



THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE

April 2016

BUILDING SUPPORTS FOR OUR KIDS

Union County Youth Services Steering Committee

Sidney Blanchard

Danielle Cioffi

Pamela Capaci

Robert Charkowsky

Karen Dinsmore

Maureen Segale Glenn

Eric Graham

Richard Hlavacek

Pastor Pamela B. Jones

Jim Kimberling

Marissa Mansueto

Leila Molaie

Betsy Montalvo

Dominic Prophete

Shan Reeves

Audria A. Russell

Roderick Spearman

Edward Thompson

Cathy Waters

For a full listing of the

UCYS Steering

Committee, see back page

SAVE THE DATE

4th Annual Union County Networking Conference

October 26, 2016

Stay tuned for more details!!

TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US

Tanya Johnson, Sr. Assistant Executive Director, Community Access

Unlimited tjohnson@caunj.org,

908-354-3040 x251

Nicholas R. Scalera, President- Scalera Consulting Services

nick@scalera.com, 973-893-6563

OUR MISSION

The **Union County Youth Services Steering Committee** was formed in the fall of 2012 to increase the number, availability and accessibility of services to youth and young adults.

The primary aim is 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 **Youth Services Steering Committee** represent public and nonprofit youth-serving agencies, child advocates, volunteers and faith-based organizations. They meet regularly:

- To share information about youth programs;
- To disseminate the information widely through websites, media announcements, public forums and an annual conference; and
- To identify and close any major gaps in youth service programs.

GOALS

- Serve as a vehicle for fostering communication and networking among youth service 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.

PROCESS & RESULTS

Members of the **Union County Youth Services Steering Committee** work cooperatively together to:

- Develop a countywide network of public and private agencies, advocates, volunteers and faith-based organizations involved in developing resources and/or providing services to Union County youth and young adults.
 - Sponsor an annual **Union County Youth Services Networking Conference** every October. Its inaugural conference, held in October 2013, was a huge success, attracting more than 200 attendees.
 - Conduct periodic meetings and forums with network agencies to share and update information on services they currently provide to youth and young adults and to identify any gaps in service.
 - Develop, update and maintain a computerized data base of public and private youth serving agencies and of service programs available to Union County youth and young adults.
 - Make the computerized data base accessible to the Union County youth-serving community and to consumers of such services.
 - Conduct public information and awareness campaigns to encourage additional youth-serving groups
-

MEET THE TEAM



Sidney Blanchard is the founder and executive director of Community Access Unlimited. CAU began in 1979 from the back seat of Sid's Volkswagen beetle. Soon outgrowing the car, Sid oversaw the growth of the organization from its initial three staff and \$90,000 budget to its current 1200 staff and \$60 million budget.

As the agency has grown in size and membership, Sid has pioneered new initiatives and services that can help to better serve the community. CAU membership has increased throughout the state of New Jersey to include over 6000 residents. Members and people living in the community have access to nearly 235 units of housing throughout Union County and can receive services including daily living assistance, money management, recreation, employment, transportation, support coordination and more. Support programs are available to individuals throughout the state of New Jersey and many enjoy levels of care that are

provided in their own home. Services in the home are provided to anyone in need including 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. He has also started a representative payeeship program that offers assistance to individuals receiving social security benefits and a financial stability program for homeless individuals that will help them receive and pay for housing and utilities.

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. From 1998-2001, Scalera helped Community Education Centers develop and open Lipman Hall, a residential treatment facility and school in Newark serving 110 adolescent boys with serious mental health, emotional and behavioral problems who were placed by DYFS. He served as Director of Lipman Hall from 2001-03.

