

# The Independent Citizen



Fall 2011

## Community Access Unlimited Honors Unlimited Efforts of Community Advocates

### Dr. Alison Lozano: Humanitarian of the Year



Dr. Alison Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., is the executive director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, a position she has held since in 2006. The council is a lead change agent in New Jersey responsible for defining a vision of the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Through its membership and activities and projects, the council provides a forum and resources for making this vision a reality.

The council is committed to advocating on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. They stand up for their rights and do whatever it takes to make their lives fulfilling. Alison believes that partnering with other agencies is important to fulfilling

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### Dr. Dawn Apgar: Public Leadership Award



Dr. Dawn Apgar, Ph.D., LSW, ACSW, is deputy commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), overseeing the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Division of Disability Services (DDS). These divisions have a combined annual operating budget of nearly \$2 billion, are staffed by more than 9,000 employees and provide vital support and services to individuals with developmental and other disabilities, via contracts with more than 300 agencies such as CAU. The support CAU receives from DDD and DDS is vital to our ability to fulfill our mission and help our members thrive.

Prior to joining DHS, Dawn was an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Marywood University and the director of the Developmental Disabilities Planning Institute at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where she provid-

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### Helping Hands Self Advocacy Group: Geller Award



The Geller Award each year is presented to a person or group of people who have made a significant commitment to their relationship with CAU, including through volunteerism; have notably impacted the agency through their association with CAU and its members; have shown initiative; and best reflect the universal concept of volunteerism in its truest meaning to serve as an inspiration to others.

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the mission of the council. "When we partner with agencies like Community Access Unlimited we form a united front to make this a reality," she said. "Together we can create a world where having a developmental disability is typical. Then, and only then, will people with developmental disabilities have the life they truly deserve."

Under Alison's leadership the council's areas of focus comprise quality assurance, including self-determination, leadership training and safety; employment, including career development and lifelong learning; health; community support; and affordable and accessible housing.

Projects of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities include the Monday Morning Project, a county-based network of advocates; the New Jersey Youth Leadership Project, enabling young people with disabilities to become better self-advocates; Family Support, supporting families; and Partners in Policymaking, a leadership training program for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Prior to joining the council Alison served as executive director of the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council, taught at the University of Utah, was director of social work at the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in Memphis Tennessee and worked as a genetic social worker at the University of Tennessee and the Texas Department of Mental Health.

What followed was 45 years of work in the human services sector, including 22 years with the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), 17 as assistant director and nearly five as director. Nick's passion for serving has never abated. After leaving DYFS, he founded Scalera Consulting Services, a management consulting firm specializing in child care, child welfare, human services and human care licensing that allowed him to return to the frontline of helping at-risk youth.

Consulting also brought Nick back to Community Access Unlimited. He became impressed with CAU while at DYFS and returned to help organize the agency's Annual Statewide Transitional Independent Living Networking Conference. He joined the CAU board of Trustees in May.

"To succeed in life, every child needs a stable family or a caring adult they can rely on for their entire lives," Nick said. "It takes a lot of time, patience and understanding to gain their trust because these kids have been hurt so often they build walls to not get hurt again. But once you break through, these kids will love and trust you forever." Scalera still mentors 25 former DYFS youths – now in their 20s – who have become an integral part of his family.

**Apgar ... continued from page 1**

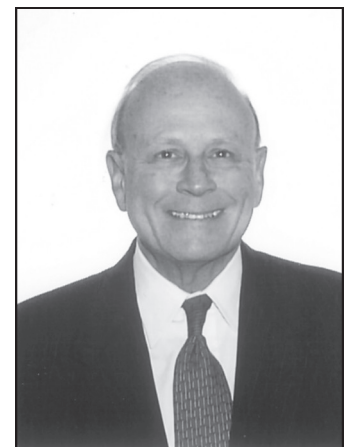
ed technical assistance to New Jersey on planning and research related to persons with developmental disabilities and evaluated the impacts of two institutional closures, the E.R. Johnstone Research and Training Center and North Princeton Developmental Center.

Dawn began her career as a behaviorist and group home manager for men who were leaving Edison Habilitation Center due to its closure. She also served as an assistant director at Alternatives, Inc. and a program manager at Mentor, Inc. She is a member of the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners, past-president of the National Association of Social Workers-New Jersey Chapter and has served on several national boards.

Dawn is proud to work closely with CAU and honored to receive this award. "CAU always puts the individuals it serves first," she said. "The agency was founded on values which allow individuals access to opportunities to realize goals and have lives which would not otherwise be possible; opportunities all people should have."

