/hour but may be free for those who are low income and age 60 or over, or any age with a disability. Services include light housekeeping, meal preparation, errands and personal care assistance.
Contact Bill Webb X 4206.

3] **Home and property care services** are offered at reasonable fees to assist home bound residents with yard and lawn care, leaf and snow removal, deep cleaning and clutter removal, home maintenance, handyman repairs and home improvements. There are no age or income requirements for these services and costs are based on which services and projects are selected. **Contact Bill Webb X 4206.**

Help Us Rebuild
Help Victims of Roselle Fire
We're currently seeking donations of the following to assist 14 CAU members to settle into their new homes after the fire in Roselle on Feb 3, 2018
$1000
Furnish A Bedroom
$750
Build Up A Wardrobe for the Next Year
$500
Replace Medical Equipment & Electronics
$250
Provide comforting towels & bedding
$100
Personalize new living space
Other items that would be helpful are gift cards to local activities and restaurants to provide an opportunity for members to keep their mind off of their current situation.
Please send donations to:
Community Access Unlimited
c/o Cara Clair, Fundraising Director
80 West Grand St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Donate on our GoFundMe Page:
https://www.gofundme.com/CAURoselleFireRecovery

Open your heart
and your home

All that is missing is **YOU!**

Become a foster or adoptive parent

Be part of the ride.

For more information contact:
(877) NJ FOSTER, www.njfoster.org, (800) 99 ADOPT, www.njadopt.org

Become a Part of A Nationwide Network of Support for Underserved Children & Young Adults ...

Join One Simple Wish's Community Partner Network

At One Simple Wish we believe that every child deserves joy, hope and love in their lives! Together with our Community Partners across the US, we help create happy childhoods one simple wish at a time.

As a member of our Community Partner Network, you can make wishes on behalf of the children and families you serve!

Who can join?

Any registered nonprofit that has been operating for at least one year (examples: schools, churches, group homes, foster parent support groups and social service agencies)

How much does it cost?

Community Partner membership is free! All we ask is that you tell the world about the great work we're doing together and send thank you notes every time a wish is granted!

How do we apply?

Go to onesimplewish.org and click on "Community Partner"

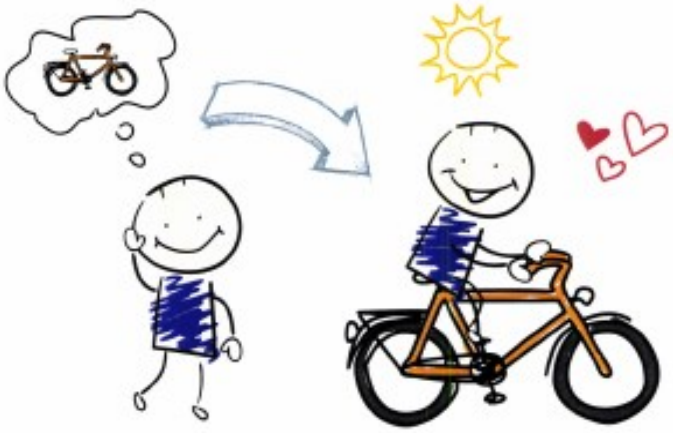
For more information:

onesimplewish.org
info@onesimplewish.org
609.883.8484

One Simple Wish™

GOT A SIMPLE WISH?

WE WANT TO HELP!



One Simple Wish grants simple wishes to foster children and underserved youth and families.

If you have a simple wish, you can contact us to submit it and we will do everything we can to help you*!

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF WISHES ARE ACCEPTED:

- Baby items
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Clothing & Shoes
- Toys
- Books
- Music Players
- Digital Cameras
- Bicycles
- Lessons
- Eyeglasses
- Small Home Appliances
- Bedding
- Bath Towels
- Beauty & Personal Care Products

CONTACT US:

info@onesimplewish.org

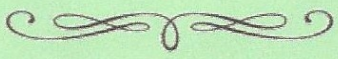
One Simple Wish™

One Simple Wish cannot guarantee that all wishes will be granted but we will make every effort to offer as much support as possible. Wishes must be under $500. Wishes under $50 are granted the fastest.

HOW MEGAN'S LAW AFFECTS JUVENILES IN NEW JERSEY©

IN QUESTION & ANSWER FORMAT

By Nicholas R. Scalera



FREE PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE ON HOW MEGAN'S LAW AFFECTS JUVENILES IN NJ

A pamphlet providing information on how Megan's Law affects youth who were convicted of a sex offense when they were younger than 18 years old is available at no charge.

