



# The Independent Citizen

Fall 2016

COMMUNITY ACCESS  
UNLIMITED

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Gala Dinner Dance**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2016**  
**Marriott Newark Airport Hotel**  
*(see page 12 for more information)*

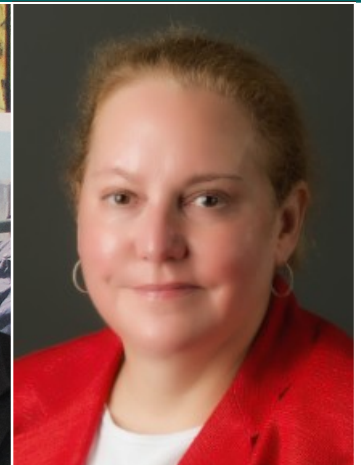
**Congratulations to our  
2016 Awardees!**



**Deputy Mayor Ziad Shehady**



**Mr. Frank Guzzo**



**Lisa Taylor, Esq.**

## Honoring Those Who Help Us Help Our Members

**Ziad Andrew Shehady** is being honored with the Humanitarian of the Year Award. Ziad is the Deputy Mayor of Springfield, having served as Mayor in 2010 and 2012. After 9/11, Ziad enlisted in the Army National Guard and served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004 and 2005. He currently holds the rank of Captain, assigned to the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters in Lawrenceville, New Jersey and has been awarded eleven medals.

In 2014 former Governor Jim McGreevy recruited Ziad to the Jersey City Employment and Training Program, which includes the agency's prisoner re-entry program. He volunteers at and serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Legion Jersey Boys State, a leadership and citizenship program from which he graduated in 2001; is a member of the Advisory Board for Educate the Block; and serves on the Boards of Directors of Root to Rise, Inc. and SoupKitchen411.com.

**Frank Guzzo** is being honored with the Public Leadership Award. Since 1990 Guzzo has served as the director of the Union County Department of Human Services, the county's largest government service unit with a staff of approximately 850. The department's mission is to coordinate and deliver quality, cost-effective programs and services that recognize and respond to the quality-of-life needs of Union County's elderly, people with disabilities, unemployed and underemployed, those with mental illness, veterans, women and youth.

Under Frank's leadership the Union County Department of Human Services has been recognized for many achievements, including the National Association of Counties 2009 Achievement Award for the county's Code Blue Emergency Shelter Initiative; the 2009 Public Service Award from the Garden State Employment & Training Association; and the opening of a state-of-the-art 76-bed Juvenile Detention Center.

**Lisa Taylor** is being honored with the Ira Geller Award. She is a partner with Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor and is board-certified by The Florida Bar as an expert in Health Law. In addition to representing health care providers, practitioners, plans and plan administrators, Lisa serves as a neutral arbitrator and mediator and represents attorneys and other licensed professionals in disciplinary matters. She also handles business and employment transactions.

Lisa is vice chair of the Business Law and Governance Practice Group of the American Health Lawyer's Association, vice chair and a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey State Bar Association Health Law Section and co-chair of the Planning Committee for the American Bar Association Health Law Section Emerging Issues in Healthcare Law Program and a member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee. Lisa received her J.D. and an M.A. degree in Philosophy from Duke University and graduated cum laude with honors in Anthropology from Barnard College of Columbia University.

"Helping you achieve independence in the community... that's

**THEcau**  
**ADVANTAGE**





## A Message from our Executive Director

For 37 years Community Access Unlimited has been not simply a nonprofit but rather a social movement advancing the needs and rights of people with disabilities, youth served under and aging out of the child welfare system and people with affordable housing needs. We provide a voice for those who are often marginalized by society and programs and services that enable them to live independent, productive and fulfilling lives as integrated members of the community.

The human services landscape in New Jersey has undergone a significant reshaping. The state Division of Developmental Disabilities has moved to a fee-for-service model. This requires service providers serving people with disabilities to make a significant investment in technology and infrastructure. Many nonprofits do not have the fiscal capacity to meet the new requirements and the people they support will need to be transitioned to a service provider who can meet these new requirements. This change to fee-for-service also has resulted in the elimination of state budget dollars to support basic needs such as rent, utilities, food, clothing and recreation, leaving gaps in funding that must be filled in order to prevent gaps in services that can lead to instability for those affected.