## Board Member Nicholas Scalera From Storyteller to Story-maker

Nicholas Scalera started his career as a writer for the *Newark Evenings News* yet ended up devoting his life to helping rather than reporting. "I enjoyed my work as a professional journalist but...I was weary of writing about other people doing meaningful stuff and wanted to do some myself," he said.

**Helping Hands ... continued from page 1**

CAU's Helping Hands Self-Advocacy Group encompasses all that and more.

Helping Hands comprises CAU members who are committed to advocating for their rights, as well as those of other members of CAU and all people with disabilities. Members are involved in legislative updates, letter writing campaigns, accessibility and voting campaigns and "Meet the Candidates" events. They also attend local, state and national conferences and conduct professional workshops. Meetings are held monthly and open to all people with disabilities. Begun in 1984, Helping Hands is one of the oldest and strongest self-advocacy groups in New Jersey.

The reach of Helping Hands goes far. In October 2010 the group publically applauded the signing of Rosa's Law by President Obama, officially eliminating the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from federal education, health and labor laws and replacing them with the term "intellectual disability." Earlier last year the group donated \$1,000 to a Roselle family who lost several relatives in the earthquake that devastated Haiti. The money was used to help members of the family on the island, relatives of fellow CAU member David Dimanche.

More recently Helping Hands members participated in the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the *American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)*, held in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where they learned about various innovations regarding inclusion, advocating for equal rights and making connections to increase awareness of issues faced by people with disabilities. The conference also allowed members to network with other self-advocacy activists, thereby strengthening the national effort to advocate for people with disabilities.



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Times are challenging. The economy is shrinking. Congress and the President have just passed a debt-reduction budget agreement. In it, both parties have agreed to reduce federal spending by \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years. Congress has until November 23<sup>rd</sup> to decide what those cuts will be. If they do not, they will trigger across the board cuts. To be sure, hard times are upon human services.

Government funding is shrinking just as the needs of vulnerable youth and people with disabilities are increasing. New Jersey is aggressively pursuing moving people from institutions to community living. Governor Christie has vowed to uphold the civil rights of people currently housed in institutions. People have a right to live freely and as independently as possible. Adequate supports, however, are crucial for someone to living in the community.

But the safety net for youth and people with disabilities is being swept aside. With the coming cuts on the table, and considering that federal dollars represent about one third of the full state budget, people with disabilities and youth will need your support now more than ever. They need you to work with us in maintaining their self-sufficiency and independence. They need you to voice your opinion to your legislators. They need you to become active partners in advocating for their rights as individuals.

We are proud to have partners like you. All of us – business people, legislators, students, educators, workers, neighbors – all of us need to work together. We cannot do it without you. Walk with us at our Walk-a-thon. Dance with us at our Gala. Be a part of our movement. Together everyone achieves more.

Best Wishes,

Sid Blanchard



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## You Can Make a Difference

You can make life extra special for a youth or adult with disabilities. If you can donate one or more of the following items, our members would appreciate it.

\*\*Prepaid cell phones at \$80 per phone \*\*Tupperware at \$25 per set \*\*Silverware at \$10 per set \*\*Crochet and Knitting materials—\$50 worth of materials \*\*Bedding at \$60 per “Bed in a Bag” \*\*Alarm Clocks at \$10 each \*\*Lamps at \$20 each \*\*DVD Players at \$45 per unit \*\*Pots and Pans at \$75 per set \*\*IPODS at \$125 each \*\*I Tune cards at \$25 each

Donate online at [www.cauni.org](http://www.cauni.org) or  
make checks payable to **Community Access Unlimited** and send to **80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202**  
or drop off your donations at our main office.

*All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.*

**Thank you for your support!**





## Community, Accomplishment...Applause, Please



*Cory Storch (second from left) of Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Susan Ucci (center) of Elizabeth HOME Improvement Program and Renee Davidson of New Jersey Division of Disability Services accept their 2011 awards of support for CAU from Sid Blanchard ( far left) and Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada. (far right)*

The collective accomplishments of a community were celebrated this spring at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Night Celebration. CAU honored eight community partners that support the agency and its members throughout the year, as well as seven members for their accomplishments in the last 12 months. The dinner each year also applauds staff members for their efforts and those marking milestone anniversaries, as well as members who are competitively employed.

“Tonight is recognition of achievement,” said Audrey Vasey, president of CAU’s board of trustees. “Our members feel a great deal of pride on this evening – pride in themselves, pride in their fellow members.”

