



AFFILIATIONS

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

American Network of Community Options and Resources

Child Welfare League of America

National Independent Living Association

New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families

New Jersey Association of Community Providers

TASH (formerly The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps)

The Institute, Inc.

Creative Property Management, Inc.

Nonprofit Employee Benefits Trust

Community Access Community Development Fund



MISSION

To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities, youth aging-out of foster care and people with affordable housing needs, giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives as citizens integrated into the community.

VISION

We strive for our members to:

- Achieve economic self-sufficiency while being as productive as commensurate with their abilities.
- Achieve independent living within the community according to their abilities, resources and needs.
- Achieve a functional level of money management.
- Achieve a satisfying social life.
- Achieve a healthy lifestyle.
- Achieve personal growth.
- Achieve equal rights and self-determination.

VALUES AND BELIEFS

- Community integration
- Holistic interactions as valued human beings
- Equal treatment as citizens
- Equal value as members of a social activities movement
- Choice and self-determination
- Real lives in real homes

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating our 30th Anniversary in 2009, helps people with developmental disabilities and youth involved in New Jersey's child welfare system achieve real lives in the community. We provide supports and give a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have had little support and no voice in society. We help people with housing, life skills training, vocational skills, employment, health maintenance, money management, socialization, education, crisis intervention, civic activities and community support. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently, with a total operating budget of \$25 million and a staff of more than 500, we serve over 3,500 individuals each year.

In 2009, CAU celebrated 30 years freeing people with special needs to make decisions regarding their own lives and live full and productive lives as citizens integrated in the community.

Current times are challenging. In New Jersey, there are almost 2,800 people with developmental disabilities still languishing in institutions and over 8,000 people on the waiting list for state services. Yet the budget is tight and resources are scarce. On a bright note, the governor's transition team has recommended the closing of two of the state's developmental centers. There are currently seven developmental centers in the state. Closing only two of them keeps far too many people imprisoned in the system; people in the institutions have been waiting for years to return to the community. Closing two is a good start, but we must do more.

Our youth keep performing above and beyond. In 2009, MAC Attack, a youth-owned LLC, presented at the National Independent Living Association conference in Orlando, Florida. These young people are helping youth development professionals from around the country shape how they deliver services to other at-risk teens and young adults. Also in 2009, sixteen of our youth graduated from high school and one from college. What an accomplishment! We are certainly proud of all of our graduates. And twelve of our fifteen youth aged 18-21 years are currently working. Quite a feat — especially considering the current job market. Congratulations to all our youth for all they have achieved!

The number of people in New Jersey who are self-directing their own services is multiplying. As the Fiscal Intermediary for this state-wide program, in 2009, the Personal Preference Program grew by 35% - from 655 in January 2009 to almost 1,000 today. We have added a federal Community Living Program, currently operating in Camden County and soon to be in Bergen County. The new Veteran's Directed program, run through the Veteran's Administration, is currently being piloted in Somerset and Morris counties. And the Personal Assistants Program, now in Essex and Hunterdon County, will be expanding soon to Middlesex, Somerset and Ocean Counties. These programs are vital in improving the quality of life for people with all kinds of disabilities. People are given a say in the type of supports they receive and who will provide them. Personal health outcomes are better and studies show a decrease in the intensity of services accessed. People live better and healthier lives.

CAU continues to thrive because of the support of people like you. Because of you and the community you provide, thousands of people in New Jersey are living independent, productive lives as tax-paying citizens. Our core value and belief is that ALL people can be independent, productive, tax-paying individuals integrated into society. With your support, we will continue our work with adults and youth in need of transitional and community supports. We will continue to advocate for the rights of youth and adults with special needs.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Thank you for helping people become self-sufficient and independent. Thank you for being there when we need you.

Together we will persevere.



Bob Griffin, Esq.



Sidney Blanchard

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bob Griffin, Esq.
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidney Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE





HOUSING

I long, as does every human being, to be at home wherever I find myself.

— *Maya Angelou*

Take me home. No simpler a plea can carry such importance for those seeking the comfort and security of a home. Poet T.S. Eliot once said home is where one starts from. When people with disabilities and at-risk youth have no home, they have no place from which to start.

Community Access Unlimited takes them home through its continuum of **Housing Services**.

CAU enables people with disabilities to find a home and then flourish within that supportive environment. Emergency Capacity Systems (ECS) provide emergency housing for individuals involved with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) who cannot remain in their current living arrangements. The Supervised Apartment Program (SAP) enables adults to live in the community with 24-hour supervision, residing in houses, condominiums and apartments. The Supportive Living Apartment Program (SLAP) offers semi-independent living opportunities to adults who do not require 24-hour supervision. The Children's Placement Enhancement Project (C-PEP) provides residential support and training to youth returning to New Jersey from out-of-state placements.

At-risk youth who often have known too many residences yet too few homes find that security and support at CAU. The Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) provides youth from throughout New Jersey with residential support services through a continuum care model based on age and maturity. Youths between the ages of 12 and 18 who find themselves without a home have access to the Union County Youth Shelter, where they find safe haven and emergency services. Youths under the care of DYFS between 13 and 15 enter CAU's Group Home, where they receive skills training and therapeutic services.

Youths between 16 and 18 are eligible for the Supervised Transitional Living Home (STLH), an apartment setting with skills training. The Semi-Independent program offers a less structured living environment for youth older than 18 while the Supported Housing program enables young adults to live independently.

CAU also runs the Union County HomeShare program that matches people who have a home but who are experiencing financial hardship and difficult housing costs with people who are currently or soon-to-be homeless.

Patrick Perry



Patrick Perry has a recipe for his future, but like all aspiring chefs, he knows how to season the stew on the fly. Patrick has been a member of CAU for just two years but already lives in his own apartment, having moved through the semi-independent and then supported housing programs.

John Hargrove

There is an order to music, notes on a staff arranged to be played in such a manner as to produce a synchronized melody. John Hargrove learned about music as a boy and today acts as a DJ at CAU parties and events. Along the way he has led the symphony of his life toward homeownership, steady employment and order.

John has worked at Standard Nipple Works, Inc. as a machine operator since 1987, where the difference between a 1/8-inch and a 6-inch pipe thread are as great yet related as two octaves on a scale. He is a methodic saver, putting away \$200 per week. He pays his bills on time and is a comparison shopper.

After renting his home for years, John decided the sound of homeownership played much more nicely in his ear and approached CAU about purchasing his residence. As if writing a score, he took classes at CAU to learn about setting goals, saving money and credit-worthiness.

"I had to take classes to learn how it was going to be done so I could figure it out," he said. "Nobody is going to do it but yourself. If people want to learn how to maintain their goals and have their own apartment, it is for

them to ask someone to teach them. You don't have to say I can't do it."

John purchased his home three years ago.

"Once you get a glimpse of what you want for yourself..."

He heard the music.

Patrick was walking down the street one day when he saw a For Rent sign for an apartment. So he added that ingredient to his recipe.

"I like having my own apartment, coming home and having no one to bother you, having no roommates," he said. "But sometimes I feel like I'm not ready to have it. I'm still learning things, how to be more independent."