How Megan's Law Affects Juveniles in New Jersey utilizes a question-and-answer format to explain the complex provisions of Megan's Law in simple, easy-to-understand language. It also helps affected youth learn how to comply with the law's provisions.

The guide was researched and written by Nicholas R. Scalera, who was Director of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, the State's child protection agency, from 1989-94.
Megan's Law, enacted in 1994 and amended in 2001 and 2003, requires certain adults and juveniles who were convicted of a sex offense to register with law enforcement authorities, schools and employers. It also provides for varying levels of community notification based upon the degree of risk of re-offense posed to an offender's community.

The pamphlet also offers guidance to youth service professionals, including: child welfare staff; child advocates; social workers; law guardians; public defenders; staff of Megan's Law Units of county prosecutors' offices; school district staff, principals and teachers; attorneys; law enforcement officers; family court judges and youth mentors/coaches.

For a free electronic or printed version of the booklet, email nick@scalera.com or call (973) 338-4303.

Outpatient Groups

Boys' Social Skills Group
Ages 7 to 10
Thursdays 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Boys' Anger Management Group
Ages 12 to 14
Fridays 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Girls' Social Skills Group
Ages 9 to 11
Mondays 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

To enroll, please contact us at
908-731-7099 ext. 313 or
Intakecoordinator@cooperativecs.com

CCS is a NJ Medicaid Provider. We do not currently participate in Private Insurance Plans; however, we do offer sliding scale fees.

Cooperative Counseling Services
407 Chestnut Street, Union, NJ 07083
908-731-7099
www.cooperativecs.com

Cooperative Counseling Services

www.cooperativecs.com

INTENSIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Our clinicians work as part of a team to provide short term solution focused services
- Serving 16 Counties throughout New Jersey
- Coordinate with NJ Children's System of Care partners

To make a referral contact
908-731-7099 ext. 300

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

- Ages 5 to 21
- Individual, Family & Group Therapies
- Psychiatric Evaluations & Medication Monitoring
- DHS Licensed & Medicaid Provider
- Bilingual Clinicians & Psychiatrist

To make a referral contact:
908-731-7099 ext. 313

SUPERVISED AND THERAPEUTIC VISITATION SERVICES

- DCP&P families in Union and Middlesex County
- Supervised or Therapeutic visits with a trained mental health professional
- Court referrals accepted

To make a referral contact
908-731-7099 ext. 370

LOCATIONS

Outpatient Services
407 Chestnut Street, Union NJ

Outpatient and Visitation Services
1050 Rt. 22 West, Mountainside, NJ

Outpatient and Visitation Services
147 Union Avenue, Middlesex NJ

Headquarters
1139 Spruce Drive, Suite 2,
Mountainside NJ

COMMUNITY ACCESS
UNLIMITED

80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629
Fax: 908-354-2665 www.caunj.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 225
Elizabeth, NJ

Help us go green. Please visit www.caunj.org to receive this newsletter electronically

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director,
Community Access Unlimited (CAU)

Lisa M. Bonanno
Deputy Director, Union County Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Hawa Bonds
Assistant Director, Division of Youth Services, Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)

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Karen Dinsmore
Assistant Director, Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)

Felicia Frazier
Community Resource Manager, Families and Community Together (FACT)

Maureen Segale Glenn
Director of Community Services, Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)

Marla Higginbotham
Executive Director, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, Inc

Pastor Pamela B. Jones
CEO/Executive Director,
Communities in Cooperation, Inc. (CIC)

Jim Kimberling
Director, Human Resources & Development,
Cooperative Counseling Services

Leila Molaie
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor/TCIS,
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD)

Betsy Montalvo
Supervisor, Office of Adolescent Services,
NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Carol Russell
Community Outreach Coordinator,
Family Support Organization of Union County

Cathy Waters
Manager, Reconnections Program,
Urban League of Union County

Haydee Zamora–Dalton
Director, Middlesex/Union Area Office, Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCPP),
NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)

THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES DIRECTORY

is being updated and will be accessible via the county's website. If you have not already submitted an entry for each of your agency's youth service programs for inclusion in the *Directory,* please visit:

http://ucnj.org/youth-directory