

# DAWN AWAKENINGS

## Awaken to Independence

DAWN AWAKENINGS

Summer 2014

### IF YOU'RE READY FOR EMPLOYMENT (OR JUST THINKING ABOUT IT)

Thanks to generous support from the Kessler Foundation, DAWN now offers a variety of employment-related services for people with disabilities. Services include skills and interest assessments, benefits and work incentives counseling, career and family counseling, and peer support. We provide training in areas such as job-search skills, workplace skills and troubleshooting workplace issues. These services are available throughout Morris, Sussex and Warren counties to anyone with a disability who is considering an employment goal, whether they are ready to work or are just gathering information.

Another program offered by DAWN is "It's All About Work," a NJ Association of Centers for Independent Living (NJACIL) initiative designed in collaboration with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development – Division of Vocational Rehabilitative Services (DVRS). The program includes school-based courses for high school students with disabilities who are transitioning to adult life, offered to schools on a fee-for-service basis, as well as an adult course and targeted adult services currently offered through participating NJ CILs, under authorization by DVRS. An added benefit of this new initiative to participating schools, students, and families is that DVRS has made a commitment to provide services to high school students ages 16 and up who participate in this program prior to graduation.

DAWN is also an Employment Network with the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program, a voluntary program designed to provide SSI/SSDI beneficiaries choices, opportunities and supports needed to achieve financial self-sufficiency through employment. While participating in the program, Ticket beneficiaries potentially can use work incentives to maximize income until they reach prescribed income levels. Anyone receiving SSI or SSDI is eligible to receive services from the Employment Network of their choice until their Ticket is fully utilized. DAWN is the first Center for Independent Living in New Jersey to become an approved Employment Network.

For more information, please call 973-625-1940, ext. 220.

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### "Living Well with a Disability" for Morris and Sussex Counties

Living Well with a Disability is an 8-week workshop about how to improve quality of life with a disability. The Denville session will begin in September. Limited transportation is available. For more information, call Peter Gimbel at 973-625-1940, extension 219 or by email at [pgimbel@dawncil.org](mailto:pgimbel@dawncil.org).

## From the Executive Director's Desk

*Carmela*

### One Person Can Make a Difference

By Nina Matava

There is a medical building located in Annandale, NJ that I visited several times. One set of doors was accessible; however, the second set of doors was too narrow and very awkward to open. The problematic configuration was a set of double doors, but one side was kept locked. This made it almost impossible for someone like myself who uses a wheelchair to open the doors. I had talked to the receptionist at my doctor's office. She stated that she could not understand why, this being a medical building, the entrance to the building was not accessible, but explained that it was built before ADA regulations and now was grandfathered from having to be accessible.

After a few appointments with this particular doctor, I had become frustrated at not being able to open the doors. I wrote a letter early last year, stating that I could not understand why this facility was not accessible.

In October 2013 (after I had written the letter), I had another appointment with my doctor. When entering the building, I found out that the inaccessible doors were removed. I was shocked my letter had made such an impact on the building management. As a result, I wrote a letter stating, "Today I had had an appointment at your facility and was pleasantly surprised that measures were taken to correct the situation. I would like to commend you for your actions." Since then, I had an opportunity to speak to the management and I have been told that they plan to renovate the remainder of the building to match the construction standards of ADA 2010.



## DAWN Employment Event a Resounding Success

On May 28, DAWN hosted a free two-hour workshop at the Mount Olive Public Library entitled “Steps Towards Increasing Independence through Employment: Setting Goals, Connecting to Resources, Applying for Jobs.” The workshop was designed for people with disabilities who would like to gain knowledge and skills towards increasing their independence through inclusive, competitive employment.

The event consisted of a series of presentations by Independent Living Program Supervisor Carolee Marano and Independent Living Employment Specialist Lindsay Tuman. Topics included information on SSI/SSDI benefits and work, tours of useful employment websites and an online job application demonstration. After the presentations, there was a lively question and answer session, and participants each received a resource bag with valuable informational materials plus a calculator and stapler, all to help attendees in their employment journey.