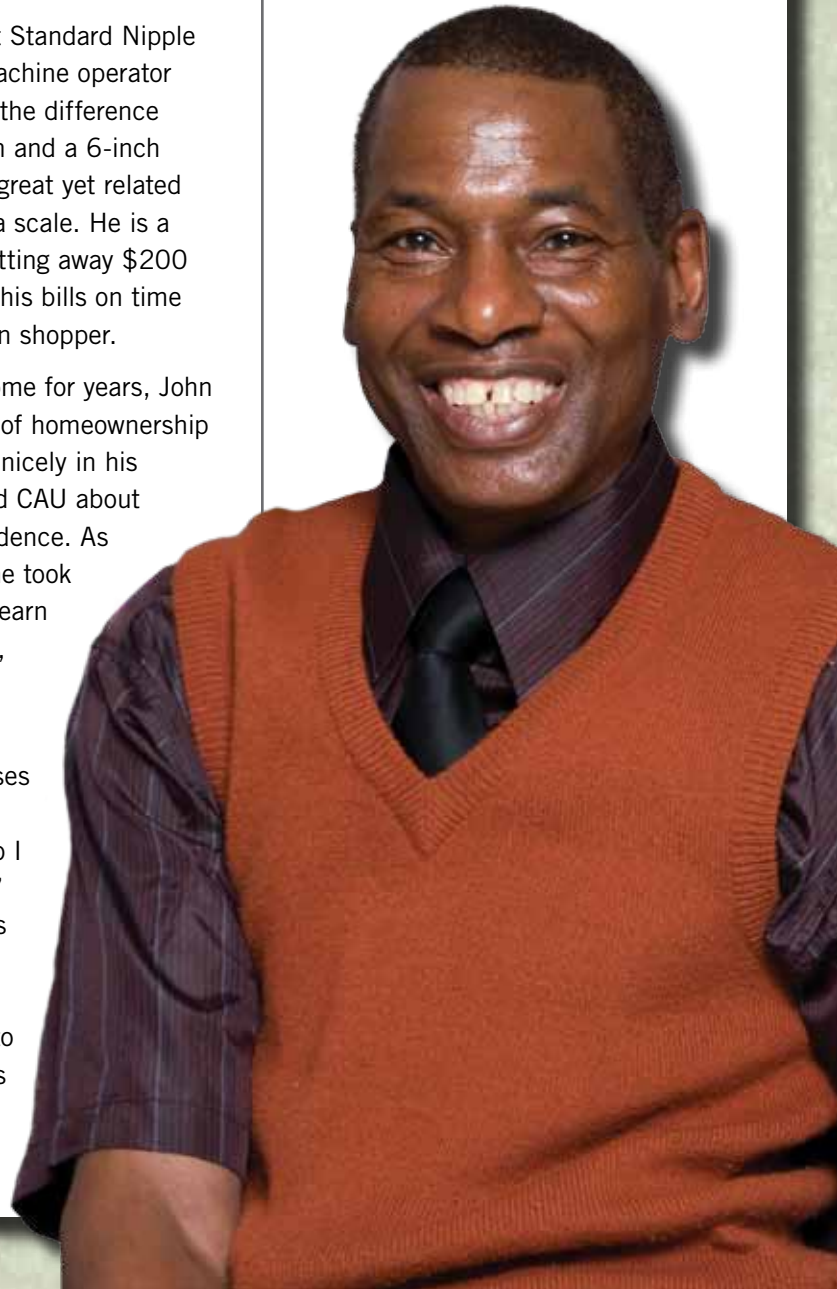
Patrick also is learning that creating a balanced lifestyle involves giving back and being involved. He is a member of CAU's Youth Advisory Board and Member Action Committee.

"I want to change the way the DYFS system works, so that the next person coming up can get more than I got," he said.

Patrick keeps his eye on his own path, as well. He started his culinary career at Union County College, plans to attend the Hudson County College culinary arts program

and aspires to enter the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island.

In the meantime, Patrick watches his pennies and manages his finances as if he were planning a feast on a limited budget. That is all part of his recipe for the future.



HEALTH

Every human being is the author of his own health...

— *Buddha*

With **Health** comes greater independence and personal fulfillment. CAU enables members to pursue healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy spirits through a variety of programs and support services — allowing them to be the authors of their own health.

Through our supervised and supportive living apartment programs people with disabilities develop Independent Living Skills through customized training to strengthen interpersonal relations, vocation, personal hygiene, housekeeping and their ability to travel, among other areas – building healthy bodies and hearts.

Recreation and Education Programs enable people with disabilities to enjoy healthier minds and attitudes through access to cultural and social events — from sporting events to overnight trips to dance classes – helping to eliminate any sense of isolation and enabling them to develop social and budgeting skills.

To help members' stay physically healthy, CAU employs nurses, behaviorists and educational specialists. CAU utilizes health and wellness curricula it has developed especially for people with special needs. CAU also collaborates with other community organizations such as Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation, AMERIGROUP Community Cares, the Hyacinth Foundation and Planned Parenthood to bring members vital health care information. The agency also holds dance classes, an annual walk-a-thon and participates in the Special Olympics. For healthy minds CAU offers members opportunities for group and individual counseling and discussion. Realizing that dealing with a disability is often a family affair, CAU also provides respite to caregivers through their respite and recreational programs.

At CAU members find resources to learn how to be the authors of their own health — defining their stories with healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy spirits.

Mustafa McGowan



Mustafa McGowan hears the starter's gun in his ears and sees the fluttering tape at the finish line in his mind's eye. He feels the blood rushing through his veins and his muscles pulling taut as he dashes toward his goal – always pressing onward.

Life can be its own competition and Mustafa plans to have a healthy edge

David Amoros

in that race every day. He is a former Special Olympian who two years ago won three medals at the Special Olympics competition for New Jersey's Middlesex and Union Area 5 – gold in the 1,500- and 400-meter walk and silver in the standing long jump. He loves to be active and to compete.

Mustafa also is highly independent, personable, respectful, intelligent and maintains a positive attitude – all healthy traits for a young man who likes to enjoy life. In fact, while Mustafa recently experienced some medical difficulties, he never let them discourage him or dampen his attitude.

Through the guidance and opportunities he found at CAU Mustafa has shown great maturation in both the way he deals with occasional frustration and his desire to be more involved. The Special Olympics – complete with the challenges of preparation and occasional loss and the camaraderie of participation – were calling.

“He’s a person who enjoys what life has to offer,” said Paul LaMaine of CAU. “He loves activities. He’s the first one to want to go.”

Football, three-point basketball shots and poetry reflect the healthy body, mind and heart of David Amoros. As a member of his high school football team, David recently looked forward to two-a-day practices in the heat of August. As a center, he loves playing an integral role in the game – “The center controls the play,” he said.

David also enjoys basketball and finds himself drawn to the very difficult three-point shot from the side of the court, where the shooter does not have the safety of the backboard as a guard for an errant toss. Having only the two options of success or failure does not intimate him.