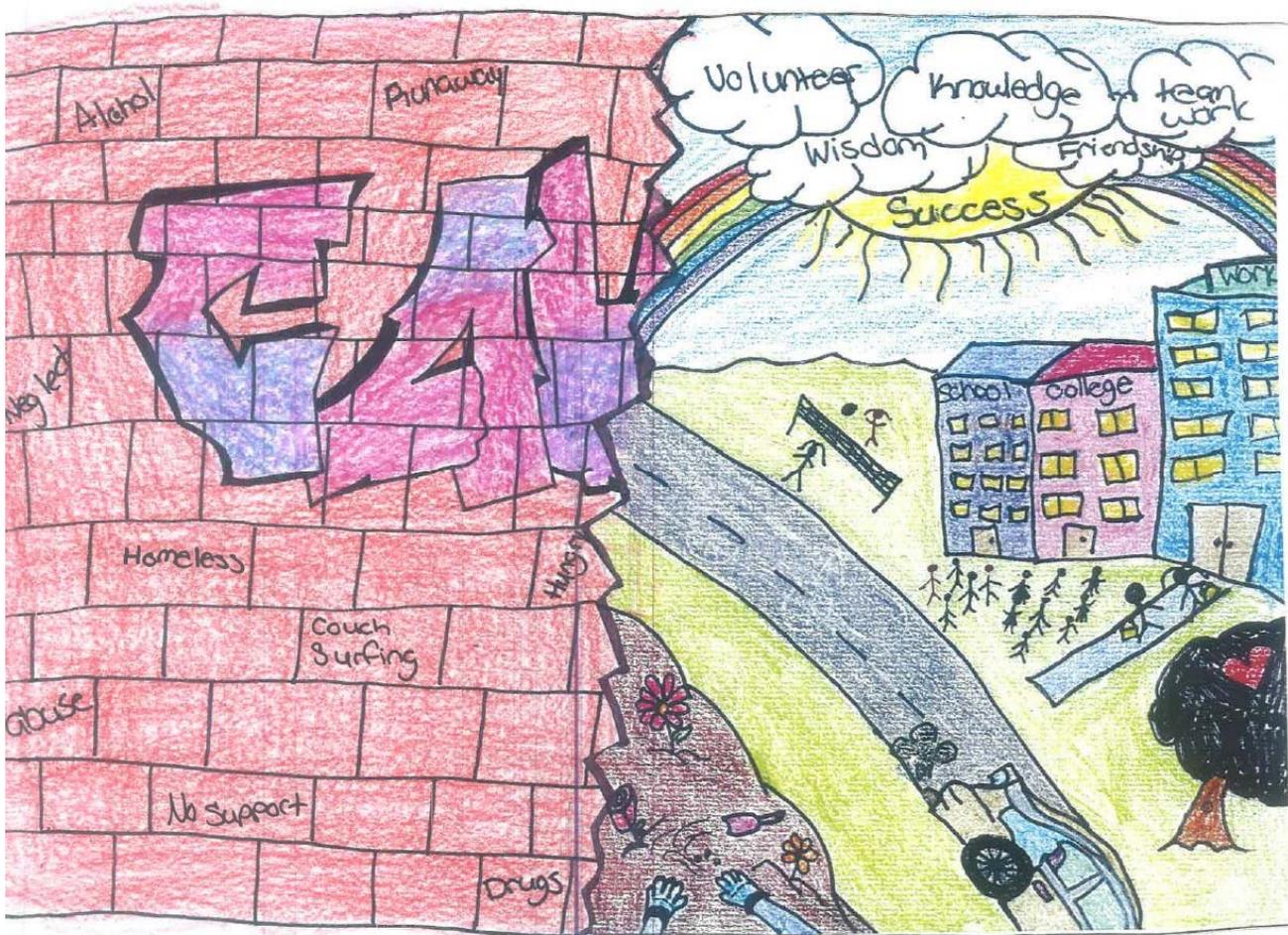
Scalera holds a BA in Social Studies from Seton Hall University and an MS in Journalism "Cum Laude" from Columbia University. In 2007, he established the Nicholas R. Scalera Scholarship Fund at Seton Hall University to help academically qualified students with substantial financial and social needs secure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

Congratulations to the youth at Community Access Unlimited in the Transitional Opportunities Program who entered in the FYSB's Division of Adolescent Development and Support National Mural Contest and being awarded 1st place. The youth that created the mural will travel this fall to the National Runaway and Homeless Youth Conference to present the mural and speak about how Community Access Unlimited changed their lives.

