



DAWN, Inc. Newsletter

Winter 2004

DAWN, Inc. (Center for Independent Living, Inc.)
Issued: Fourth Quarter 2004

Dawn is a non-residential center for independent living (CIL) committed to providing the resources to enable people with disabilities to remain independent. Dawn is federally mandated to provide free of charge the following core services:

- Information & Referral
- Advocacy
- Peer support
- Independent Living Skills
- Recreational activities are also provided at a cost

CILs are membership organizations located throughout the country and each provides services to a specific geographic area. Dawn services Morris, Sussex and Warren counties.

THANK YOU!

We would like to say a special thank you to the following grantors and the companies and individual donors for their continued support throughout the year. Their assistance has helped not only make our events more pleasurable but in some instances donations are all that make an event possible. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

- Borough of Wharton
- Cornell University
- County of MorrisCounty of Sussex
- County of WarrenKessler Institute
- NJ Department of Education
- NJ Division of Vocational Rehab Services
- United Way of Morris County
- United Way of Sussex County
- Alexis Diner, Denville
- A T & T
- Balloons by Robbie, Lake Hiawatha
- Cambiotti's Tomato Pie Café, Landing
- Chevy's Fresh Mex
- Colgate-Palmolive
- Elefante Nurseries, Pine Brook

- Glass Gardens, Inc.-Shop Rite
- Granny's Pancake House & Grill, Hamburg
- Indian Spring Water Div of Culligan
- J C P & L
- Macy's Townsquare Restaurant
- Mimmo's Fine Italian Cuisine, Wharton
- Onyx Environmental Employees, Flanders
- Pathmark Supermarket
- Paulgro Consulting, LLC
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Quick Chek, Mt. Arlington
- Savioli Ravioli, Franklin
- Smith Limousine, Inc., Sussex
- Sussex Meat Packing, Inc., Wharton
- Wal-Mart of Ledgewood, Newton and Mt. Olive
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- Ralph Bolognese
- Raj Dessai
- Nancy Cortes
- Paul Grossman
- Lynda Hartmann
- Ann Syrek
- Robert Longendyck
- Robert Aitchison
- Sharon Fitch
- Maria Molde
- Eric Specht
- Mary Bates
- Jodieanne Cullen
- Kathleen Marston
- Rosemarie Goetsch
- Barbara Hannam
- Renee Reilly
- Ed Semancik

Thanks also go out to our members who contribute through their membership renewals.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

On behalf of the DAWN Board of Directors and staff, I will like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. The end of 2004 closed on a very positive note with our Holiday Gala. This year it was held at the Mount Olive Senior Center with our largest attendance ever. The location and food were great. We were fortunate to receive an enormous amount of food donations from local businesses. We have listed those donors in the newsletter. Please be sure to support their businesses as a way of thanking them for their generous support.

There are many new and exciting things on the horizon for DAWN and its members. We continue to address our long-range plan to help us be the best we can be. As always, we would love to have input from our members. If anyone is interested in being a part of the planning process or becoming more active in the Board of Directors, please let the Board members or myself know. We are very interested in increasing our board membership and are especially looking for representation from residents of Warren County as well as parents of our young adults. It is important that our board have a cross representation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports this organization through financial donations, membership dues, participating in our fundraisers and giving of their time in a volunteer capacity. Without all of that support, we could not accomplish our goals.

In this issue, we have included some important information for you. First, there is a list of advisory meetings within each of the counties we serve, which are important for you to be involved in. These committees play an important role in the ways local resources are allocated and it is imperative that we educate and inform the officials in our communities of the needs and desires of persons with disabilities. It is up to all of us to play a part. No one will do it for you. Get involved! Your voice is needed! Second, we have included a fundraising form that was created by our fundraising committee to gather ideas from all of you about potential future fundraisers. If you have any ideas for us, please send them in to us on the form. We are looking for our members to take a more active role in our fundraising efforts. I am sure with your support, we can come up with some exciting and innovative ideas. Finally, a list of all activities for the year is included. As per the member's requests, the format for our membership meetings is changing. We will be cutting back on the number of meetings held each year, however, the meetings will be held for a longer time, they will be held in various sites within the three counties and food will be served at each. We are hoping that the changes will entice more individuals to attend.

In closing, I would like to thank you all again for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at some of our activities.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NJ, COUNCIL FOR THE HEAD INJURED COMMUNITY (CHIC) INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A SOCIAL EVENT

Sunday, April 3rd from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, NJ and; Saturday April 30th from 11:00-2:00 p.m. at Community Medical Center in Toms River, NJ

Do you want to meet new friends? Learn about subjects that are important to the brain injury community? Get involved with a group that empowers people with brain injury? If so.... You must come to this event! Food & Beverages will be served.