In this new landscape, CAU is ideally positioned and equipped to meet the needs of both our existing members and new members who are not fully supported by other service providers. We remain a fiscally sound organization, which allows us to meet these emerging challenges. We are investing in information technology to fulfill state requirements and are creating infrastructure that is increasing our capacity to serve. We have moved into our new, five-story headquarters and opened a mixed-use property in Fanwood and a multi-use commercial space in Cranford.

In addition, community collaboration has become increasingly important in this new environment to ensure a continuum of care for all who need support. Toward that end, we have been cultivating relationships with other human services agencies, school, businesses, individuals and other community-based organizations to create new solutions to new challenges. The movement continues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney Blanchard".

Executive Director



### CAU Board of Trustees

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**Marc Levy**

**Maxine Neuhauser, Esq.**

**Martin Poltrock**

**Myrta Rosa**

**Audrey Vasey**

**Kathy Wiener**





## Shawanna Hicks : Wearing Many Hats

Shawanna has been a member of CAU's Board of Trustees since 2013. Yet she was a CAU member before that. Shawanna came to CAU in 2010 and it wasn't long before she was elected president of the Members Action Committee and the Youth Advisory Board. In 2012 she graduated the Leadership Program. She credits CAU for much of the growth she has enjoyed as a person.

"They taught me the value of the dollar, how to work," she said. "They taught me how to mentor newcomers. They pushed me out into the world. A lot of us, when we come here we don't know who we are and CAU gives us a sense of identity."

Shawanna started working for CAU in 2012. Each year CAU's youth members attend a retreat with the Board of Trustees, where they ask questions. Then-board president Audrey Vasey was impressed with Shawanna.

"She said, 'We need a board member like you,'" Shawanna said. "They never had a youth member and they never had a staff member. I don't think she expected me to run with it but I did."

Shawanna enjoys sitting on the board. "It can be difficult at times, knowing what hat to wear at what time," she said. "Being a staff member and an average youth who had been a member, I see things from a perspective the rest of the board doesn't see. But I also see how the wheels turn at the top. It's been very educational."

While Shawanna left CAU as a member in 2013, she continues working here, currently as a support counselor but with an eye on earning a certification, perhaps as a Home Health Aide, then eventually moving into a supervisory position. "I want to help in any way I can, giving and receiving," she said.

## Don't be Skeptical, Social Security is Here to Stay

*Written by Alexander Christofides, Social Security District Manager in Union, NJ*

It's healthy to be skeptical in a world of uncertainties. Major news networks sometimes broadcast conflicting facts that require a bit of research to verify. There's even a day in October dedicated to skeptics. So, this is the perfect time to tell all the skeptics that there's no reason to think Social Security won't be here for you well into the future.

Recently, the Social Security Board of Trustees released its 76th annual report to Congress presenting the financial status of the Social Security trust funds for the short term and over the next 75 years. We're pleased that legislation signed into law by President Obama last November averted a near-term shortfall in the Disability Insurance (DI) trust fund that was detailed in a previous report.

With that small, temporary reallocation of the Social Security contribution rate, the DI fund will now be able to pay full benefits until 2023, and the retirement fund will be adequate into 2035. It is important that members of Congress act well before 2023 in order to strengthen the finances of the program. As a whole, Social Security is fully funded until 2034, and after that it is about three-quarters financed.

Many people wonder if Social Security will be there for them. Here's a fact that will relieve any skepticism you might have: the increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the baby boomers were children.

Put your skepticism aside and rest assured that Social Security is with you today and will be with you tomorrow. You can read the entire report at [www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2016](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2016).





## Community Support Program Changes Lives

CAU's Community Support Program (CSP) is a fee-for-service program available to any individual in the community who needs support services. The program serves individuals and families with developmental and intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities or emotional and mental health challenges. Through CSP CAU also supports special education students and their families and caregivers needing respite.

Services include independent living supports, employment assistance, community inclusion services, family and caregiver assistance, linkage to community resources and others. Soft services can include things such as accompanying a member to college each day, travel training or helping a member find an apartment.

"We can also serve almost like a big brother or big sister, someone to talk to," said Joe Calabrese, director of CSP.