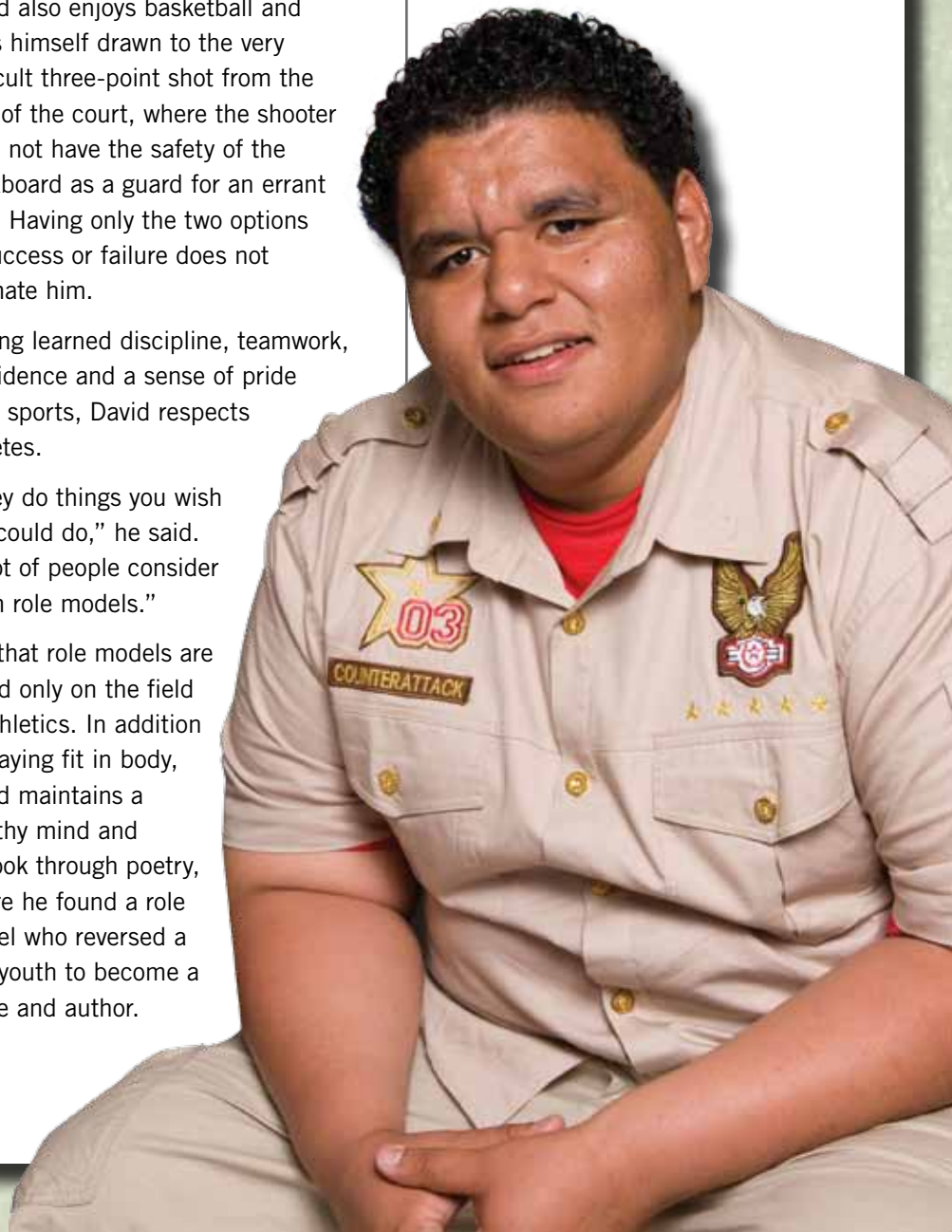
Having learned discipline, teamwork, confidence and a sense of pride from sports, David respects athletes.

“They do things you wish you could do,” he said. “A lot of people consider them role models.”

Not that role models are found only on the field of athletics. In addition to staying fit in body, David maintains a healthy mind and outlook through poetry, where he found a role model who reversed a bad youth to become a judge and author.

“I can relate to that,” David said. “We all go through a struggle. We all go through a bad period. But we can make a one-eighty and turn out positive.”

That is a very healthy attitude he learned at CAU – to go along with a healthy body.



MONEY MANAGEMENT

True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence.

— *Franklin Roosevelt*

Economist John Maynard Keynes said the importance of money flows from it being a link between the present and the future. Through a variety of money management and financial independence training, CAU helps members bring stability to their present and design a well-founded path to their future.

Members with disabilities receive **Money Management Training** within the supervised and supported living apartment programs while enjoying the financial rewards of employment through CAU's Vocational and Employment Services.

The Personal Preference Program strengthens the independence of those with disabilities. Through this Medicaid program members act as consumers, converting care hours into dollar equivalents and determining on which services and service providers those dollars will be spent. Through the Personal Assistance Program (PASP) members gain greater control over how the cash value of their benefits will be spent, creating monthly budgets and attending workshops to learn how best to manage their assets. CAU provides assistance with payroll, budgeting and account maintenance for both these programs.

At-risk youth often have the fewest resources yet can be among society's most resourceful citizens. CAU provides young members with the emotional support and educational guidance they need to better control what resources they have and earn while building toward a better future. They develop discipline in managing their money and discover the rewards of that discipline as their resources strengthen and their future brightens.

Mary Kurnos



Five days a week for 17 years Mary Kurnos has been performing custodial work at CAU. Each night she returns home, which she cleans evenings and weekends. She puts money aside for bills and pays taxes – too many, she believes.

And each day, Mary is as proud as a peacock.

Marquis McNeill

"I'm proud that I can do my job," she said. "I always wanted to do something that is responsible and neat."

Neat is a key word for Mary at home, as well. She is a noted meticulous housekeeper.

Mary and her husband, Ed, were able to buy their condo in 2006 after renting for six years. Homeownership was possible for them because they are very astute managers of their money, skills they learned at CAU.

"I put my money in my checking account," she said. "My husband also puts money into the account. We put money aside for food and the rest goes for bills."

Well, not quite all the rest. Mary allows herself some fun money for shopping, but even then never for the frivolous and always for bargains. She loves flea markets and garage sales. Mary even has started brown-bagging her lunch in an effort to save a few pennies that might be better

used elsewhere.

It is an attitude that went far toward leading Mary and Ed into homeownership.

"I never thought I would own a condo and take good care of it," she said. "I made big accomplishments in my life. I was ready for it."

Things add up for Marquis McNeill. Even though he earned a perfect score on his first finance test in college, he quickly realized that was not the right career path for him. Today he is learning graphic design and working on web site coding, which he first learned in the eighth grade.

"It all fell into place," he said. "I love it. It allows me to express myself."

Marquis also has become a mentor for people being served by the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

While that may seem like a lot to keep on his plate, for Marquis order is second nature, something he learned from his grandmother and finds reinforced at CAU. He applies this order to management of his money.

"The more organized I am the easier it is to find things," he said. "That's what my grandmother taught me. If everything is neat and organized, it's easier to do things."