CHIC is a group of brain injury survivors organized by the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey to address various brain injury topics. If you have a brain injury-related concern and/or want to voice your opinion on any brain injury topic. CHIC is the group to join.

Contact Tom Grady, Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs of the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey, to reserve a seat or for more information call (732) 738-1002 ext. 233, or e-mail: tgrady@bianj.org
Seating for the Brain Injury Social Event is limited. Please respond by March 16th for the Morristown

event. Please respond by April 16th for the Toms River event.

HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

DAWN, Inc. is pleased to announce that we have received funding from the Henry H. Kessler Foundation to provide Home modifications, for people with disabilities living in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. We have also received funding for Sussex County residents for people with disabilities and the frail elderly. Home modifications are structural changes to an individual's home to make it more accessible as a person ages or becomes disabled. Ramps and widening of doorways are the most common modifications to a home. Interested parties must complete an application and provide two estimates and photographs. Applications are available upon request.

If you or someone you know is interested in the Home Modification Program or other DAWN, Inc. services, please call the DAWN office at: (973) 361-5666 (V) or (973) 361-6032 (TTY)

HOME REPAIR/IMPROVEMENT

Christian Outreach Project will again be offering home repair / improvement services for Elderly, disabled and low-income homeowners in Sussex, northern Warren, and western Morris counties. Although repairs are at no-cost any donated or discounted building supplies are greatly appreciated.

Homeowners and worksites are chosen by a committee based on need for repairs, ability of the homeowner to perform the repairs themselves, and the capabilities of the work crews. Work that has been undertaken in years past include:

- Interior/exterior house painting
- Wheelchair ramp construction
- Porch and step repair
- Insulation / weatherization
- Gutter replacement
- Window replacement / reglazing
- Masonry repair
- Handrail installation
- Roof repair
- Tiling
- Sheet rocking

If you are a homeowner who would like to request a crew during the two weeks scheduled for work this summer please contact DAWN, Inc. at: (973) 361-5666 (v) or (973) 361-6032 (TTY).

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE

Assistance is available from member companies. Each individual pharmaceutical company has its own eligibility criteria. The criteria may include one or more of the following:

- Income guidelines
- Citizenship status
- Asset guidelines
- Veterans benefits status
- Prescription benefits currently received through other programs, such as Medicaid

Use the form on the website to get started and to see if you qualify for assistance or call the RX4NJ program to find out if they can help connect you with low-cost prescription drugs. Website: www.rx4nj.org
Toll-free number: (888) 793-6765

ABILITIES EXPO

The Abilities Expo will be held April 15 - 17 at the NJ Convention and Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison. Expo is a consumer trade show for persons with a disability, PT's & OTs, caregivers, family & Spec.Ed teachers. There is a workshop program that takes place at the same time as the exhibits. For list of the workshops: www.abilitiesexpo.com

If you are interested in going, we have 25 tickets call us: (973) 361-5666

COUNTY PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Morris County: web site - www.co.morris.nj.us

The following are held in Room 127, Administrative & Records Bldg, 340 West Hanover Avenue
Morristown

Advisory Council on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans 12 Noon 3rd Thursday every other month starting in February

Human Services Advisory Council 6:00 p.m. 4th Wednesday monthly

Mental Health Advisory Board 6:30 p.m. 2nd Thursday monthly

The following are held at 30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room, Morristown

Senior Citizen & Disabled Residents Transportation 1:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday monthly Jan-June, Sept-Nov

Board of Public Transportation Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Sussex County: web site - www.sussex.nj.us

Human Services Advisory Council Meeting-Sussex Fire Academy 9:00 a.m. 4th Wednesday monthly
(November's on 3rd Wednesday)

Disability Advisory Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. 1st Monday Quarterly at Newton Memorial Hospital

Contact Lorraine Hentz (973) 579-9416 to check correct time / place

Transportation Advisory Meeting 1:30 p.m.-Feb 8, May 24, July 5, Oct. 4-Freeholder's Meeting Room

Mental Health Board 5:00 p.m. Mondays-Newton Mem. Hosp. Feb 28, July 11, Sept. 19 and Dec. 12; St. Clare's Hosp., Sussex Apr. 11; A Way to Freedom Self-help Center May 23; Capitol Care, Andover Aug. 15

Warren County: web site - www.co.warren.jn.us

The following meetings are held in the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Room of the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administrative Building

Warren County Disability Advisory Council 11:00 a.m. 2nd Thursday every other month starting in January

Human Service Advisory Council 1:00 p.m. 4th Tues of every other month start in Jan

Transportation Advisory Council 1:30 p.m. 2nd Thursday every other month starting in January

Mental Health Board 1:30 p.m. 1st Thursday each month

Senior Services Advisory Council 9:30 a.m. 4th Thursday January thru October

DISCRIMINATION?

