



# ***THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE***

**March 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

Leila Molaie

Betsy Montalvo

Maureen O'Leary

Dominic Prophete

Shan Reeves

Roderick Spearman

Edward Thompson

For a full listing of the

UCYS Steering

Committee, see back page



**The Steering Committee is Back at Work!**

# **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](mailto:tjohnson@caunj.org),  
**908-354-3040 x251**

**Nicholas R. Scalera, President- Scalera Consulting Services**  
[nick@scalera.com](mailto: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.

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## 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.

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## 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
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## 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.).

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.caunj.org)  
or by calling us at 908-354-3040 x394



## 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](mailto:rwright@caunj.org).

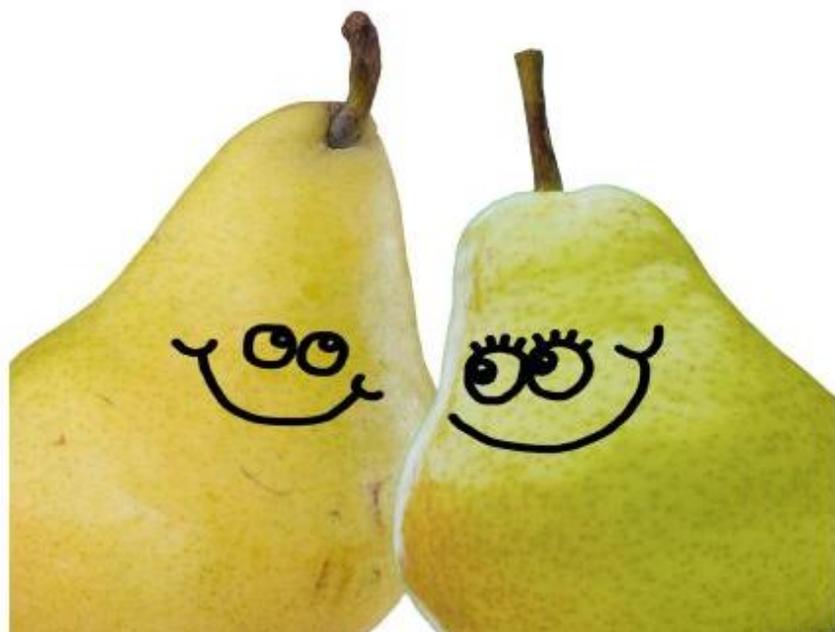
Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

Please take the time to visit our agency website [www.caunj.org](http://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.**

# 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](mailto:amistretta@caunj.org)



## 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](mailto:jbornstein@ucesc.org)





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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH began in 1996 while Erin Riehle was working as the Director of the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Erin was frustrated with a high turnover rate in entry-level jobs, such as materials management positions that involved restocking supplies in exam rooms. She was also interested in expanding the hospital's diversity initiative and wondered if people with disabilities could fill these entry-level positions. She turned to Great Oaks Career Campuses and the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services and asked if her idea was feasible. In partnership with these organizations, the idea of filling a handful of jobs in Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department evolved into a comprehensive internship and employment model—Project SEARCH.

Project SEARCH has grown from one site at Cincinnati Children's to over 300 sites across 46 states and four countries. Project SEARCH business partners include Fifth Third Bank, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, Xavier University, Medtronic, the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, Zoo Miami, Chesapeake Oil, Emory Midtown Hospital, and many others. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities.

Project SEARCH is driven by collaboration among the following community partners:

- ❖ Hospital or Business: hosts the program and supplies internships
- ❖ Local School District(s): supplies the teacher and students
- ❖ Vocational Rehabilitation: funds job coaching, job development, and provides vocational guidance
- ❖ Community Rehabilitation Partner: provides job coaches and job development
- ❖ Developmental Disability organization: provides long-term support once student is employed
- ❖ Families: support the student through the process and assist with the job search

### What kind of jobs/task and departments can the interns perform?

Our experience tells us that student interns can perform well in many support roles in a variety of departments and settings. They often excel at complex yet systematic tasks that are time intensive, equipment intensive, or paper/computer intensive. Some examples include organizing surgical trays that have between 20 and 150 instruments; cleaning and sterilizing incubators with multiple parts; stocking supplies in clinics, emergency departments, and on patient floors; transporting patients; preparing clinic exam rooms between visits (this can include retrieving patient files); greeting families and escorting the patient to his or her exam room; electronic filing and scanning; delivering supplies or specimens (courier); performing a variety of laboratory tasks; working in nutrition services or customer service; operating a switchboard; etc. With training and minimal accommodations the interns can learn and perform complex tasks that lead to jobs in the community or at the host business.

