



# *THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE*

May 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](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.

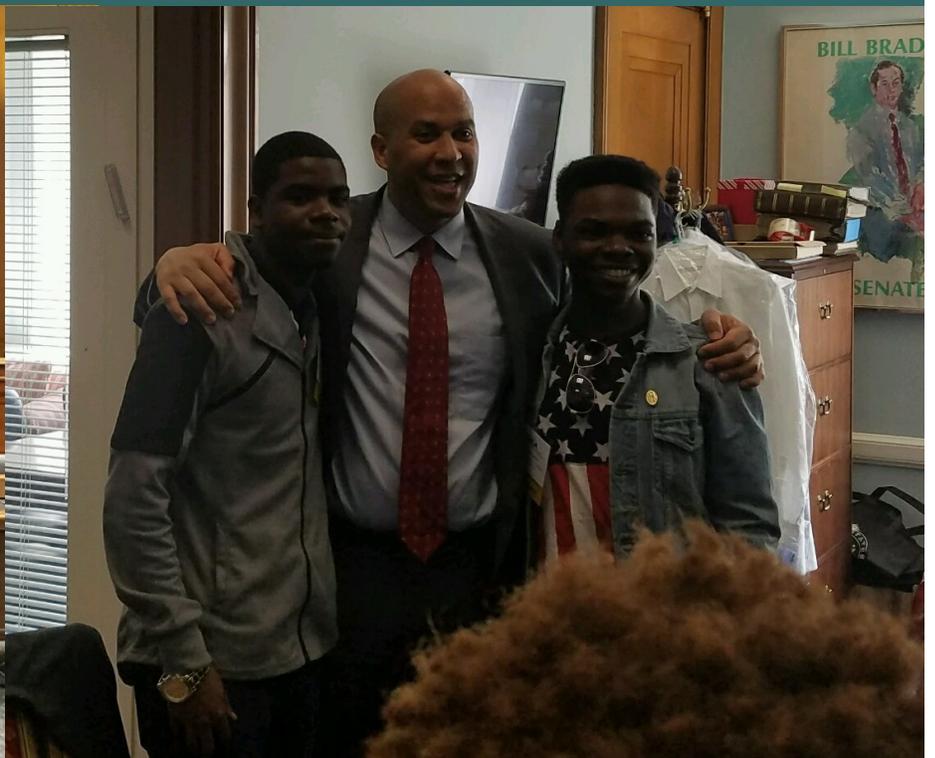
Scalera holds a BA in Social Studies from Seton Hall University and an MS in Journalism "Cum Laude" from Columbia University. In 2007, he established the Nicholas R. Scalera Scholarship Fund at Seton Hall University to help academically qualified students with substantial financial and social needs secure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



## Community Access Unlimited's Youth On The National Level:

Members from Community Access Unlimited Attended the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) National Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C.





Barshay Stinson and Robert Brown, members of the Transitional Opportunities Program at Community Access Unlimited, attended this year's Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) National Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C. from April 18-April 20. Topic discussions included eliminating child abuse, homelessness, the drug epidemic among youth, programs losing programs and program funding resources being depleted. The members were able to meet Congressman Donald Nocross, Congressman Frank LoBiondo and US Senator Corey Booker.



## **Faithfully Fit: A Snap-Ed Nutrition Education Faith-Based Initiative**

*Faithfully Fit* is a nutrition education program designed to work with faith-based organizations. Faithfully Fit aims to enhance nutrition education outreach and food access to limited-resource populations. Faith-based organizations have a long history of community service, and are a primary source of spiritual and nutritional nourishment for the community. Please join us in helping with this initiative to those in need improve their families' health!

### ***Faithfully Fit* goals are for members to:**

- Eat more veggies and fruit every day.
- Increase the types and amounts of physical activity.
- Eat according to a food pattern that lowers their risk for serious illnesses by:
  - Reducing the intake of sugar-sweetened beverages
  - Checking calories on nutrition labels or menu labels
  - Eating smaller portion sizes
  - Choose healthy snacks

Ensure access to enough nutritious foods to feed themselves and/or their families

### **Poster Club**

*Faithfully Fit* posters are distributed quarterly and focus on displaying nutrition education messages designed to work with faith-based organizations. These may include messages to help community members:

- Eat more veggies and fruits every day
- Increase the types and amounts of physical activity
- Eat according to a food pattern that lowers their risk for serious illnesses by:
  - Reducing intake of sugar-sweetened beverages
  - Checking calories on nutrition facts labels or menu labels
  - Choosing healthy snacks

Ensuring access to enough nutritious foods to feed themselves and/or their families

For more information on nutrition classes call Janet Brun RD, CDE at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County—908-654-9854 x 5 or e-mail [brun@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:brun@njaes.rutgers.edu) or posters and general information visit [FaithfullyFit@snaped4me.org](mailto:FaithfullyFit@snaped4me.org)

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# 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](http://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](mailto:amistretta@caunj.org)

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](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.



## 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



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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](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*

**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>