Community partners play a significant role in supporting CAU and helping the agency accomplish our mission of supporting people with special needs to enable them to lead more fulfilling and rewarding lives. That support comes in various forms, from grants and donations to mentorship and volunteerism to participating in CAU events, such as our annual walk-a-thon.

“You hear the phrase it takes a village to raise a child, well it takes a village to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our members,” Audrey said.

“You need everybody in the community.”

Those community partners honored this year included:

- \* **Kiana Lawhorn of Independence High School** in Irvington as Educator of the Year
- \* **Gale Young-Jackmin of the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities** with the Distinguished Service Award
- \* **Susan Ucci of the Elizabeth HOME Improvement Program** with the Supportive Housing Service Award
- \* **Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Inc.** with the Distinguished Community Service Award
- \* **Dr. Muyiwa Akin Okuribido** of Hillside as the Health Care Professional of the Year
- \* **Renee Davidson of the New Jersey Division of Disability Services** with the Distinguished Social Service Award
- \* **Frank Guzzo of the Department of Human Services** with the Community Partnership Award
- \* **Donna Kennedy of CASA of Union County, Inc.** as the Youth Advocate of the Year

Recognizing the accomplishments of CAU members – those our partners support – and staff is the core of the evening. The agency applauded members for accomplishments in independent living, life skills, employment and recreation. In addition, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (R-21) presented a resolution from the state Legislature recognizing member Adalaide Daskam as the NJACP 2010 Advocate of the Year.

“Tonight we come together as a close-knit community,” said Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director. “We come together to recognize some outstanding people, recognize the accomplishments of people who make it possible to be here as a community and to look around and know in Union County we are not only part of the community, we are the community.”



*To the left: Susan Ucci of Elizabeth HOME Improvement Program accepts her Supportive Housing Service Award from Morris Frasier (center left), CAU housing director, and CAU member homeowners John Hargrove (right) and Mark Straka.*



*Above: Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (R-21) presents a legislative resolution to Adalaide Daskam (left) recognizing Daskam as the NJACP 2010 Advocate of the Year.*



## Fight for Member's Rights Earns Recognition

Charlene Walker, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) and program supervisor at CAU, has been named the 2011 New Jersey Direct Support Professional of the Year by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR). Charlene was recognized for her overall dedication to CAU members as well as for her extraordinary legal effort on behalf of one member, Deborah, advocating for her rights to education.

When Deborah was scheduled to leave the Vineland Developmental Center, Charlene began visiting her to develop a relationship and prepare her for the transition into community living. When Deborah entered the community Charlene enrolled her in a special needs school in her district. However, shortly thereafter the school moved to discontinue educational services and place Deborah on home instruction until they could locate an out-of-district placement.

To ensure Deborah's rights to in-school education Charlene researched the New Jersey State Law for Education, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Education Law Center's advocate guide, "The Rights to Special Education in New Jersey". She also enlisted support from the Community Law Project; the Union County Bar Association Referral Service; the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; the Education Law Center; Clinical Services at Trinitas Psychiatric Hospital; the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network; and a private attorney.

Remarkably, within 30 days Charlene had achieved an out-of-district in-school placement for Deborah at the Developmental Learning Center in New Providence, the fastest out-of-district placement in the history of CAU.

Charlene joined CAU in 2009. "I fell in love with the CAU mission," she said. "I'm helping our members to live as independently as possible."

Making the extra effort on behalf of Deborah was natural for her.

"It's only right. There's no other way of putting it," she said. "Deborah had limited communication skills but she was able to communicate that she wanted to go to school. She couldn't understand why she wasn't going. What made me extremely ecstatic was when she got home from (her new) school she showed me her work. She was very proud."



Charlene Walker (left), a Direct Support Professional and program supervisor at CAU, and member Deborah.

## Calling all Runners & Walkers!!!

### CAU Annual Walkathon & Fun Run September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ira Geller Walk-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Rahway River Park in Rahway, off St. Georges Avenue.

Registration begins at 11:00 am with the official start at 12:00 pm. Over 350 participants are expected to attend, helping to support CAU programs and services. The day includes goody bags, music and a barbeque.

Opportunities are still available for sponsors, runners, walk teams, and goody bag donations.

To register or for more information, please contact Katie Baird at 908.354.3040 ext. 376 or kbaird@caunj.org.



## “In Youth We Learn...

Youth was served and success applauded at CAU's Youth Achievement Night this spring. The annual celebration event recognizes CAU youth members who demonstrate success and achieve personal goals during the past year.