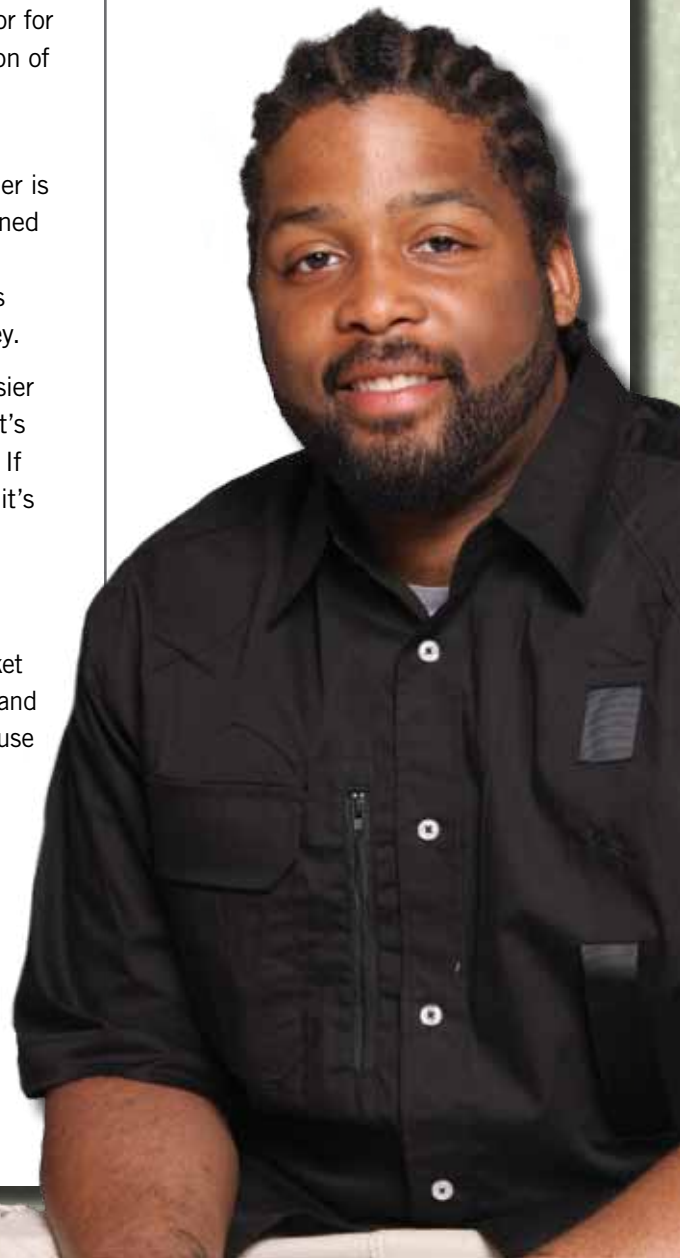
A closer look at Marquis' finances displays that order. He maintains a checking, savings and money market account, moving funds as needed and declining overdraft insurance because "I don't want to keep spending."

For Marquis the real budgeting challenge comes not in deciding when to spend but rather on what – the difference between necessities and wants.

"It's hard when I really want something but then realize I don't really need it," he said.

One thing Marquis very much wants that does not cost anything but time and passion is to continue mentoring, something he also learned at CAU.

"I enjoy being able to give back, that I make a difference in somebody else's life," he said. "Things I've been through can help somebody out."



VOCATION & EMPLOYMENT

We work to become, not to acquire.

— *Elbert Hubbard*

For people with disabilities and at-risk youth, the opportunity to work often is the reward in itself. With employment comes acceptance and camaraderie, pride and accomplishment, progress and reward. Through vocation and employment, people with special needs find independence as well as career path opportunities.

And the paychecks don't hurt, either.

CAU operates a variety of **Vocation and Employment** programs and training services designed to help members earn money, achieve greater independence and train for success.

People with disabilities train for employment in areas that match their interests and skills. They also have access to classes in basic math, reading and computer skills. Members work either at Community Access Unlimited or outside businesses, with several enjoying long-term employment with a single company. The Community Support Program provides adults with disabilities and caregivers, as well as youth, in-home support that includes employment assistance.

CAU's younger members often have not had access to stable environments and the introduction to part-time employment and career path development that often accompany those environments. At CAU they receive training that prepares them for every aspect of employment, from interviewing to interaction with others in the workplace to dressing for success. CAU's On Your Way to the Top program provides youth members with employment opportunities tied to occupational training during the summer months.

Whether simply looking for part-time employment or searching for a career path, CAU members find the support they need to prepare, provide effort and achieve their goals through vocation and employment training. Therein lies the satisfaction.

Michele Bartolucci



Long before the sun begins to peak above the horizon, when traffic on Route 1 is light and guests at the Swan Motel are still asleep in crisp sheets and pillow cases, Michele Bartolucci rises from bed to begin her commute to work as a folder in the motel's laundry. After waking at 5:00, Michele takes two buses and

arrives in time for her 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday shift.

Punctuality is very important to Michele, as is her job of 10 years. After previously working in two local supermarkets, Michele found a home at the Swan.

"It's easy, you don't have to deal with the customers," she said. "My favorite part is the ladies I work with."

While Michele values the money she earns working, which helps her maintain her independence, more so she enjoys the camaraderie and the fun side of employment, such as having the resources to shop for clothes or take long trips.

And just as Michele and her coworkers share the workload in the Swan laundry, she enjoys sharing what she buys with her friends at work, as well as her fellow members at CAU.

Michele cites her counselor and job coach at CAU for teaching her how to be employed, commute to work – "She showed me where to wait for the buses," she said – and manage her affairs. Her next goal is to live independently – just not too far from work. The days start early enough.

Lashaniece Alford

Children want you to see the best in them – Lashaniece Alford

Lashaniece was once that child. Now she helps care for them and strives to see their best – a positive future for each she also is shaping for herself. A teacher's assistant at the Tri-City Day Care Center where she was cared for as a child, Lashaniece is following a career path few enjoy – one borne from experience and rooted close to heart. Her progress has been nurtured by the experiences and guidance she has received within CAU's Transitional Opportunities Program.

"I was in foster care at Tri-City and something good came out of it – I got a job," she said.

Lashaniece aspires to become a child psychologist. In the meantime she works at Tri-City and studies for certification as a child development associate. Employment at the day care center helps pay for her education while also allowing her to build a portfolio of experience.

For now, the children have her attention.

"What I like most about my job is teaching the children," she said.

"I like the ones who learn fast.

They skip over the three or four-letter words to learn big words.

When I work with a problem child and they listen to me, I feel like I accomplished something.

"That's what makes me understand. Sometimes they do the craziest things and I have to go back to my childhood to realize they're not trying to be mean."

Working at Tri-City allows Lashaniece to move forward while also staying connected to her past.

"I'm not the same person," she said. "I've had such a learning experience."



SOCIAL LIFE

My friends are my estate.

— *Emily Dickinson*

Our name — Community Access Unlimited — includes an element essential for any fulfilled life, that being access to the pleasures and rewards of community interaction. In providing people with disabilities and at-risk youth opportunities to socialize and interact, CAU allows them to enjoy camaraderie and avoid any sense of isolation, strengthen interpersonal skills and just have fun.

CAU provides members with disabilities with social activities that include day and overnight get-away trips, such as dinners out and trips to state parks; parties and events; and art classes. Education and training also offer social opportunities and include classes in basic math, reading and computer skills.

Through CAU's Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) senior citizens bring regular social interaction to members while also providing valuable services such as teaching mathematics and computer skills to members with disabilities or calling or visiting homebound senior citizens. In the Quality-of-Life Initiative, an Adopt-a-Friend mentoring program, volunteers spend time with individuals with disabilities enjoying simple pleasures such as reading, visiting a park or going to dinner or a movie.

Often coming to CAU from the foster care system that frequently creates a sense of isolation, the agency's youth members find a variety of opportunities to socialize and interact, building lost trust and strengthening their interpersonal skills. The Member Action Committee and Youth Advisory Board provide youth members with not only the opportunity to advocate and take control of their lives but also to interact and build rapport. The Annual Youth Conference provides a social and education forum for more than 100 young people from throughout the state.

Dennis Foster



There are many ways to touch the community. Even through snakes.

Dennis Foster has found his pathway into the community to be the same as his career path, veterinarian medicine. His love for animals dates from his early teens when he used to house-sit.

“My mom’s friend had lots of pets,” he said. “It kept me out of trouble – just a little bit.”

More recently Dennis volunteered at an animal hospital and felt

reconnected to the community.

"It made me feel needed," he said. "Even if I'm not getting paid, people can count on me and I try my best not to disappoint them."