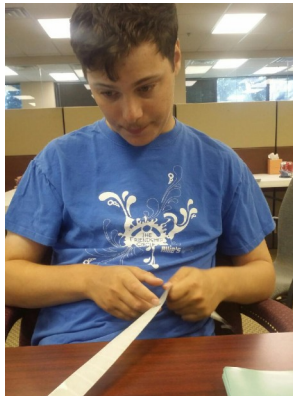
Meryl Stone can attest to that. Her son, Matthew Cohen, has a variety of functional issues yet is very social and outgoing. "His social ability is his strength," Meryl said. "He loves people. The best place for him is in a party."

At the same time Matthew does not do well in traditional day programs. "That's how we ended up with CAU," Meryl said. "I went to my support coordinator and she said some people do better one-on-one. She suggested CAU. She said they're an excellent agency and the staff is very well trained."

Enter Jamie, a Support Leader within the CSP program. Jamie travels to Matthew's home each day, helps him start his day then spends the day with him as he volunteers at either a local pizzeria, a nonprofit or the Summit Y.

"Matthew does his best when he's in the community and all these activities are helpful for him," Meryl said. "He gets the benefit of the social interaction. But if he runs into any kind of difficulty, he needs someone to help him brainstorm."

"Jamie is critical. He's helping Matthew learn to be independent outside the family unit. He has the ability to keep him calm. It takes a while to get to know Matthew – he's complex – but it's working out great."



*Matthew (above) enjoys volunteering with the assistance of his Support Leader, Jamie.*

### THE CAU MEMBERS PORTAL

From suggestions made at a previous Family Connections meeting, CAU has created an online portal for loved ones, guardians, and members of CAU to access essential information and publications.:

**[CAUMEMBERSPORTAL.ORG](http://CAUMEMBERSPORTAL.ORG)**

It is required that all users sign in to view the information within the portal. To create an account, visit the site and register. Users must have a valid email address and named on a CAU Member's IHP in order to gain access to the portal.

Navigate around the portal using links on the home page to learn more about:

- Upcoming Events
- Recreation
- Resources for Families
- Publications
- Advocacy
- Our Family Mentor
- The CAU Organizational Chart
- Current Members Spotlight

The portal is to benefit our members and their families and guardians. If you have suggestions for additions or information, please send them our way! Suggestions may be sent to [cpavia@caunj.org](mailto:cpavia@caunj.org).

## Paul Lee Earns US Citizenship

This spring Paul Lee walked into the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services building in Newark a legal immigrant and walked out a U.S. citizen. The day brought elation and tears to the 24-year-old who came to America from Korea as a child and came to CAU in 2012. Now, in addition to the pride of being a citizen, Paul is also enjoying the added benefits.

"There were so many services he wasn't getting because he wasn't a citizen," said Nana Tandoh, Paul's counselor. "I looked at how we can make him eligible for these services and found he had to be a U.S. citizen."

Thus started the work toward citizenship. Nana worked closely with Paul on the education he would need to become a citizen, which paid off when he aced his interview. "Paul was very eager to become a citizen," Nana said. "He was very eager to receive the services he would be entitled to. He knew CAU helped him very much. He thanks me every day. I was very happy for him. He worked at it and got it."

Now Paul is looking forward to another privilege of citizenship. "I'm looking forward to voting," he said.



*Paul Lee (Left) and Nana Tandoh, Paul's Counselor stand in front of the CAU Main Office after attending Paul's citizenship ceremony*

## Vehicle Donations Drive Success

CAU's Car Donation Program is unlike others in the nonprofit sector. Generally when a vehicle is donated to an organization, they turn around and sell it, with an intermediary often keeping a portion of the sale. As a result, these nonprofits receive only a small portion of the value of the car.

CAU keeps all vehicles donated through our Vehicle Donation Program and, after "bringing them up to speed" in our own garage, turn them over to one of our youth members who would otherwise not be able to afford a car on their own. CAU pays for the insurance for one year but the youth is responsible for gas and maintenance, and insurance from year two going forward.



*Robert, a CAU member in the TOP Program, receiving his own car from the Program.*



*Cicero (left), a CAU TOP member and Nick Robertson, CAU Property Manager looking over Cicero's new car!*

Plus, thanks to the generosity of AAA Northeast, all vehicle recipients also receive one year of free AAA membership. "AAA believes in safe travel for everyone and we applaud Community Access Unlimited for their efforts to provide safe vehicles for young people in need," said Cathleen Lewis, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for AAA Northeast in New Jersey. "Having AAA is having peace of mind, knowing that someone is there for you if you experience trouble on the road. AAA Northeast was happy to donate one-year AAA memberships, which will provide these young people with safety and security when they drive."