Each year members are recognized for a variety of accomplishments in areas including basic life skills such as budgeting and financial responsibility, employment, social skills and advocacy, as well as those that reflect personal development and potential, such as creativity and initiative, excellence in personal standards, new starts and perseverance. CAU's sixteen 2011 high school graduates also were honored.

“Youth Achievement Night is an opportunity to recognize the progress our young members have made from the very challenging conditions from which they come to CAU, such as multiple foster care homes,” Sid Blanchard said. “We provide them with opportunities to improve their lives through a stable environment, guidance and training but only opportunities. They do the work.

“We hold them accountable for their actions, both inside and outside the program because they must apply what they learn to their daily lives to truly create better futures for themselves. We expect them to commit to goals and work hard to achieve them. Youth Achievement Night recognizes those efforts and their success.”

There were 22 member award winners and 24 honorable mentions in 10 categories. In addition, there were three recipients of the DYFS Worker of the Year Award.

### The 2011 Winners

Wall Street Award for financial responsibility – Saquan Brown

Butterfly Award for improvement – Naomi Alcivar

Creativity Award – Marquis McNeil and Frank Whitefield

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for advocacy – Jasmine Houseman and Crystal Connell

Best Foot Forward Award for a fresh start – Tasha Thomas and Johnny Trinh

Apprentice Award for employment – Nakeem Randolph

Most Likely to Achieve Award – Brandon Melford

Perseverance Award – John Maldonado

Solitarian Award for excellence – Sabrina Houseman, Marion Simmons, Elaine Kwiatek and Marissa Scott

Valedictorian Award for academics and leadership – Tahmir Patterson, Brittney Coleman, Jawon Carter, Tasha Thomas and Nicole Sylvester







## ...In Age We Understand”

CAU's 2011 Performance Recognition Night this spring once again applauded the accomplishments of members with disabilities. Because people with disabilities often face daily challenges to their ability to live, work and socialize independently – goals at the very heart of our mission – CAU celebrates members who have overcome such challenges and reached their personal goals in the last year.

“Your actions have shown us what can be achieved in a year,” Sid Blanchard told the members at the evening's festivities.

For example, Sunnah Bilal-Shakir, a 21-year-old member with disabilities, identified graduating high school as one of her goals for the year, a goal she accomplished in time to be recognized at the dinner.

Maureen Marziale, a member of CAU's Supported Living Apartment Program, is a recent cancer-survivor who underwent surgery last November. Now she never misses a doctor's appointment, takes wellness fitness classes and does cardiovascular exercising, and eats healthy, such as whole grain breads and egg substitutes. With CAU assistance she has learned to carefully budget her money, dedicating her social security income to bills and rent and using money she receives at holidays for enjoyment. Maureen has been living independently for 11 years.

“This was the first award I ever got in my life,” she said. “I was pretty happy.”

While applauding the accomplishment of those recognized at the dinner, Sid also challenged the remainder of the audience.

“Tonight members in the audience need to celebrate all that has been accomplished and think about what they can do to be up here with the rest of the award recipients next year,” he said.

### The 2011 Winners

#### ***Supervised Apartment Program Awards***

Chris MacMahon  
Allema Caver  
Adrian Poku

#### ***Supportive Living Apartment Program Awards***

Maureen Marziale  
Edward Matthews  
Jessie Amos

#### ***CPEP Program Awards***

Sunnah Bilal-Shakir





## Support from Friends and Partners Well Above Par



By hook or by slice – and occasional straight drive – friends and supporters of Community Access Unlimited took to the golf links this spring to help raise funds for the agency at CAU’s 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing, held May 12 at Suburban Golf Club in Union.

The event raised more than \$50,000 for CAU supports to individuals with disabilities.

Leading the charge up the fairways was Sovereign Bank, event sponsor. Sovereign is a member of CAU’s Community Network of business partners and a corporate sponsor of the agency. Bank employees each year also participate in the CAU Walk-a-Thon.

Sopher Financial Group, SGA Group, P.C., Innovative Benefit Planning, Woodruff Developers, James Guerra Architects & Planners and McCarter & English were among the top sponsors of the event.

“The support that the business community and our other friends and patrons provide to Community Access Unlimited is immeasurable in its impact on our members and their lives,” said Sidney Blanchard. “Our annual golf outing is just one of the many ways our partners enable us to fulfill our mission of providing programs and services to those with special needs, and it provides us with an opportunity to say thank you to them, as well.”