Dennis decided he wants to become a veterinarian after four years of zoology in college and four more years at veterinarian school. Yet his aspirations do not stop with animals. They include helping others in the community in part through his favorite animal – rattle snakes.

"Their venom can cure cancer," he said. "I find myself leaning toward that profession and field."

Dennis also has committed to his immediate community by joining CAU's Member Action Committee and Youth Advisory Board.

"I think I'll do great," he said. "I have a lot of great ideas I think they'll like to hear."

One more very important community remains treasured by Dennis – his family. He plans to study for veterinarian medicine close to home to stay near his loved ones.

"I want to be near my family," he said. "Family is the only thing that keeps me on my feet right now."

Randy Mercado

People envy the life of the party. They want to be as outgoing and creative as that person. They long to be able to pull together the fun times as naturally as second nature. Randy Mercado is that person so often in the spotlight of the soiree.

A favorite with his roommates for planning parties and annual trips, Randy is not one to let the moss grow beneath his feet. He loves day trips, such as excursions to Atlantic City – "I like to gamble," he said – or visits to a dude ranch – "The animals stink." He also is planning a vacation to Disney World with his girlfriend.

Yet Randy knows the world has much to offer beyond his friends and loved ones at CAU. He enjoys the community experience of church every Sunday and attends a weekly social group at Kean University, where he meets new people.

"We do art, go to concerts, have buffets," he said.

Randy also feels a sense of obligation to the community in which he lives. He is active in CAU's advocacy group, Helping

Hands, which both forwards the interests of people with disabilities and offers the opportunity to interact with fellow members and those outside CAU. He also attends monthly town council meetings in his borough. He has gotten to know his councilwoman, whom he plans to invite to CAU recreation and advocacy meetings.

"I'm independent but I like being with other people," he said.



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

We must become the change we wish to create.

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

Society's least advantaged often have little voice and few champions. They must become their own heroes and advocate for their rights and needs and pathways through life. CAU teaches people with disabilities and at-risk youth to be heard by voicing their opinions, concerns and passions to protect their rights and achieve their goals.

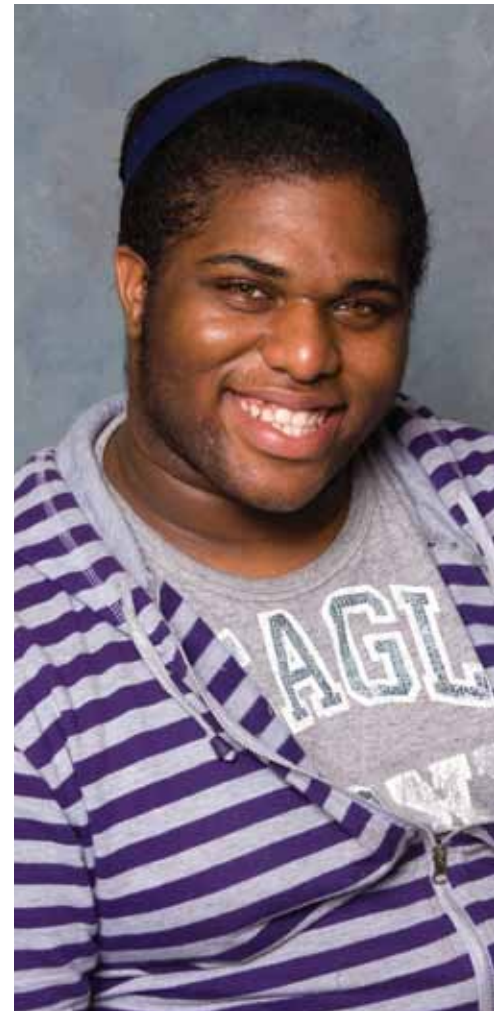
Helping Hands Self-Advocacy Group allows people with disabilities to collectively voice their concerns in the public arena. Founded in 1984, Helping Hands is one of the oldest and most effective self-advocacy groups in New Jersey.

As youth members gain comfort at CAU they also gain confidence to speak up for their rights, both within the agency and without. Members of CAU's Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) practice collective self-advocacy through the Member Action Committee (MAC), which advocates for the rights of members within the agency and the community, and the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), which advocates for at-risk youth in Union County and throughout the state.

The families of people with disabilities and at-risk youth also become effective advocates for their loved ones through the Family Connections program.

Yet perhaps no form of self-advocacy is as effective as the natural integration into the community that comes with self-respect, a positive attitude toward others and the confidence to pursue one's dreams and passions. Within the supportive community of CAU, members are safe to define themselves and their aspirations and then reach out to the wider community to spread their wings and share their songs. When you are comfortable in your own skin, it is easier to touch others.

Nakeem Randolph



Picture *CSI, the Musical*. Leading the cast just might be Nakeem Randolph, dancer and aspiring forensic pathologist.

Nakeem understands integration because he so comfortably fits into the different niches that collectively define a community. As a recent high school senior at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy in Elizabeth, Nakeem was a member of and choreographer for the school's dance troupe. Yet his



true passion for the future lies in pathology.

"I use dancing as a coping mechanism to deal with family or when I'm bored," he said. "Dancing for me is a guide way, that place you go that sets you free."

For Nakeem, that place is a career in pathology. He dances during the day and studies forensics and trigonometry at night.

"I always had a head for the sciences," he said. "I really adore how they use different techniques to find out how they catch different culprits. I've always had a knack for human body parts."

Nakeem will be attending Union County College to pursue a degree in criminal justice with a minor in dancing and sees the symmetries in the two disciplines where others see disconnection. He also

sees community – much like the community he has found at CAU.

"They have similarities," he said. "With dancing you always have to concentrate on something, whether you're dancing with others or alone. If you're looking at someone else and they're doing it wrong, you're doing it wrong. With forensics, even though it's an individual thing you're always working with team members."

Ben Herstine

Ben Herstine will steal your heart, your ear and, if you let him, just a few moments of your time as he tries to make you smile. Maybe that is why Ben plays for the Bandits, a Special Olympics basketball team.

Ben is an ambassador of goodwill everywhere he goes, whether to the doctor's office or church on Sundays. He is noted for his genuine concern for everyone he meets, often asking them about family and telling friends and fellow CAU members that, "I prayed for you on Sunday." As a result, he makes friends wherever he goes.

Always striving to improve his socialization skills to allow him to better interact with friends and the community – skills honed through CAU training – Ben often is praised for this effort and his willingness to always lend a helping hand when needed. He also uses first names as often as possible, a way of connecting with people on a personal level.

Of course, ambassadors need to look sharp and be healthy if they are to send the right message. Ben is a dapper dresser who enjoys shopping at Walmart, a healthy eater – plenty of salad and vegetables – and spends 10 minutes every day on a treadmill.

After all, Ben has people to meet and to make smile. He might just steal their heart, as well.



MEMBERSHIP

*We cannot live only for ourselves.
A thousand fibers connect us with
our fellow men.*

— *Herman Melville*

Connecting. Connecting with a community greater than one, with a supportive environment and those who care. Connecting with resources for building a better tomorrow. Connecting with new friends and opportunities to learn and explore and enjoy the simple pleasure life offers.

Membership within CAU provides these connections – and many more. The people with disabilities and at-risk youth who comprise CAU are just that – members. They participate and interact. They have a voice, both within and outside the agency. They contribute and gain rewards.

People with disabilities and at-risk youth too often feel a sense of isolation – disconnection – from the world around them. Yet all members of society are equal, with equal rights and responsibilities. Within the CAU community, members gain the benefits and responsibilities of membership that translate into access to those of greater society, of which they are members, as well. As members of CAU strive to build greater independence, they do so with the foundation blocks provided by membership.