Also important is that CAU youths must earn these cars, for instance by making progress toward their goals while also learning to drive and getting a driver's license. These donations greatly impact and improve the lives of the youths who receive them. They give them greater independence and allow them to more easily get to school and work. One of

our youths was taking multiple bus rides to two different jobs while also attending college. The car she received changed her life for the better.

In addition, CAU's Car Donation Program gives back through the rewards of knowing the donor is making a positive difference in the life of a youth. Brij Chawla is one such donor. "I know that CAU makes real use of the car," he said. "They're not just lending their name to a company that chops it up. I felt excellent making this donation. They made it seamless. They came to my house and inspected it to make sure it was in good working order and I even saw their garage. You still get the tax benefit and the car gets used."

As allowed by law, donors can claim 100 percent of the fair value of the vehicle. To make a donation or learn more, contact Cara Pavia, director of marketing, at 908.354.3040, ext. 4376, or [cpavia@caunj.org](mailto:cpavia@caunj.org).

## Make a Difference in the Life of a Youth



*With the assistance of a Hope Chest, our youth are able to live independently and setup their own households. By donating, you will give people just starting out an important first step on the road to self-sufficient living in the community!!*

### Hope Chest Needs:

- **Kitchen Essentials** (Plates, Silverware, Glassware, Knives, 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)

For more information or to make a donation, please contact: Alyssa Mistretta, Fundraising Coordinator at 908-354-3040 x4205 or at [amistretta@caunj.org](mailto:amistretta@caunj.org)



Driving Fundraising on the Links

CAU's community partners, including local businesses and other supporters, helped us raise more than \$57,000 at our 22nd Annual Golf Classic, held at Suburban Golf Club in Union. The money will help support CAU's wide array of programs.

"This is a day when people who care about this organization come together to show their support," said Harold Poltrock, owner of the law firm Harold J. Poltrock, P.C. and president of CAU's board of trustees. "Community Access Unlimited could not fulfill our mission without our community partners and this is a way for us to thank them."

Valley National Bank is one of CAU's strongest community partners and served as the Event Sponsor.

"As a long-time, concerned corporate citizen, we feel that it is our responsibility to give back to the communities that we serve," said Mwaura Muroki, a vice president at the bank. "That is why we are proud to support Community Access Unlimited in their mission to provide support services for youth and adults with

- AFLAC, Ray Lapinski & Nick Mirandi  
Amie Iachio  
B&B Press  
Bob D'Alia, Merrill Lynch  
Bob Davidson Ford  
Borden, Perlman, Salisbury & Kelly  
Bradford Renaissance Portraits  
Care Station Medical Group  
Cox Printers  
East Coast Roofing Products  
EKA Associates, P.A.  
Elizabeth Pharmacy  
Grand Stand Sports & Memorabilia  
Griffin Alexander, P.C.  
Harold J. Poltrock  
H&J Security Systems  
Hehl & Hehl, P.C.  
Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor, LLC  
Innovative Benefit Planning  
Innovative Compensation & Benefits Concepts  
Investors Bank  
Jacobson Distributing Company  
James R. Guerra, Architects-Planners  
Liberty Mutual Insurance

- Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan, LLP  
Kevin Aspell  
Maffey's Security Group  
Mickey Neuhauser  
New York Rangers  
Northfield Bank  
Paul LaMaine  
Paragon Solutions  
PEX  
Phoenix Specialties, LLC  
Prince Auto Collision LLC  
Roselle Savings Bank  
Santander Bank  
SkyDive Jersey  
Smoker's Delight  
Sopher Financial Group  
Spire Group, P.C.  
TD Bank  
Total Wine & More  
Trinitas Hospital  
Union Avenue  
Walt Disney World, Co.  
WB Mason  
Woodruff Developers

Thank you to all who spent the day with us!





## CAU Members Attend Prom and Couples Night

Prom is a magical time for so many young people, filled with gowns and tuxedos, fine food and dancing – nights treasured for a lifetime. Yet many people with disabilities do not have those memories because they never went to prom, either because they attended an alternative education program or simply because no one ever asked them and they did not feel welcomed.