## DAWN’s DDD Support Coordination Program

The New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has designated DAWN as a provider of support coordination to DDD-eligible individuals in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. Support coordination helps ensure that consumers get the services they need from DDD’s Supports Program, and assists in developing a self-directed, individualized service plan. The Supports Program provides employment services, day supports, assistive technology, behavioral supports, environmental and vehicle modifications, respite and other services.

If you become enrolled in the DDD Support Coordination Program, you will be given the opportunity to choose what agency will provide the service. DAWN is an organization with a long history of working as a cohesive team with consumers to help them live the life they want to live. We hope you will decide that DAWN is the right choice for you. If you would like more information on the Support Coordination Program, please call 1-888-383-DAWN. If you choose DAWNcil as your Support Coordination organization, we look forward to partnering with you.

## Goodsearch

Goodsearch is a simple way to make a difference -- each time you search the web through Goodsearch or use one of their other services, they will make a donation to your favorite cause. To support DAWNcil through Goodsearch, visit Goodsearch.com and click the “Get Started” button. Enter “DAWN Center for Independent Living” in the search box and click on our name when you see it. You can then login using Facebook or your email address, and from then on, your searches on Goodsearch will give a small donation to us at no cost to you. A list of other ways to contribute through Goodsearch (such as shopping, playing games, dining out and taking surveys) can be seen at <http://www.goodsearch.com/about>.

## Upcoming Meetings and Recreation Events

*To RSVP and for transportation (if available), call 973-625-1940 at least 2 weeks ahead.*

### Upcoming Membership/Peer Gatherings - Transportation Provided

| Date/Time              | Location                   | Topic                 |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sept. 15, 6:30-8:30 pm | DAWN Denville Office       | Transportation Issues |
| Sept. 19, 1:00—3:00 pm | Hackettstown Senior Center | Transportation Issues |

### Tentative Schedule of Morris County Recreation Events

| Date/Time               | Event              | Location             | Cost               | Transport Provided? |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| July 15, 6:00-9:00 pm   | Game Night         | DAWN Denville Office | FREE               | NO                  |
| August 8, 7:00-10:00 pm | Bowling Fundraiser | Rockaway Lanes       | Min. donation \$20 | NO                  |
| Sept. 16, 6:00-9:00 pm  | Game Night         | DAWN Denville Office | FREE               | NO                  |

## Skills for Independent Living (SkIL) Summer Session

DAWN's 72-hour curriculum-based comprehensive life skills program for youth and young adults, Skills for Independent Living (SkIL), has completed three cycles and had many successful graduates. DAWN receives funding from the United Way and other partners to deliver SkIL to eligible youth and young adults with disabilities residing in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties.

DAWN is still accepting registrations for the next cycle of the SkIL program. Space is limited, so if you are interested, you are encouraged to contact us as soon as possible. This summer's SkIL classes are scheduled to take place July 8 to August 28 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (location still to be determined). If your summer is full but you are interested in the possibility of signing up for fall 2014, please call us and we will contact you when we have details about the fall session. For more information about SkIL, please contact Independent Living Transition Specialist Pamela Whiteman at 973-625-1940, ext. 214 or [pwhiteman@dawncil.org](mailto:pwhiteman@dawncil.org).

## AKTION Club Annual Installation Dinner



The AKTION Club of Morris County's outgoing officers (rear) and newly installed officers (front), with a representative from Kiwanis (left).

The AKTION Club of Morris County hosted its annual installation dinner on March 19th at Charlie Brown's in Denville. The newly installed officers are: Lisa Markey, President; Stacy Coffield, Vice President; Kimberley Gubitosa, President Elect; Patti Licht, Secretary and Danny Reddington, Treasurer.

Aktion Club is a community-service club for adults living with disabilities. Aktion Club allows members to develop initiative and leadership skills in serving their communities while enabling their integration into society. The AKTION Club of Morris County is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Morris County and DAWN CIL.