From Homeless to Hopeful & Stable

Our mural represents where many youth have come from and where we are heading in the future thanks to CAU. We have all come from different backgrounds but have faced some of the same challenges. Many youth face running away from a situation, couch surfing, not having any support, abuse, neglect and homelessness. We feel as if we are facing a brick wall and that there is no hope for the future. We were lucky enough to find CAU in the midst of our troubles. CAU has become our saving grace. CAU has offered us stability and provides us with hope for the future. A place where we don't have to worry about food, clothes or being put out for the smallest mistake that we might make. For a lot of us we also found friends amongst ourselves and we found staff that we could really relate to and talk to about anything. CAU pushes us to be the best that we can be. They encourage us to attend school, to job seek, and work hard so that we can succeed. CAU has provided us with different experiences and trips. CAU is teaching us how to be leaders and how to advocate for ourselves. We are grateful to the staff at CAU and view them as being our pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. We wish that every youth could experience what we have, happiness, stability and hope for the future.



You're Invited!

Open House

Sponsored by Community Access Unlimited
Transitional Opportunity Program

Date: Wednesday, April 27
Time: 10:00 AM—3:00 PM
Location: 80 West Grand St.

Join us for an information day with topics focused on the youth services provided by the Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) at CAU.

Day includes table displays, overview with Q&A, lunch, and tours of our residential complexes.

Come for a few minutes, a few hours, during lunch or any other free time you have.

Administrative team, support staff and youth we serve will be available to meet and greet!



**RSVP by calling 908-354-3040 x242
or by emailing sburgess-bertrands@caunj.org**



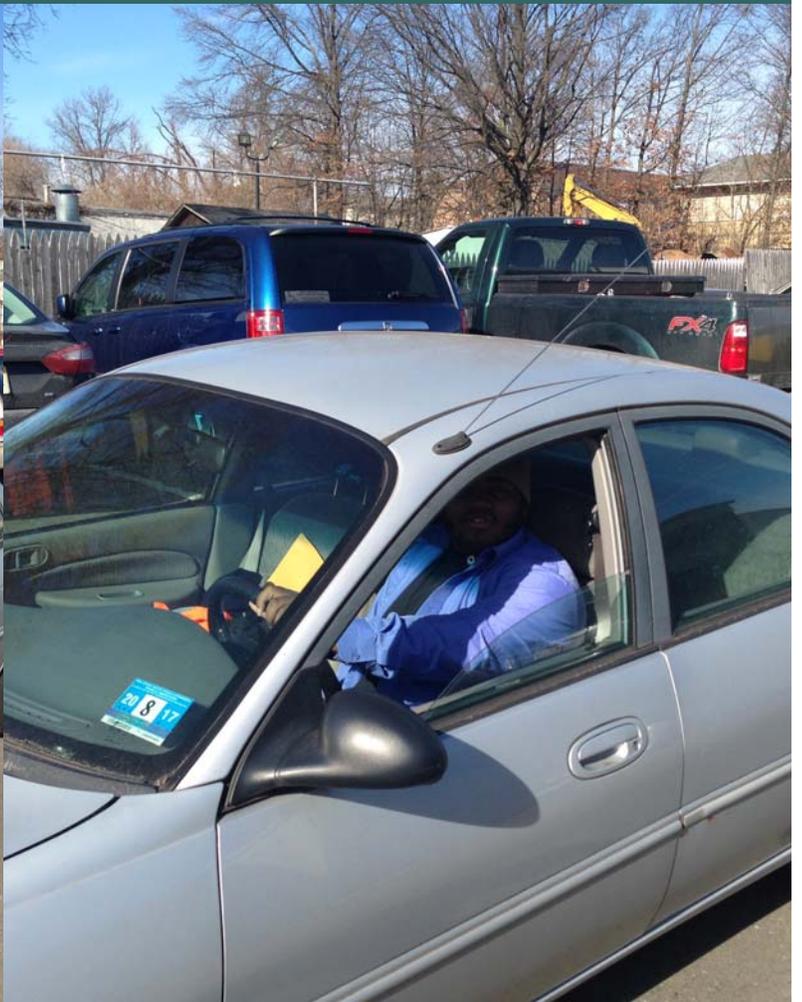
The Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) at CAU specializes in the following offerings:

Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP), Group Home, Supervised Transitional Living Programs, Semi-Independent Living, Supported Housing, Parent Enrichment Program (PEP), Union County Youth Shelter, Emergency Placement Services and Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

More information about these programs can be found at www.caunj.org
or by calling us at 908-354-3040 x394

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to William Watson on receiving his car through Community Access Unlimited's Vehicle Donation Program



ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET RID OF A CAR?
NOT HAPPY WITH DEALER TRADE-IN VALUES?