Members of CAU are able to create memories of attending prom and can even make new ones, year after year. This year more than 70 guests dressed to the nines and attended the 11th Annual CAU Community Prom, held at Peterstown Community Center in Elizabeth. They enjoyed good food, music from a DJ – who also is a member of the agency – dancing and prom pictures.

CAU's self-advocacy member group, Helping Hands, hosts the evening, including selecting the theme, music, decorations and more. "A lot of people with disabilities don't go to prom in high school because of their disability," said Gary Rubin, Helping Hands president. "A lot of people look down on people with disabilities. So we said, 'Why don't we have our own?'"



(Above) Edward Matthews and Elaine Seigel had a wonderful night at Couple's Night this year.

Mary Kurnos, who never went to prom in high school, attended with her date, Peter Rusu, who attended prom as a teenager but did not enjoy it. "We're enjoying meeting with other members and the music and atmosphere," Mary said. "It's a night out on the town."

Myrta Rosa did not go to prom when she was young because her parents did not allow her to interact with anyone outside their family. She loves the interaction with other CAU members. "We're just like everybody else," Myrta said. "Just because we have a disability, we shouldn't be segregated. We should be socializing, like everybody else."

Each year CAU also hosts our annual Couples Night, a celebration of love and relationships. This year more than 30 couples gathered for a night of fine dining, music and dancing. "People with disabilities have the same



(Above) Emmett Smith and Nicole Nagel attended this year's prom as a couple.

(Below) Sequanda Seymour and Charles Jackson enjoyed their time together at Couple's Night!



## New at CAU!

## A Partnership to Benefit Your Future

Protecting your assets at any age is important.

Community Access Unlimited is proud to announce our collaboration with National Guardian Life Insurance Company (NGL), an independent mutual life insurance company, to establish Medicaid compliant burial trust accounts in New Jersey.

By transferring an existing or establishing a new burial trust account through NGL, you'll be prepared for the future.

All established trusts through NGL are Medicaid compliant. For more information and for a list of benefits to program participants, visit our website at [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org), under "Supports & Services" and "Representative Payeeship Services." This is a free services for all members within the CAU Representative Payeeship Program.



For more information, contact a member of our Representative Payeeship team at 908-354-3040 or [info@caunj.org](mailto:info@caunj.org).



## The Academy for Continuing Education

is enrolling for the Fall Semester!

Through hands-on activities that fit the needs of individuals with different abilities, students in the ACE Program have the opportunity to immerse themselves in new and exciting subject areas and gain skills that can be applied in developing career interests that may precede a vision for future employment.

The full course catalogue and more information about classes can be found at [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org) under "Supports & Services"

**Call today to schedule a tour and an interview at our Cranford location at 908-354-3040**

### Reaching Out to the Community With a Supportive Hand

Throughout New Jersey more than 250 people with disabilities have guardian angels, CAU support coordinators. CAU is one of only seven agencies approved by the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities to serve as a statewide support coordination agency under DDD's Support Coordination Program.

The program enables people to manage the financial support they receive from the state and gives them choices in selecting support service providers. CAU support coordinators help match them to support services they can afford within their budget, such as habilitation, individual supports, supported employment and transportation.

"Managing an annual budget, sifting through all the services and service providers and dealing with the paperwork can be daunting," said Alison Goodrich, support coordinator director at CAU. "So Support Coordination provides a trained support coordinator to help."

Mari McIverney of Sparta, who has cerebral palsy, has been working with CAU's Lynn McEntire for two years. "Lynn helps me by making sure I have access to everything I need to be successful in school and in everyday life," she said. "When I started college I wanted to join a gym and Lynn was able to help me join the Y. Also, I can't drive and she helped me find people to drive me. I would not be the person I am today without CAU. They've given me services I didn't know were out there."

Dee Lewis of Hillsborough has been working with CAU's Joshua Dodown for about a year. Dee's son, Aaron Hoats, is on the autistic spectrum and works as a dietary aid in a nursing home and attends the Career and Community Studies program at The College of New Jersey.

"CAU is extremely important to us," Dee said. "They're the linkage to the services. Some months things are okay but other months things come up and they're there for you."

Joshua also works with Brandon Treich of Bernardsville, who has pervasive development disorder and works at Panera Bread. "Joshua has been a great supports coordinator," said Brandon's father, Glenn. "He's a pretty good influence on Brandon. He checks in frequently and stops in to see Brandon at work. Overall, Josh and CAU are very important to me."