The membership fee for Community Access Unlimited is steep – self-respect and respect for others, a willingness to work hard when it is time to work and play when it is time to recreate, and a commitment to building a better future, for oneself, one's neighbor and the community.

The rewards are unlimited...even as they are all connected.

Famitta Durham



Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez once said, "You get what you give." Famitta Durham is living proof.

Having come to CAU full of anger and void of trust, Famitta has become a leader among her fellow members and a model of the give-to-get formula. While holding two jobs, Famitta also serves as secretary of CAU's Member Action Committee and Youth Advisory Board and recruits new participants knowing they will benefit as she has.

Mark Bloom

Famitta also has drawn on membership at CAU to identify a new career path. In addition to her job as a secretary at a law firm, she works part-time as a substitute in CAU's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) programs with an eye toward the future.

"I want to work with infants who can one day transition into CAU," she said. "I want to open my own organization."

Famitta quickly learned that before she could draw benefits from CAU membership she first had to contribute.

"As a member, regardless of your situation, you have to make the best of it," she said. "Having MAC helped me speak up for myself. And advocating helped me get the job at CAU. So when I

open my own organization I'll have the background."

Famitta also learned that membership can have a correcting force after she was laid off from an earlier job and found herself floundering.

"Instead of doing what I was supposed to do, I was doing what I wanted," she said. "I was almost put out. But we put together a plan. You learn from your mistakes."

Mark Bloom has your back. If you are a fellow member of CAU or will one day become one, if you are a person with disabilities who relies on public transportation or if you reside in one of the state's developmental centers, Mark has your back.

That is what being a member is all about.

Mark deeply believes that while membership has its rewards, foremost it has responsibilities. As the first vice president of CAU's Helping Hands Self-Advocacy Group, he advocates for the rights of CAU members and people with disabilities throughout the state and nation. Mark holds workshops for members to teach them how to speak up for their rights and recently traveled to a self-advocacy conference in New Orleans to give a presentation. He helps interview prospective new hires for the agency to ensure they are sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities.

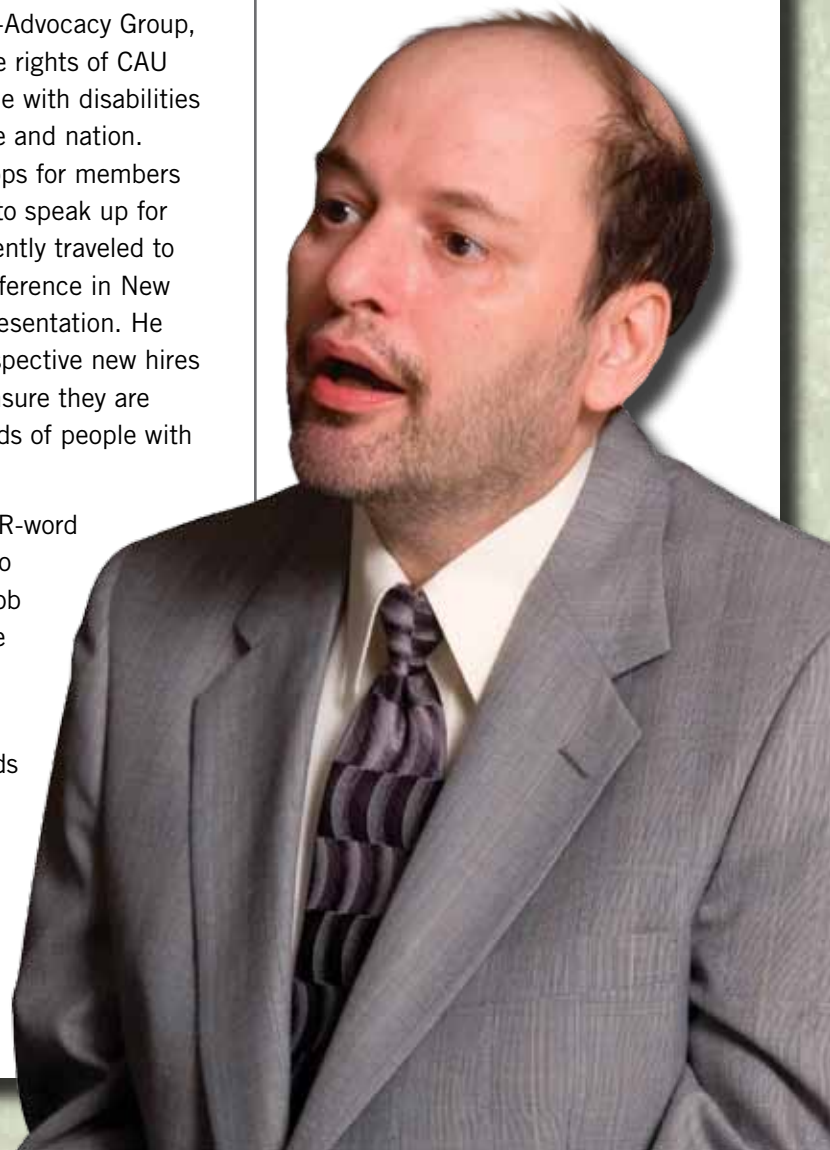
"We talk about the R-word and self-advocacy so when they get the job they know about the members," he said.

Not that Mark does not enjoy the rewards of membership, as well. He enjoys the bake sales, proms and parties members put together and

always makes sure to help out. Yet he takes as much if not more pleasure from the responsibilities of membership.

"I've been learning a lot of things," he said. "I want to teach new members about self-advocacy and what we do. It feels good. I tell my mom I do well for the people who need help."

His fellow members.



COMMUNITY NETWORK

*Not everything that counts can be counted...
not everything that can be counted counts.*

— Albert Einstein

Truly enlightened and successful companies understand that the business of commerce exceeds dollars and cents, in fact reaching far into the essence of the community. Without the community — the collective consumer — business flounders.

In addition, businesses are built and run by people and people care about others.

Community Access Unlimited provides businesses with access to the community in a way that brings value to them, to CAU and its members and to the community as a whole. The **CAU Community Network** is a collaboration between the agency and local businesses that enables companies to partner with a social services agency serving the community, thereby extending their own community outreach.

The benefits of partnering with CAU include: collaboration with other Union County businesses; increased employee volunteerism opportunities and related morale development; public expression of corporate values; and improved community relations. Andrew Carnegie believed that wealth is a sacred trust which its possessor is bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community. Yet wealth flows two ways.

Donations to CAU's Hope Chest for relocating youth help create pathways for young adults toward more productive futures as employees. Favorable lines of credit and construction loans enable CAU to build homes and the greater community. Providing support for education and health programs helps develop smarter and healthier consumers. And supporting events through employee participation creates outside connections and strengthens morale, cornerstones of a successful business.

Through the Community Network, CAU and its business partners support people and neighborhoods to create healthier and more stable communities, one member at a time. In the end, that is good business.

Community Network Partners Provide Support that Builds for Tomorrow

The power of the public-private partnership was on full display this spring as the CAU Community Network rallied to support two members of the agency, investing in both their future and that of the community. CAU member Marquis McNeill is a young job-hunter also preparing to return to college. Member Deshawn Freeman lacked an interview suit for his job-hunt efforts. Marquis and Deshawn offered the Community Network the ideal opportunity to support two young people while investing in the community.

