



THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE

June 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

“THE YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE”



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.).

CAU Members Make Waves in Washington Advocating for Supports for Children

CAU Members Robert Brown and Barshay Stinson represented Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and recently attended the Child Welfare League of America Summit held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Washington DC. The annual conference welcomed members of the Child Welfare League of America, advocates and partners from across the United States and invited the groups to gather and address the needs for new investments in children and strives to providing permanency and safety for children.

Brown and Stinson share the role of president of CAU's Member Action Committee (MAC) which advocates for the rights of members within the agency and the community, and for other at-risk youths, as well. They are members of CAU's Transitional Opportunities Programs (TOP), living within the agency's independent supported housing programs.

This 'dynamic duo' as they refer to themselves, were chosen to represent Community Access Unlimited at the summit because of their leadership position within MAC and also because they both passionately believe that youth are facing challenges in their own neighborhood and the time to help is now. The members participated in conversations and challenged participants to join them in being a part of the solution.

"I went because I want to see a change in our community and because I wanted to see who else is on our side," Stinson said. "Children shouldn't be homeless and not able to eat. And the people who have the power to change it need to do something, and that is what I went down to say."

The young men were warmly welcomed to the conference by US Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Frank LoBiondo, and Congressman Donald NoCross. Senator Booker spent time speaking with Stinson and Brown and listened while they spoke of their concerns, including the availability of housing, clothing, and food for at-risk youth.

"This year I mainly listened," said Brown. "But it was great being able to speak with Senator Booker and talk about our ideas for ending child abuse and child homelessness. I learned a lot from the conference including more about how politics work and how many people support our quest to end child homelessness in the community."

Topics at the summit included brainstorming strategy for eliminating child abuse, child homelessness, the drug epidemic amongst youth, and the depletion of funding for youth-supporting initiatives.

Howard Wingard, co-advisor of MAC, praised both young men for their participation in the summit, and spoke of how proud he was that they represented CAU and New Jersey so well.

"Robert and Barshay's participation in the summit was a great experience for both young men and for the summit's participants as well," said Wingard. "Both contributed a unique perspective on topics of discussion amongst the attendees and made connections with other agencies outside of New Jersey. We learned a lot of how other agencies are helping the youth they support and how discovered opportunities for collaboration. This way we can continue to make a difference in the lives of so many youth in New Jersey."

(picture and caption below)



Robert Brown (left) and Barshay Stinson (right) were able to speak with US Senator Corey Booker regarding the need for supports for adolescents at the annual CWLA Summit in Washington, DC.



Transitional Opportunities Program Presents
Independent City!!



Join us for Independent City!!!!

Saturday - July 16, 2016 10a-2p

418 Palmer Street Elizabeth, NJ 07208

Contact Julia Leftwich for more information or to register:

908-482-7255 or jleftwich@caunj.org

Come Experience a hands-on event where you can see what it is like to live on your own for a day. Learn how to budget, rent an apartment, purchase furniture, groceries, and more!!!

See what it takes to move out for the first time!

FOOD, DOOR PRIZES & KNOWLEDGE





The CAU Community Players

Present:

Friday, June 24, 2016
@ 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 25, 2016
@ 7:30 PM

Sunday, June 26, 2016
@ 2:00 PM

**Jonathan Dayton High School,
Springfield, NJ**

Tickets—\$10 each

Order Tickets Now!

Return this slip with payment to order tickets via mail. Tickets are also available at www.showtix.com

Friday, June 24 at 7:30 PM	Saturday, June 25 at 7:30 PM	Sunday, June 26 at 2:00 PM
___ \$10 General Admission	___ \$10 General Admission	___ \$10 General Admission

Accessible Seating Required? Y/N Accessible Seating Required? Y/N Accessible Seating Required? Y/N

___ Please Mail My Tickets ___ Please Hold My Tickets at Will-Call

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please make all checks out to Community Access Unlimited

CC #: _____

Exp Date: _____ Card CVV#: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____



Mail Payments to Community Access Unlimited, C/O Alyssa Mistretta
80 West Grand St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202
If you have questions, contact us at 908-354-3040 x205
or at amistretta@caunj.org

ANNUAL IRA GELLER WALK-A-THON



Community Access Unlimited

September 17th, 2016

Oak Ridge Park, Clark, NJ



REGISTRATION 11AM - WALK BEGINS 12 NOON



GAMES, ACTIVITIES



WALK



FOOD & COMMUNITY

Ira Geller was a CAU member who tirelessly worked to raise funds for the annual walk-a-thon, always facing the adversity of fundraising with a positive approach. His devotion to fundraising and his commitment to people with special needs lives on through the Annual Ira Geller Walk-a-Thon.

FUNDRAISING OPPROTUNITIES!

Start fundraising now by joining an existing team or individually on our CrowdRise Event Page!

Go to www.crowdrise.com/2016IraGellerWalkathon to get started!

Sponsorships Are Available!

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



CLOTHING DRIVE

6/1/16-6/30/16

M.A.C.

(Member Action Committee)

CLOTHING DRIVE!!

For The Summer and Spring Come On and Bring Your Things!!!

Be a huge help in your community by donating your unwanted items. Clothes, Shirts, Pants, Hats and Shoes are welcome.

Be the change to your community.

Clothes will be distributed to our local churches for those in need.



The Member Action Committee is hosting a Clothing Drive!!

Why Let Your Clothes Sit and Build Dust?

Why Throw Away the Outfits You No Longer Fit?

DROP OFF LOCATION: COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED - CAFE

80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

<http://www.caunj.org/>



**For More Information - Contact:
Julia Leftwich - 908-482-7255**

jleftwich@caunj.org

Howard Wingard -
hwingard@caunj.org

5:30-8:00 pm
Elizabethtown Gas Company
Liberty Hall Center
1085 Morris Avenue, Union

FACT Youth Scholarships
Community Honorees

A CELEBRATION OF UNION COUNTY YOUTH

Hats Off to Kids

PLEASE JOIN US

JUNE 14, 2016

KEYNOTE

DeLacy Davis, Executive Director
Family Support Organization of Union County

HOSTED BY FACT

Families and Community Together

Tickets / Donations:

www.unionresourcenet.org/hats-off-to-kids/

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.



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*

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, Union County Office of Public Information and Communication

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 Development Board (WDB)

Richard Hlavacek
Executive Director, Families and Community Together (FACT)

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

Jim Kimberling
Director, Human Resources & 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 (DLWD)

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

Dominic Prophete
Executive Director, Court Appointed Special Advocates (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, Middlesex/Union County Area, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP), NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Cathy Waters
Manager, Reconnections Program, 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>