Have you had trouble getting a reasonable accommodation in a store, restaurant, or other public place? Do you know how to file a complaint about a public accommodation? How is the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination different from the Americans with Disabilities Act?

Join us at this informative presentation about the new Law Against Discrimination being held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 32 Main Street in Sparta, New Jersey.

The speaker will be David Popiel from the Community Health Law Project.

RSVP to DAWN, Inc., 888-383-DAWN (3296) V or 973-361-6023 TTY.

For accommodations please call before February 21, 2005.

STATEWIDE PARENT ADVOCACY NETWORK CONFERENCE 2005

The conference will be held on March 18 & 19, 2005 at the National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn in East Windsor, New Jersey. Topics covered will include: Successful Inclusion; Health Care; Violence Prevention; Children's Mental Health; School Improvement; Public Policy and Parent Involvement. For more information go to: www.spannj.org or call 1-800-654-SPAN (7726)

WHATEVER WORKS II

Presented by US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration & RRCEP II

A symposium on creative practices to meet employment challenges for persons who are deaf, deaf blind, hard of hearing, or late deafened will be held on March 21-22, 2005 at: Bergen County Community College, Technical Education Center, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, New Jersey. (No registration fee!)

For more information, contact: RRCEP II at (716) 829-3934 or e-mail wquarles@buffalo.edu or moehler@buffalo.edu

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The United Way of Morris County has launched an Earned Income Tax Credit awareness campaign. The EITC is a federal /state tax credit available to the people who need it most-low-to-moderate income working families and individuals. You or someone you know could be eligible!

To find out if you qualify for the federal and New Jersey state EITC, please visit www.uwmorris.org or dial 2-1-1-. For specific tax question contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-TAX-1040, or the New Jersey Department of Taxation at 1-888-895-9179, or visit www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation.

HANDICAPPED PARKING/CURB CUTS-SNOW REMOVAL

Any obstruction to handicapped parking is illegal - \$200-\$500 fine!! The "Snow Removal Bill" was signed into law on August 16, 1999. Ice or snow must be removed from the handicap parking space, curb cut or other improvement within 48-hours after snow stops. This law is not limited to winter-applies to debris, carts and other obstacles in handicapped parking spaces or blocking curb cuts.

Any questions contact NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (609) 984-7577 or go to www.njmvc.gov

DAWN PROGRAMS - (TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED)

This year the membership has decided to only have six monthly meetings instead of our usual ten. However, the six meetings planned for 2005 will run longer from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Because we are spread out over three counties the meetings will be held at different locations; and since meetings will now run longer, food will be served at each meeting for a nominal charge of \$2.00 per person.

General Members Meetings 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

1st Wednesday of March, May, June, Sept., Oct., and Nov.

March 2 - 1st Presbyterian, Sparta

May 4 - Knoll Heights Sr. Center, Sparta

June 1 - Paragon Village, Hackettstown

General Members Recreation 6:30 - 8:30 pm unless otherwise noted.

Wed., Feb. 23rd -Shopping/Dinner @ Rockaway Mall; 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 16th - Dinner out Red Lobster in Ledgewood

Thur., April 14th - Movie at Clearview Cinema 14 in Mansfield

Board Meetings

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. 4th Thursday of the month in the Conference Room at DAWN Inc.,

Dawn is seeking new board members. If interested please contact the office for details.

Call the office (973) 361-5666 no later than one week prior to an event to sign up for event & to schedule

transportation. If you need a special accommodation (assistant, interpreter, Braille, etc), please inform us at least two weeks prior to an event. Attention Deaf Members: Please call (TTY 973-361-6032) if you need an ASL interpreter.

Call your county's transportation department two days prior to an event to establish your pick-up time. To assist the scheduler and to show consideration for your fellow travelers, if you need to cancel pick-up, call transit at least two days in advance, or as soon as possible.

DAWN PROGRAMS - (TRANSPORTATION NOT PROVIDED.)

Young Adult Recreation

Monthly - 2nd Friday 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Montville Rec. Site (Unless otherwise noted)

Friday, Feb 11 - Valentine's Day Dance at the Montville Senior Center

Friday, Mar 11 - Talent Show at the Montville Senior Center

Saturday, April 9 - Trip to New York City Details to follow

Deaf Senior Citizens of North West Jersey

Starting April 2005 meetings will be held the 1st Friday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00.

The new meeting location is:

St. Peters Episcopal Church at 215 Boulevard in Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

Flyer's with topic information will be mailed prior to each meeting. Meeting information is also listed in the Communicator.