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### Youth hear message of PRIDE at Annual Youth Conference



*Over 230 people attended the 2016 Youth Conference, held at Kean University in August*

More than 200 youth living within the child welfare system throughout New Jersey heard that **PRIDE** – preparation, resiliency, intelligence, discipline and exercise – can help them achieve their goals in life. That was the message from the keynote speaker at the 2016 Annual Youth Conference hosted by CAU at Kean University this summer.

Former Sgt. 1st Class Morrease Leftwich of the U.S. Army served as the keynote speaker. Morrease was born to a single, 17-year-old mother who abandoned him and his 6-month-old sister when he was 8. He carried groceries for spare change to care for himself and his sister until being rescued by his grandparents. Later, he enlisted in the Army and for more than 21 years served in the United States, Asia, Europe and for two years in Iraq.

Morrease said he developed the acronym PRIDE when he was younger to help him stay focused and achieve his goals in life. His comments included:

**Preparation** – "For anything in life, you have to prepare. And you can't prepare until you know what you want to do." **Resiliency** – "Because everything in life doesn't always go according to plan. Resiliency is the ability to bounce back." **Intelligence** – "You have to know what you need to get where you're going. You need to know what you don't know and continue to learn." **Discipline** – "Discipline is all about yourself. You are at the age now where you can't wait for other people to tell you what to do." **Exercise** – "Exercise is important to live a long life."

"If you take pride and use this in your life, you're going to go farther," he said.

Brianna Hooper (left) and Sadiya Taylor (right) attended the conference and came away impressed with Morrease's (center) message. "The way he broke it down for me," said Sadiya, who was living with her sister before

joining CAU. "I never realized I had to go through these different steps to get where I want to go." "You never really think of it that way," said Brianna, who was homeless before becoming a member of CAU. "It's different."







Sid Blanchard (left to right) is joined by UC Freeholder Chairman Bruce Bergen, and Freeholders Sergio Granados, Linda Carter, and Vemell Wright at the event.



Susan (middle) and Arthur Kolb (center right) are joined by members of their family and Alison Goodrich (far right), CAU Director of Support Coordination, in celebrating their accomplishments within the CAU Support Coordination Program.



Award Winner De Lacy Davis (left) is joined by his family and colleagues from the Family Support Organization of Union County.



(from left to right) CAU Board of Trustee members Adelaide Daskam, Myrta Rosa, and CAU member and advocate Joyce Cargle, enjoy the evening.



Jonathan Jones, Coordinator in Youth Services, presented the Youth Services Member of the Year Award to Lacle Datson

## CAU Honors Community Partners at 2016 Awards Night

CAU this spring honored a wide variety of community partners at the agency's 2016 Awards Night Celebration. The award recipients help CAU fulfill our mission of enabling people with disabilities and at-risk youth to live independently within the community.

The award winners were:

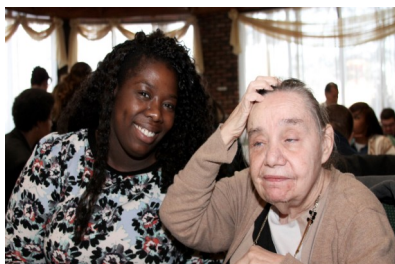
- \* Union County Freeholder Chairman Bruce Bergen – Excellence in Community Living Award for his "One County, One Community" initiative.
- \* Freeholder Sergio Granados – Service & Partnership Award for continually giving back to the community.
- \* Dr. Lyn Schraer-Joiner, coordinator for music education within the Kean University Music Department and an assistant professor – Community Integration Award for partnering with CAU to stage a collaborative community concert.
- \* Sam's Club in Linden – Employment in the Community Award for employing five CAU members.
- \* De Lacy Davis, executive director of Family Support Organization (FSO) of Union County – Community Service & Partnership Award for supporting families and children and partnering with CAU to support its members.
- \* George Lawrence, a case manager in the Western Essex South office of the state Department of Child Protection and Permanency – Outstanding Community Advocate Award for mentoring CAU's youth members.
- \* The Northern Regional Day Services/Self-Directed Services Department within the state Department of Human Services – Outstanding Community Advocate Award for helping to develop of several CAU programs.
- \* Jennifer Malicher, a habilitation plan coordinator within the state Department of Human Services – Distinguished Case Manager in Social Services Award.

