September 2016

UNION COUNTY YOUTH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

BUILDING SUPPORTS FOR OUR KIDS

Join us for the 4th Annual Union County Youth Networking Conference

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

REGISTRATION FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL NETWORKING CONFERENCE WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 12, 2016!

To get involved, contact us:

Tanya Johnson
908-354-3040 x251 or
tjohnson@caunj.org

Nicholas Scalera
973-893-6563 or
nick@scalera.com

OUR MISSION

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

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

GOALS

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

∞ Improve youth service effectiveness and outcomes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESULTS

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

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

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

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

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

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE UNION COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES STEERING COMMITTEE

Sidney Blanchard
Community Access Unlimited

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

Pamela Capaci
Prevention Links, Inc.

Robert Charkowsky
Union County Office of Public Information and Communication

Karen Dinsmore
Union County Department of Human Services (DHS)

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

Eric Graham
Union County Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Richard Hlavacek
Families and Community Together (FACT)

Pastor Pamela B. Jones
Communities in Cooperation, Inc. (CIC)

Jim Kimberling
Cooperative Counseling Services

Kelly Collins
Family and Children's Services (FCS)

Leila Molaie
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS),

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

Lori Morris
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County, Inc.

Shan Reeves
Mental Health Clinician/Church Deacon

Audria A. Russell
Iris House

Roderick Spearman
Elizabeth Housing Authority

Marisol Garces
Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP),
NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Cathy Waters
Urban League of Union County

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Robert Brown 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!

The Power of Giving Back is Rewarding

'Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success'
- Henry Ford

Pictured above are some of our Community Access Unlimited TOP Program Members who participated in the *"Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation"* project over the summer.

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

Register Now! Sign up for Day of Prayer by going to www.caunj.org and clicking 'Upcoming Events' *or phoning 908-354-3040 x4324.*

Day of Prayer and Reflection:

Honoring People of All Faith Communities

Union County Day of Prayer

October 5, 2016

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

The Parish Community of St. Helen
1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ

Working to facilitate the building of bonds within the interfaith community, promoting the respect, inclusion and welcoming of others.

Sponsored by
Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

BULLYING

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Presenter: Leo J. Battenhausen, MA, MSW

LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
LICENSED CLINICAL ALCOHOL & DRUG COUNSELOR

Wednesday, September 21 at 7pm
at

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
215 ELM AVE.
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

DRUG PREVENTION WALK 10.22.16

#Everyone knows someone...
...help prevent the next one.

Red Ribbon

Invest in Recovery, Instead of Paying the Price of Addiction

2016 Drug Prevention Walk
October 22nd
9:00AM - 10:00AM

Red Ribbon Family Fun Day
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Nomahegan Park Cranford
1024 Springfield Ave

Click here to register as an individual walker or as a team!

Quick Links
Our Website
Register to Walk
Contact Us

A SERVICE OF THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

GCADA
Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

What is Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)?

- TF-CBT works well with children, ages 5-20, who are having emotional or behavioral problems resulting from sexual and/or physical abuse, neglect, witnessing violence or a tragic incident or loss.
- Effective treatment, working with a TF-CBT therapist and your child
- Individual/Family Therapy occurs weekly, usually complete in 12 to 16 one-hour sessions

Children and parent(s) learn:

- How to recognize problems resulting from childhood trauma
- Skills for managing troubling thoughts, feelings and behaviors
- Relaxation skills
- Ways to cope with difficult memories

What can I expect from TF-CBT?

- Help in overcoming distress related to childhood trauma for the parent(s) and for the child
- Reduction in child's problem symptoms or behaviors
- Increase in skill and ability of child and parent(s) to cope with childhood trauma

Cooperative Counseling Services is dedicated to ensuring that all aspects of your child's care are addressed. The clinical team collaborates with your child's school, pediatrician, and all other involved agencies as needed.

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

CCS is a NJ Medicaid Provider and does not currently participate in Private Health Insurance Plans. CCS will accept private pay or "Out-of-Network" payment.

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

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

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

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

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director, Community Access Unlimited

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

Kelly Collins
Executive Director, Family and Children's Services (FCS)

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

Marisol Garces
Acting and Assistant Area Director, Middlesex/Union Area Office, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP), NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)

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

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)

Lori Morris
Interim 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

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