Valley National Bank in Cranford provided a metal four-drawer filing cabinet. Roselle Savings Bank offered to buy the filing cabinet and law firm Herrick Feinstein offered a contribution, as well. Those contributions went to purchase interview suits for Marquis and Deshawn.

Yet the giving did not stop. Buckman Architectural Group in Kenilworth also offered a filing cabinet, generosity CAU will bank for future use as needs arise.

By enabling members to live within the community, become consumers



Union County Savings Bank Continues Community Commitment through Contribution to CAU

Union County Savings Bank this year donated \$10,000 to CAU to help support the agency's programs and services in the areas of housing, job development and financial literacy. Union County Savings and CAU have enjoyed a long relationship and this latest contribution is consistent with the nature of that partnership, according to Donald Sims, bank president and CEO. In supporting CAU, Union County Savings also supports the community as a whole, Sims said.

"We made this donation on the basis of the role that Community Access Unlimited plays in the City of Elizabeth and Union County in helping people with disabilities and at-risk youth," he said. "I wanted to be sure they continue to expand."

Union County Savings Bank has played a key role in that expansion in the past, providing CAU with below-market financing for property acquisition used for member housing.

In one instance the bank was able to save CAU \$250,000 on \$800,000 in mortgages through refinancing. The bank also supports CAU's financial literacy programs, conducting financial training for the agency's youth members.

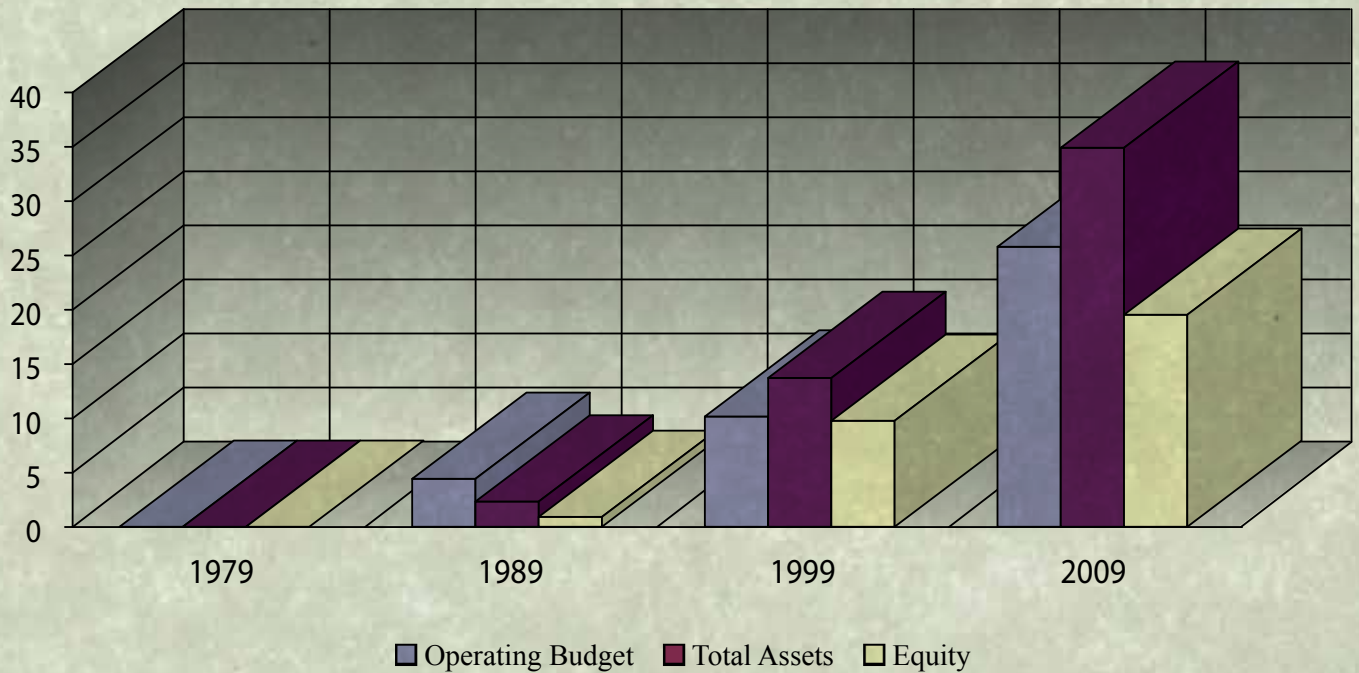
"As a community bank we rely on the City of Elizabeth and its residents," Sims said. "We're going to support anything that supports the town. We feel strongly about the mission of Community Access and about helping them to expand housing for their members and financial education of their youth. They do a lot for the business community, as well. A lot of their members are out there in the job market."

and employees and pursue career paths, CAU allows them to contribute to society and strengthens the community one member at a time. Community Network partners recognize that these are investments that match their own commitment to supporting people and neighborhoods to create healthier and more stable communities. They recognize that, in the end, partnering with CAU is good business.