## 2011 Golf Classic Sponsors

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- Drive Master
- EKA Associates
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- TD Bank
- Trinitas Regional Medical Center
- Union Avenue Pharmacy
- WB Mason
- Woodruff Developers







## Investing in the Community by Investing in People

Bank of America again this year reinforced its commitment to helping build and support the communities it serves with a grant of \$7,500 to Community Access Unlimited for use in the agency's employment services. Employment services at CAU include a variety of vocation and employment and training supports designed to help members acquire skills necessary to secure and retain employment, earn money and achieve greater independence. Members are competitively employed at either CAU or outside businesses such as Target and ShopRite.

"When people are able to work, they are better integrated into the fabric of the community and help make that community stronger," said Joanne Oppelt, CAU development director. "The services we provide our members enable them to achieve greater independence and self-fulfillment while contributing to the community as consumers and taxpayers. The support we receive from our community partners such as Bank of America is so important to our members' achieving success."

Bank of America is committed to creating meaningful change in the communities the bank serves through philanthropic efforts, associate volunteerism, community development activities and investing and through support of arts and culture programming and environmental initiatives, according to Anna Katherine Harris, senior vice president and consumer market executive. The bank seeks innovative programs designed to serve local community needs.

Working in partnership with community leaders, Bank of America directs the majority of its giving through local grants that address pressing social, economic and cultural needs of the communities it serves, Anna added.

"We like to provide grants within the communities where we live, work and serve," she said.

Myrta Rosa is a CAU member who benefits from the agency's supports and training. She works two days a week in CAU's chat center, where she helps other members. Myrta also is a very active advocate for her rights and those of other people with disabilities.

"I like to keep busy helping other people," she said. "I've always worked all my life."

"This grant will directly support people like Myrta who receives our employment services supports, so she can be part of the community and contribute to the community," Joanne said.



CAU Member Myrta Rosa holds a check for a \$7,500 grant provided to CAU by Bank of America, flanked by Joanne Oppelt (left), CAU development director, and Anna Katherine Harris, senior vice president and consumer market executive for the bank.

### **Are you looking to get rid of your car?? Not happy with dealer trade-in values??**

## **Consider donating your vehicle to CAU!**

**Your tax-deductible donation (to the extent provided by law) of a used car in good condition will help an individual with special needs get to a job or school and live more self-sufficiently, expanding their opportunities in employment, education, and socialization.**

**Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not take cars and sell them, receiving only a percentage of its value. Instead, 100% of your donation goes to a person with transportation needs and you can claim 100% of the fair market value of your donation.**



***Help a person in need while reducing your tax burden!***

***Donate today!***

**If you are interested in donating your vehicle or would like more information about this program, please contact:  
Katie Baird, ext. 376**



## Living, Learning and Now Teaching

Two members of Community Access Unlimited spoke this spring at the New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families annual convention at Rutgers University, giving a presentation titled, "Living in the System." CAU members Famitta Durham and Marion Simmons spoke about growing up in the child welfare system – being taken away from family, repeatedly developing new relationships and the impact on personal perception – about how youth living in the system should not allow that to define them as people, and about setting and accomplishing goals.

"There's always hope," Simmons said is the message she and others giving the presentation send to their audience. "Nothing's going to be easy. There's always going to be ups and down but still keep going. Community Access was my turning point. While I was here that was my opportunity to speak up for myself."

Marion now is a full-time student at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and works summers at the Family Support Organization in Plainfield as an assistant outreach coordinator while living in a CAU apartment.

In addition to giving the presentation, Famitta received the 2011 Youth Leadership of the Year award from the New Jersey Alliance. She is a full-time student at St. Peter's College and holds two part-time jobs. Famitta is highly respected for her leadership qualities and commitment to advocacy for both herself and other members and at-risk youth everywhere.

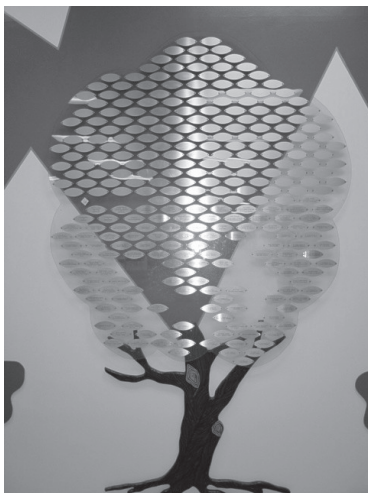
Also at the conference, CAU staff member Maureen Malangone was named Child Care Worker of the Year and Richard Ciccerone, a case manager for the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services who works closely with CAU members, was named Case Manager of the Year.