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## YOUTH SERVICES

UNION COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES  
288 N. Broad St. Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
(908) 558-2520 (908) 558-2547 fax

# PARENTS IN ACTION

## PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

**INFORMING,  
INVOLVING &  
SUPPORTING PARENTS**

**HELPING YOUR  
CHILD SUCCEED  
IN SCHOOL**

**JOIN US!** TUESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
FROM FEB. 23 TO MARCH 15

**ONE STOP CENTER- 2ND FLOOR**

921 ELIZABETH AVE ELIZABETH, NJ 07201

THE PROGRAM IS AT NO COST &  
FREE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

**REGISTER TODAY!**

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES  
(908) 558-2520



A SERVICE OF THE UNION COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**Union County**  
*We're Connected to You!*

in cooperation with



[www.ucnj.org/youth](http://www.ucnj.org/youth)



**YOUTH SERVICES**  
UNION COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES  
288 N. Broad St. Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
(908) 558-2520 (908) 558-2547 fax

# PARENTS IN ACTION

**INFORMANDO  
ENVOLVIENDO  
Y APOYANDO A PADRES!**

**AYUDE A SU HIJO/A  
A SER EXITOSO EN  
LA ESCUELA**

**ACOMPañEN NOS!**

**FECHA FEB 23 A MARZO 15  
MARTES 6:30 PM-7:30 PM**

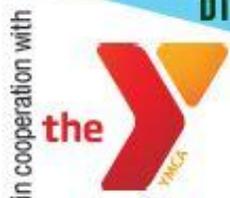
**ONE STOP CENTER- 2DO PISO  
921 ELIZABETH AVE ELIZABETH, NJ 07201  
EL PROGRAMA ES PROVEÍDO SIN COSTO ALGUNO  
SE SERVIRÁN REFRESCOS**

**LLAMENOS HOY!**

**DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES  
(908) 558-2520**



A SERVICE OF THE UNION COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
**Union County**  
*We're Connected to You!*



[www.ucnj.org/youth](http://www.ucnj.org/youth)



### **Narcan Trainings:**

**The training is open to anyone who is at risk of an opioid overdose or their family and friends. All eligible participants will receive a FREE Narcan (naloxone) kit and FREE information and linkage to substance abuse treatment resources. In addition, education will be provided on how to administer Narcan to reverse a heroin/opioid overdose.**

**February 16, 2016:** Prevention Links and the Health and Wellness Coalition (HAWC) are partnering to provide the first training at Summit Oaks Hospital in Summit, NJ.

**March 3, 2016:** Prevention Links and the Health and Wellness Coalition (HAWC) are partnering to provide the second training at the Counseling Center in Clark, NJ.

**March 31, 2016:** Prevention Links and Union County are partnering to provide the third training at the Union County Engineering Building in Scotch Plains, NJ.

**April 18, 2016:** Prevention Links and Union County are partnering to provide the fourth training at the The Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School housed within Kean University in Union, NJ.

### **The Union County School Task Force Conference:**

**Date:** April 6, 2016

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Kean Stem Building

Presentation by an attorney to discuss legal considerations when dealing with substance abuse in schools.

Afternoon panel discussion: “Through Every Lens: Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment”.

### **The Union County Underage Drinking Prevention PSA Contest**

Information will be sent out to schools shortly regarding the Union County Underage Drinking Prevention PSA Contest.

Looking for as many high school- aged youth to submit videos on the danger of underage drinking.

Award Ceremony – May 26, 2016 Hamilton Stage Rahway.

If you should have any questions, please contact

*Lauren Rodríguez, LMSW*

Intensive Case Manager  
250 Second Street

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**NJCRI**  
NORTH JERSEY COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

**NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV AWARENESS DAY!**  
**INSPIRED. EMPOWERED. COMMITTED TO CHANGE.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MARCH 10, 2016**

DETAILS COMING SOON.  
CONTACT MOSEALE COKER FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[M.COKE@NJCRI.ORG](mailto:M.COKE@NJCRI.ORG)

Grant funded by the New Jersey Department of Health Division of HIV, STD and TB Services.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ *To register for the National Women & Girls Awareness*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ *Day please complete this form and fax, call, email, or*

\_\_\_\_\_ *drop off at the security desk at the above address.*

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ *To register please contact Carmen at (908) 412-8300*