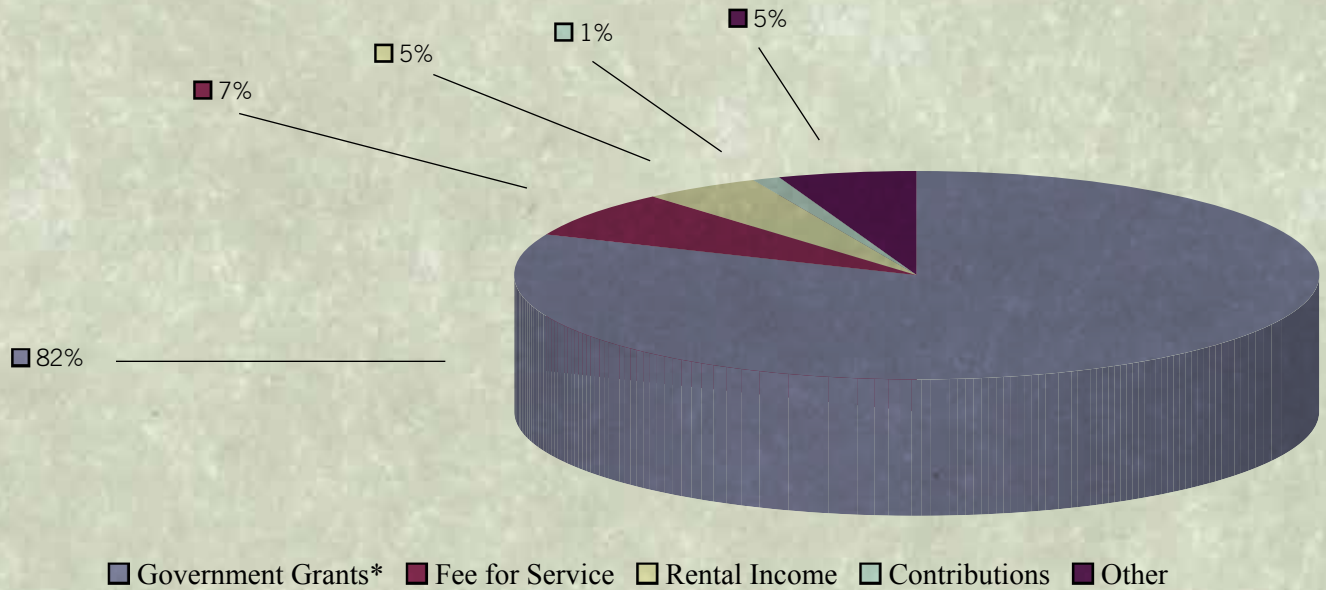


FINANCIALS

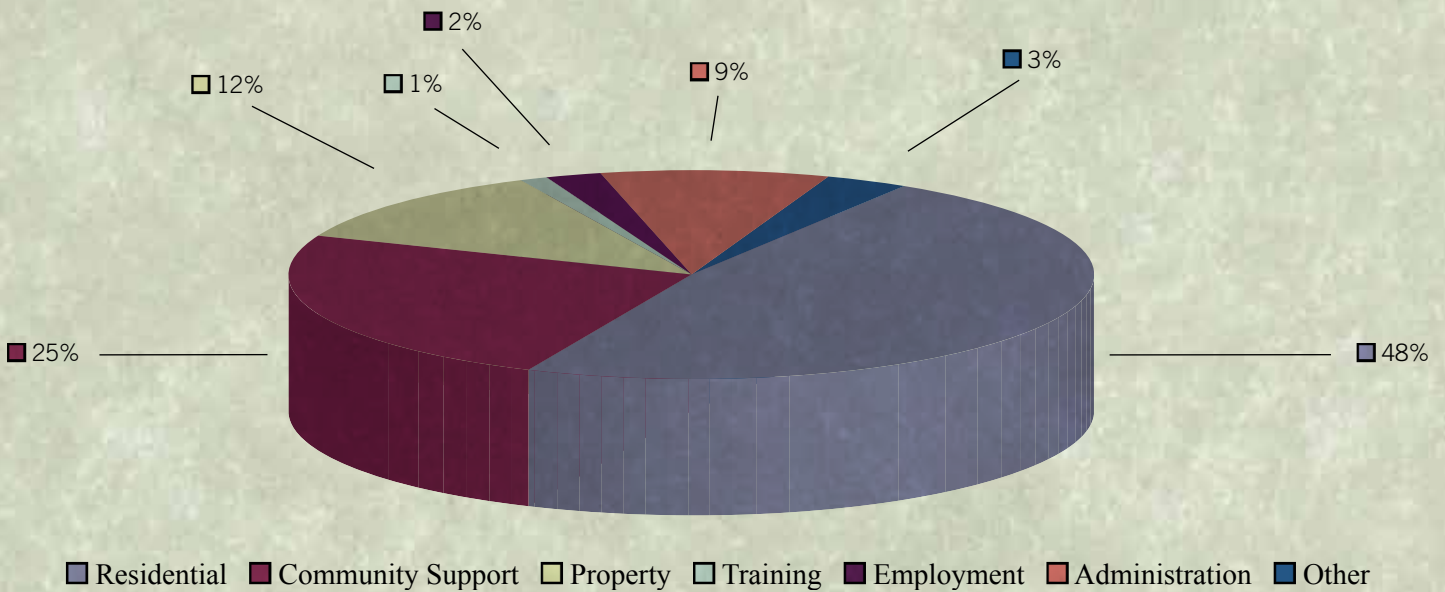
Financial Performance 1979-2009



Revenue 2009



Expenses 2009



*The State of New Jersey fulfills its responsibility of caring for its vulnerable citizens by contracting with agencies such as CAU to provide direct services.

FINANCIALS

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	December 31,	
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,831,910	\$ 7,052,235
Cash – fiscal intermediary services	3,585,705	6,846,387
Notes receivable, current portion	--	6,492
Grants and contracts receivable	404,025	588,555
Other current assets	<u>3,249,849</u>	<u>2,202,627</u>
Total current assets	13,071,489	16,696,296
Other assets		
Investments	8,834,123	2,413,087
Notes receivable, net of current portion	--	353,952
Tenants' security deposits	269,969	275,162
Security deposits and other assets	593,284	257,631
Construction in progress	1,015,473	784,939
Land, building and equipment – net	<u>11,066,471</u>	<u>10,769,692</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 34,850,809</u>	<u>\$ 31,550,759</u>
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,559,847	\$ 2,595,228
Accounts payable – fiscal intermediary services	8,741,115	6,891,144
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	724,895	623,938
Grants and contracts payable	94,342	590,856
Security deposits payable	263,975	257,628
Refundable advance	29,920	4,182
Deferred credit – L.P. Purchase – current	107,352	107,352
Total current liabilities	<u>12,521,446</u>	<u>11,070,328</u>
Other liabilities		
Tenant deposits payable	269,968	275,131
Deferred credit – L.P. Purchase	<u>2,370,652</u>	<u>2,478,004</u>
Total liabilities	<u>15,162,066</u>	<u>13,823,463</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	17,457,864	15,578,026
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>2,230,879</u>	<u>2,149,270</u>
Total net assets	<u>19,688,743</u>	<u>17,727,296</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 34,850,809</u>	<u>\$ 31,550,759</u>

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	2009		2008		Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	
Public support and other revenue	\$ 20,898,554	\$ 212,740	\$ 18,214,009	\$ 248,534	\$ 18,462,543
Public support					
Government grants					
Special events net of direct expenses of \$36,973 and \$48,637 for December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively	74,346	--	65,535	--	65,535
United Way contributions	15,473	--	17,631	--	17,631
Other contributions	95,526	75,500	421,531	38,500	460,031
Total public support	21,083,899	288,240	18,718,706	287,034	19,005,740
Other revenue					
Fee for service	1,934,613	--	1,582,867	--	1,582,867
Rental income	1,239,246	--	1,203,099	--	1,203,099
Investment income	463,493	--	159,583	--	159,583
Other revenue	931,539	--	165,863	--	165,863
Total other revenue	4,568,891	--	3,111,412	--	3,111,412
Net assets released due to satisfaction of purpose or time restrictions	25,652,790	288,240	21,830,118	287,034	22,117,152
Total public support and other revenue	206,631	(206,631)	205,674	(205,674)	--
Expenses	25,859,421	81,609	22,035,792	81,360	22,117,152
Program services					
Residential programs	11,486,054	--	9,313,271	--	9,313,271
Employment programs	524,465	--	487,971	--	487,971
Community support services	5,865,058	--	5,276,714	--	5,276,714
Training programs	281,500	--	280,714	--	280,714
Other programs	893,032	--	810,718	--	810,718
Total program services	19,050,109	--	16,169,388	--	16,169,388
Supporting services					
Management and general	2,158,543	--	1,923,524	--	1,923,524
Property expenses	2,770,931	--	2,366,913	--	2,366,913
Total supporting services	4,929,474	--	4,290,437	--	4,290,437
Total expenses	23,979,583	--	20,459,825	--	20,459,825
Changes in net assets	1,879,838	81,609	1,575,967	81,360	1,657,327
Net assets at beginning of years	15,578,026	2,149,270	14,002,059	2,067,910	16,069,969
Net assets, end of years	\$ 17,457,864	\$ 2,230,879	\$ 15,578,026	\$ 2,149,270	\$ 17,727,296

SUPPORTERS

PLATINUM PLUS - \$10,000+

Catholic Human Services Foundation
Hyde and Watson Foundation
Sovereign Bank
TD Charitable Foundation
Union County Savings Bank

PLATINUM - \$5,000 - \$9,999

AMERIGROUP Community Cares
Harold Poltrock, Esq.
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GOLD - \$2,500 - \$4,999

Griffin, Griffin & Alexander
Hudson City Savings Bank
Karma Foundation
Leo Foundation
SGA Group
Spencer Savings Bank

SILVER - \$1,000 - \$2,499

A&S Carpet Services
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Woodruff Developers

BRONZE - \$500 - \$999

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