"Our community partners are essential to our mission," said Harold Poltrock, president of the CAU board of trustees. "Community Access are not just words. It's all about community and our partners help us partner with the greater community."

CAU also recognized six members and four staff members for individual accomplishments, including:

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| * Andrew Barry        | * Samir Abdul    |
| * Darin Anderson      | * Joann Harper   |
| * Graham Rockford     | * Jonathan Jones |
| * Megan Modero        | * Kenuel Saintyl |
| * Arthur & Susan Kolb |                  |
| * Lacle Datson        |                  |

Certificates were presented to 69 CAU members for continued employment and four awarded scholarships from the Ann Baran Scholarship Fund to individuals pursuing higher education in areas of nursing or medical-related studies.



(left) CAU Staff Member Natasha White and CAU member Virginia Jeffers enjoy the event every year!



CAU Members Mary Jane French (left) and Diane Savage (right) haven't missed an Awards Night yet!



## CAU Community Players Stage Very Special "The Music Man, Jr."



*The 80-person cast of "The Music Man Jr." performed in an astounding three-night engagement at Jonathan Dayton High School in June 2016*

For three nights this summer, the CAU Community Players staged a rousing, crowd-pleasing production of "The Music Man, Jr."

The CAU Community Players is a troupe of actors with and without disabilities that allows CAU members to engage in the pleasures of acting, singing and dancing side-by-side with people from the wider community. This year's cast included more than 80 members.

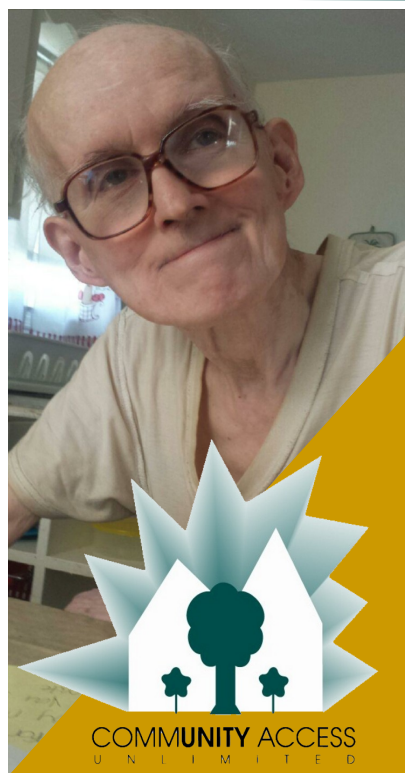
"The Music Man, Jr." centers around the efforts of "Professor" Harold Hill, a traveling salesman with a shady reputation, to form a band in River City, Iowa. Hill plans to sell uniforms and instruments to the townsfolk then abscond with the money. Yet when he falls in love with librarian Marian Paroo his motives change and he wins over Marian and the town while helping Marian's younger brother overcome his lisp and social awkwardness.

Marguerite Modero, director the CAU Community Players, said "The Music Man, Jr." was chosen for this year's production – the CAU Community Players' sixth – because of the transformative nature of the play. Characters learn about themselves and grow and change. It is a play that celebrates personal growth, social awareness and change.

Actor James Crawford was excited about having his first opportunity to dance on stage. "Dancing was great," he said. "I practiced my part."

Brother and sister Joshua and Melody Lucas both performed for their first time with the CAU Community Players. Joshua was excited by his singing role. Melody said she enjoyed her role as one of a group of women who at first were gossips but who grew and changed as they saw the band become real.

The production is supported by a grant from the New Jersey Counsel on Development Disabilities and funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.



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*Cast members Joshua Lucas (left) and Melody Lucas (right) starred in their first production with the CAU Community Players*



*Cast members (left to right) Dianna Sims, Tonya Hopson, Sara Law, Annie Johnson, and William Zimmerman in the production's final scene.*



*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 and Community Access Unlimited

80 West Grand Street  
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**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.*

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We're rolling out the  
**Red Carpet** for CAU's  
*Annual* **Gala** Dinner Dance  
**Venue**

Newark International Airport Marriott  
1 Hotel Road, Newark, NJ 07114  
Thursday, November 3, 2016  
Evening Begins at 6:00pm

Join us for dancing, food, a  
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CAU Members & Staff - \$85.00

Additional Guests - \$135.00

*Formal Attire Requested*

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