Maureen is highly regarded for her commitment to the members with whom she works, in fact returning to work after just one day following the death of her mother because she had committed to taking several girls to pick up their prom dresses. Maureen also is creative in securing inexpensive ways for members to recreate and gets members to become avid volunteers at a local soup kitchen.

Ciccerone was nominated for the Case Manager of the Year award by CAU due to his commitment to the agency's members under his care. He is highly attentive to their needs and maintains a frequent presence at the agency, taking part in focus and planning meetings.

**...Remember a Loved One or  
Special Occasion...**

**Purchase a Leaf on  
Community Access Unlimited's  
Tree of Life**



**A Perfect Way to  
Memorialize a  
Loved One or a  
Particular Life  
Event**

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Thinking of Them?  
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a Rough Time?**

**Consider Sending Them a Tribute Card  
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**For More Information, Please Call:  
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908-354-3040 x272**





## A STAR Shines



CAU member Travis Neal was named a 2011 Community STAR by the New Jersey Association of Community Providers, Inc. (NJACP) this spring. Travis was one of 28 recipients of the 2011 Community STAR Awards at the association's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Stars Dinner.

***“Travis encountered challenges early in his life, overcame them and adopted a philosophy that his life is a treasure to be valued and maximized.”***

Each year NJACP honors exceptional individuals with disabilities who “have overcome hardships to live independently in the community... (and) those who have overcome adversity to live a more dignified life in a myriad of community settings.” The awards also honor NJACP member agencies that provide these individuals with human services assistance.

Travis has been a member of CAU since 2008. He was born with adrenoleukodystrophy, also known as Addison-Schilder Disease, which causes nerve fiber damage in the brain, and underwent multiple surgeries to stabilize his quality of life. Since then he has worked to maximize that quality and enjoy life to its fullest.

In 2009 Travis graduated high school at the Westlake School in Westfield. Wanting to work and earn money, soon after graduation he began working in CAU's occupational training program. Still motivated, Travis also took a second part-time job working in the agency's cafeteria and day program. He is saving money to one day buy a house.

“Travis has accomplished so much through motivation and consistency,” said Paul LaMaine, assistant executive director of CAU. “He is greatly inspired in his life.”



Images by GDVH

  
***Congratulations to  
Megan Modero  
on her fine  
performance in  
“Annie”***



***Community Access Unlimited would also like to thank Just Off Broadway Productions and the Modero family for their continued support!***

***Your generosity is greatly appreciated!***

In his personal time Travis enjoys soap operas, talking to friends on the phone and shopping. “Now that he has a girlfriend he likes shopping even more,” Paul said.

Travis treasures life and what it has to offer him. He recently joined a church and sings in the choir every Sunday.

“It has been his way of saying, ‘I love my life and I enjoy thanking God for my accomplishments,’” Paul said.

Added Sid Blanchard, “Our core value and belief is that all people can be independent citizens participating in and contributing to the community. Travis encountered challenges early in his life, overcame them and adopted a philosophy that his life is a treasure to be valued and maximized. His is an attitude we all should have.”

***...It's that time of year again...  
Planning for 2012!***

**Awards Night - April 2012**

**Golf Classic - May 2012**

**Youth Achievement Night - June 2012**

**Performance Recognition Night - June 2012**

For more information, contact Katie Baird  
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**Community Access Unlimited's Mission:** *To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities, at-risk youth and people with affordable housing needs giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives in the community.*

*Please Join Us...*

## ***Community Access Unlimited's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Gala Dinner Dance***

**Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

L'Affaire Fine Catering - Mountainside, New Jersey

Tickets     \$100 Each     \$950 Table of Ten

Please contact ***Katie Baird*** at ***908-354-3040 x376*** to reserve your tickets today!

### **Reserve your Ad Journal ad for the Annual Gala Dinner Dance**

Back Cover	---	\$750
Inside Back Cover	---	\$500
Center Spread	---	\$500
Gold Page	---	\$350
Silver Page	---	\$250
Full page (8.5 x 11 in)	---	\$175
Half Page	---	\$100
Business Card	---	\$50

Please contact:  
**Katie Baird**  
Coordinator of Marketing and Fundraising  
80 West Grand Street  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202  
Phone: **908.354.3040 ext. 376**  
Fax: 908.354.2665  
Email: **kbaird@caunj.org**

***Deadline for remittance is October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011***