Consider Donating to Community Access Unlimited's Vehicle Donation Program



YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION
(TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW)
OF A USED CAR IN GOOD CONDITION WILL
HELP A YOUTH OR INDIVIDUAL WITH
DISABILITY GET TO A JOB OR SCHOOL AND
LIVE MORE SELF-SUFFICIENTLY.

THOSE WHO RECEIVE DONATED VEHICLES CAN
EXPAND THEIR OPPORTUNITIES IN
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND
SOCIALIZATION ALL THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT.



UNLIKE OTHER CAR PROGRAMS, CAU DOES
NOT TAKE CARS AND SELL THEM, ONLY
RECEIVING A PERCENTAGE OF ITS VALUE.

BY DONATING TO CAU, 100% OF YOUR
DONATION GOES TO A PERSON WITH
TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND YOU CAN CLAIM
100% OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF YOUR
DONATION.

CONTACT US AT

908-354-3040 x376

TO HELP OUR MEMBERS GROW WITHIN THE COMMUNITY!



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.

Part time positions are available on the weekends and overnights! Minimum requirements are:

- Valid driver's license
- Access to vehicle daily to use for work purposes
- 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.



Open House

Mondays from 4 PM -6 PM

80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Don't forget your resume and
Be 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.

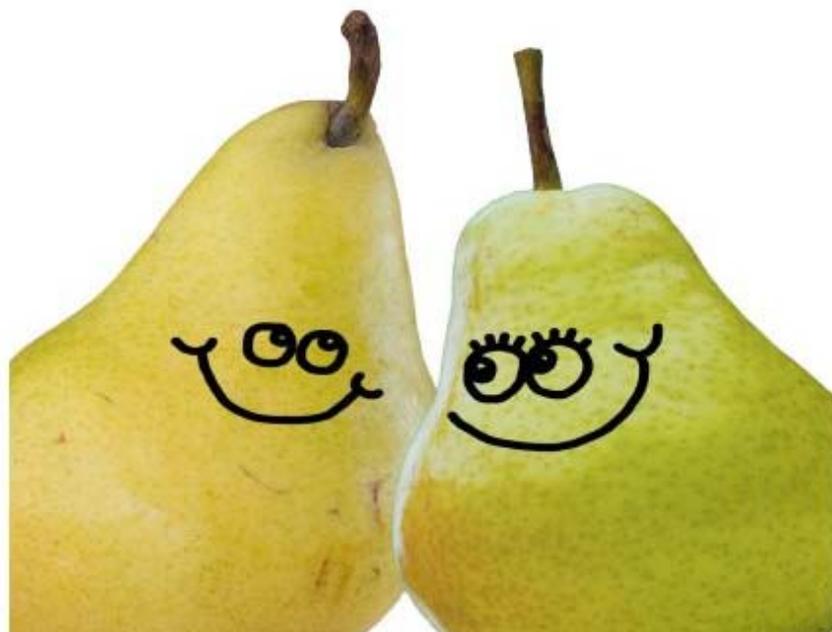
Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

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.



COME TOGETHER

**FOR A BETTER YOU,
COMMUNITY, US!
TOGETHERHOOD IS SPONSORING A
SHARING EVENT FOR OUR
COMMUNITY TO SHARE &
UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY NEEDS.**



**FRIDAY,
APRIL 15, 2016
6:00—8:00 PM**

**The Gateway Family
YMCA
Wellness Center Branch
1000 Galloping Hill Road
Union NJ**

You're Invited to:

- **Raise awareness of your organization**
- **Share how you serve community needs**
- **Share the needs you see**
- **Engage with perspective**

**Registration is required.
Please complete the attached
registration form and return to
Alane McCahey
amccahey@tgfymca.org
908-249-4806 or
Paul Mickiewicz, 908-349-9622
pmickiewicz@tgfymca.org**

**TOGETHERHOOD
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITES**

**TOGETHERHOOD engages Y
members in rewarding
service projects that benefit
the community.**



Project SEARCH is coming to Union County, New Jersey!