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

# Project Search

*Project SEARCH*, a new evidenced-based high school transition program, is coming to Union County, NJ for the 2016-17 school year. The Project SEARCH Program is a unique, business-led, one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and relevant job-skills training through strategically designed internships. The program is the result of a partnership between the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC), the NJ Division of Rehabilitation Services (DVR) and the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). The program is seeking student applicants who are 19-20 years old, diagnosed with a developmental disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder, and who will be entering their last year of high school and/or entitlement in the Fall of 2016. The program will provide a one-year intensive training experience on-site at a MAJOR employer here in Union County (to be announced soon). The initial cohort will consist of 6 to 8 students supported on-site by a special education teacher and two support professionals (one provided by UCESC and the other through a vendor contracted by DVR). The goal will be to teach the students critical employability skills through a combination of classroom-based instruction (on-site at the business) and rotating internship experiences in various departments. The ultimate goal of the program is to support the students to seek and secure competitive employment at the host business or elsewhere in the community. DVR will also fund job development services for students in the assigned cohort. In 2013-14, Project Search successfully placed 73% of its students participants in competitive employment within three months of completing the program.

For more information about the program or to request an application, please contact Mr. Josh Bornstein, Supervisor of Transition Services at Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) at [jbornstein@ucesc.org](mailto:jbornstein@ucesc.org) or (908) 233-9317, Ext. 246.





## TRANSITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

The Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) provides a variety of support services to youth aged 13 - 21. Youth living in any county of New Jersey are eligible to enter the program through a referral by CSOC, DCP&P, or by a self-referral. While living in Elizabeth, youth receive a variety of independent living training and transitional living support services until they achieve the life skills needed to live independently.

At Community Access Unlimited, TOP hosts several events/workshops available to the youth in the community.

- ✦ DCP&P Open House – April 27, 2016  
Come out to CAU and learn about our programs and services. Don't forget to take a tour of our facilities. Learn about our Continuum of Care; especially our Group Homes that houses male and females ages 13 -17 in Elizabeth. Our Group Homes provides 24-hour staff supervision, individual counseling, group counseling, member advocacy support groups, life skills training, daily recreational opportunities, as well as, access to resources in the community. Contact the Intake Coordinator at (908) 354-3040 at ext 394 for more information.
- ✦ Independent City – July, 16, 2016  
Youth are able to experience real life scenarios of being Independent, managing money, and the challenge of making choices.
- ✦ Youth Conference – August 17, 2016  
A 1-day event full of information and fun. Includes keynote speakers, workshops, food, entertainment, and door prizes. ( complimentary for youth whose interfaith organization is a member of UCICC)
- ✦ Who Wants To Be Independent? November 19, 2016  
A workshop developed from the idea of the popular game show: *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* The workshop delivers a clever way of introducing that "Rules" still apply when one becomes independent.
- ❖ Please keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements about the above events in the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council (UCICC) newsletter.

### ***The Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Shelter***

The Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter provides 24-hour assistance for youth ages 13 -17. Youth supported in the Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter are often in need of programs that will enable youth to move forward to a safer, healthier, and more productive lifestyle within the community. RHY shelter can also be used as a respite for families.

If you know of someone in need, contact us:

908-354-5420 (shelter)  
800 -354-3096 (toll free)  
908-413-4261 (24-hour access)

### ***Respite Services***

TOP also provides respite services for the Division of Children's System of Care (DCSOC). Respite services include overnight, afterschool care, weekend recreational, etc. Please contact Tanya Johnson for more information: Tanya Johnson (908)354-3040 ext. 251.

### ***Would you like to help support our Youth?***

As youth grow as young adults, they become ready to take the next step to being independent citizens in the community. As they prepare to move into their own apartments CAU will provide them with a Hope Chest that includes the essentials that will allow the youth to set up their own household. Such items include: pots & pans, cooking utensils, towels, bedding, microwave, etc. Another stepping stone to helping our youth achieve independence through Vehicle Donations. Having a vehicle extends their access to jobs and to other community resources. If you would like to make a donation to the program, please contact: Information & Referral Department at (08) 354-3040 ext. 272.



## 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



80 West Grand ST  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629

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ORGANIZATION  
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PAID**  
PERMIT 225

 Help us go green. Please visit [www.caunj.org](http://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  
Hawa Bonds- Assistant Director of Human Services  
Department/Division of Youth Services

**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

**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)

**Maureen O'Leary**

Acting Executive Director, Family and Children's Ser-  
vices (FCS)

**Dominic Prophete**

Executive Director, CASA of Union County, Inc.

**Shan Reeves**

Mental Health Clinician/Church Deacon

**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)

**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](http://ucnj.org/youth-directory)