An evidenced-based High School Transition Program that produces positive employment outcomes for youth ages 18-21 with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Project SEARCH Benefits include:

- Non-paid internships at a major business within Union County
- Competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills
- Increased independence, confidence and self esteem
- Work-based individualized coaching, instruction and feedback from the instructor, job coaches and business mentors.
- Connections with NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (NJDDD) and travel training via NJTIP @ Rutgers.

Applications for the 2016-17 school year program are now available.

For more information please contact:

Josh Bornstein

Supervisor, Transition Services UCESC

45 Cardinal Drive

Westfield, NJ 07090

908-233-9317 x246

Fax: 908-233-7432

jbornstein@ucesc.org



ANNUAL IRA GELLER WALK-a-THON



Community Access Unlimited



SAVE THE DATE

September 17th, 2016

Oak Ridge Park



Sponsorships Are Available!

For more information contact Alyssa Mistretta, Fundraising Coordinator 908.354.3040 x205
or at amistretta@caunj.org

SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP

Help your child
develop
Peer Relation,
Conflict Resolution
and Problem Solving
Skills



- Joining In
- Dealing with Bullying
- Listening
- Accepting Consequences for Behavior
- Taking Turns
- Skills to Handle Anger/Frustration
- Sharing
- Feeling Awareness

Parent
consults and
Activities for
Home!



Males, Ages 7 - 10
Tuesdays, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
407 Chestnut Street, Union NJ

To enroll, please contact our Intake Coordinator at
(908) 731-7099 ext. 313 or intakecoordinator@cooperativescs.com

*CCS is a NJ Medicaid Provider and does not currently participate in Private Health Insurance Plans.
CCS offers sliding scale fees.*



GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY AT 3PM!

JOIN US FOR OUR GROUP TO LISTEN AND SHARE WITH OTHER GIRLS WHO ARE HAVING SIMILAR EXPERIENCES.

TO ENROLL, PLEASE CONTACT OUR INTAKE COORDINATOR AT (908) 731-7099 EXT. 313 OR INTAKE.COORDINATOR@COOPERATIVECS.COM



—
Improve self-esteem
—

Develop coping skills
—

Build and strengthen meaningful relationships
—

Develop healthy habits

**ADOLESCENT GIRLS
THURSDAYS,
3:00PM-4:30PM**

**Cooperative
Counseling Services
407 Chestnut St
Union, NJ 07083
908-731-7099**



Community Access Unlimited Hope Chest Program

The Hope Chest Program provides at-risk youth with essential household items to jumpstart their independence



Community Access Unlimited is dedicated to providing quality support services to youth who are at risk, giving them the opportunity to live full and productive lives as citizens integrated into the community.

What is a Hope Chest?

As youth in the Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) grow as young adults, they become ready to take the next steps to being an independent citizen in the community.

When youth have graduated from supervised residential living and aged out of the child welfare system, their next step involves moving into an apartment of their own. CAU will provide them with the essentials that will allow the youth to set up their own household.

HOW CAN YOU DONATE?

If you would like to make a donation to the program, please contact:

Information & Referral Department
908-354-3040 x272

Your donation will be received and welcomed as we continue to assist our youth in becoming independent.

Items to Donate

Each basket contains items donated generously by people in the community who support the youth at CAU blossom into adults who work diligently toward a happy future.

If you are interested in donating product to the Hope Chest Program, please consider the following:

Kitchen Essentials:

Plates, Silverware, Knives, Glassware
Pots & Pans, Cooking Utensils, Kitchen
Towels

Bath/Shower Essentials:

Assorted Toiletry Items, Towels, Bath Mats
Shower Curtain, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Bedroom Essentials:

Bedding (Single, 2 sets), Pillows
Curtains, Alarm Clock

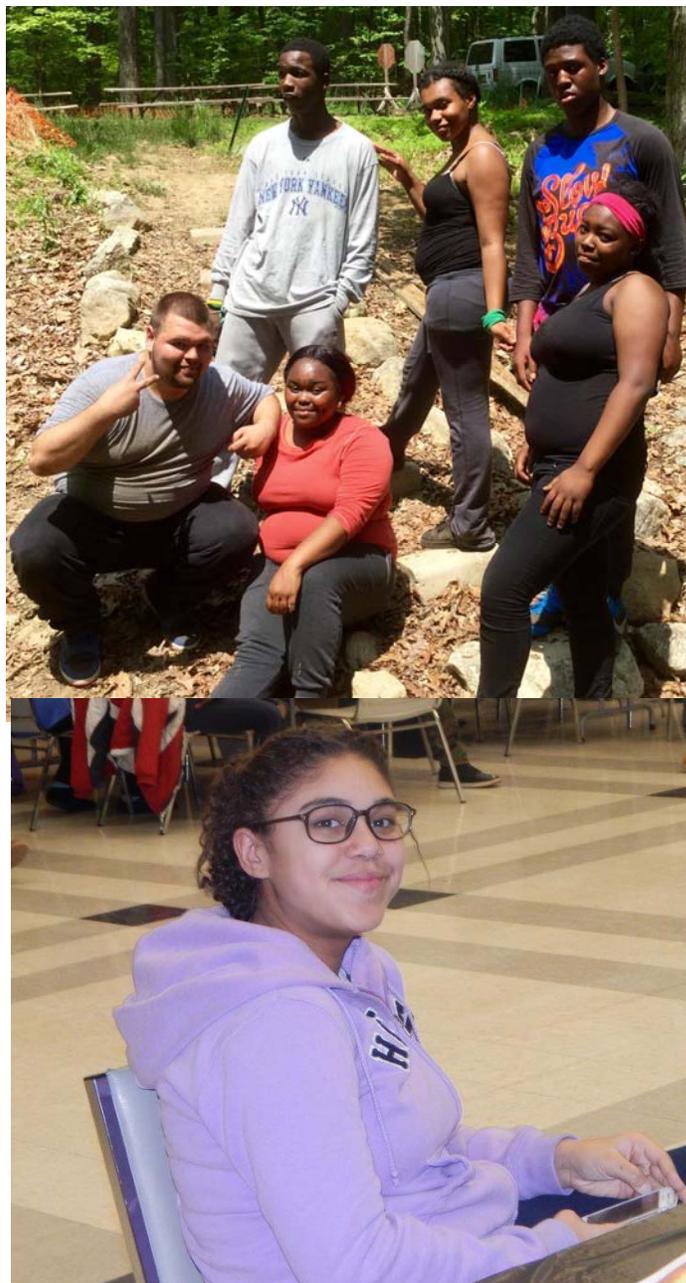
Miscellaneous Essentials:

Luggage, Laundry Basket, Microwave
Iron, Ironing Board, Toaster Oven, Trash Can

Items must be new or in “like new” condition

Support with a Monetary Donation

Monetary donations to the Hope Chest Program will allow for youth to purchase items needed for their first apartment or independent living opportunity



For more information on the Hope Chest Program please contact us at:
Information & Referral Dept.
908-354-3040 x272
info@caunj.org

80 West Grand St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: 908-354-3040 | Fax: 908-354-2665
Email: info@caunj.org | caunj.org



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 225

80 West Grand ST
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629

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

Community Access Unlimited’s Mission: *To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities and at-risk youth, giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives in the community.*

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director, Community Access Unlimited
Danielle Cioffi
District Executive Director, The Gateway Family YMCA, Elizabeth & Five Points Branch
Pamela Capaci
Executive Director, Prevention Links, Inc.
Robert Charkowsky
Web Site & Social Media Manager, Office of Public Information and Communication, Union County Office
Karen Dinsmore
Assistant Director, Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)
Maureen Segale Glenn
Director of Community Services, Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)
Eric Graham
Community Liaison, Union County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Richard Hlavacek
Executive Director, Families and Community Together (FACT)
Pastor Pamela B. Jones
CEO/Executive Director, Communities in Cooperation, Inc. (CIC)
Jim Kimberling
Director of Development, Cooperative Counseling Services
Marissa Mansueto
Youth Services Coordinator, Family and Children’s Services (FCS)
Leila Molaie
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor/TCIS, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Betsy Montalvo
Supervisor, /Office of Adolescent Services, NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Dominic Prophete
Executive Director, CASA of Union County, Inc.
Shan Reeves
Mental Health Clinician/Church Deacon
Audria A. Russell
Program Manager, Iris House
Roderick Spearman
Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Housing Authority
Edward Thompson
Area Director, Union County Area Office Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP), NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Cathy Waters
Manager, the Reconnections Program of the Urban League of Union County

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>