## New Legislation to Protect People with Disabilities

State Senator Anthony Bucco (R-Morris) has sponsored two pieces of legislation passed this year to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

"Dusty's Law," signed into law by Governor Christie in January and sponsored by Senator Bucco, was proposed in response to Dusty, a nine-month-old German shepherd guide dog who was attacked by a neighbor's pit bull in July of 2010. Although Dusty survived the attack and now lives happily with an adopted family, he had to receive 100 stitches and was unable to continue serving as a guide dog.

"You elected me to fight for those who cannot always fight for themselves," Bucco said at a ceremony honoring the Seeing Eye Guide Dog School. "With your help, New Jerseyans who depend on guide dogs for survival now know that if anything happens to their companions, those who allowed or even encouraged such a tragedy will be held accountable."

In May, Senator Bucco's bill S926 was also signed into law by Governor Christie. This law requires the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights to post information on its website explaining disability accommodation rights under the "Law Against Discrimination."

The bill was developed when disability advocate and founder of the non-profit organization D.A.D. (Drums and Disabilities), Pat Gesualdo, contacted Senator Bucco.

"I get many calls from disabled adults and parents who raise disabled children from throughout the country, who are being discriminated against, and looking for help," Gesualdo said. "As a result, I approached Senator Bucco with my idea of legislation that would help them. I was so happy to hear that this bill had been signed into law. It is the culmination of years of hard work and advocacy. I echo Senator Bucco's words: learn your rights. If you think you may have been discriminated against, contact the Division on Civil Rights."

*Adapted from <http://bucco.senatenj.com/>.*



## 3 Month Calendar Raffle for 2014

| July/August 2014 |            |            |            |            |             |     |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----|
| Sun              | Mon        | Tues       | Wed        | Thur       | Fri         | Sat |
| 27               | 28<br>\$25 | 29<br>\$25 | 30<br>\$30 | 31<br>\$20 | 1<br>\$25   | 2   |
| 3                | 4<br>\$25  | 5<br>\$25  | 6<br>\$25  | 7<br>\$20  | 8<br>\$25   | 9   |
| 10               | 11<br>\$30 | 12<br>\$35 | 13<br>\$50 | 14<br>\$25 | 15<br>\$100 | 16  |
| 17               | 18<br>\$25 | 19<br>\$40 | 20<br>\$25 | 21<br>\$25 | 22<br>\$25  | 23  |
| 24               | 25<br>\$20 | 26<br>\$20 | 27<br>\$50 | 28<br>\$20 | 29<br>\$20  | 30  |
| September 2014   |            |            |            |            |             |     |
| Sun              | Mon        | Tues       | Wed        | Thur       | Fri         | Sat |
| 31               | 1<br>\$25  | 2<br>\$50  | 3<br>\$25  | 4<br>\$25  | 5<br>\$25   | 6   |
| 7                | 8<br>\$25  | 9<br>\$30  | 10<br>\$25 | 11<br>\$25 | 12<br>\$100 | 13  |
| 14               | 15<br>\$35 | 16<br>\$25 | 17<br>\$50 | 18<br>\$25 | 19<br>\$25  | 20  |
| 21               | 22<br>\$25 | 23<br>\$25 | 24<br>\$25 | 25<br>\$20 | 26<br>\$100 | 27  |
| 28               | 29<br>\$25 | 30<br>\$25 |            |            |             |     |
| October 2014     |            |            |            |            |             |     |
| Sun              | Mon        | Tues       | Wed        | Thur       | Fri         | Sat |
|                  |            |            | 1<br>\$25  | 2<br>\$35  | 3<br>\$25   | 4   |
| 5                | 6<br>\$25  | 7<br>\$15  | 8<br>\$25  | 9<br>\$20  | 10<br>\$25  | 11  |
| 12               | 13<br>\$25 | 14<br>\$25 | 15<br>\$25 | 16<br>\$25 | 17<br>\$100 | 18  |
| 19               | 20<br>\$25 | 21<br>\$40 | 22<br>\$25 | 23<br>\$25 | 24<br>\$25  | 25  |
| 26               | 27<br>\$25 | 28<br>\$50 | 29<br>\$25 | 30<br>\$50 | 31<br>\$300 |     |

Please print neatly so that DAWN may award prizes!

Ticket No.

**\$2500** in Cash Prizes!!!

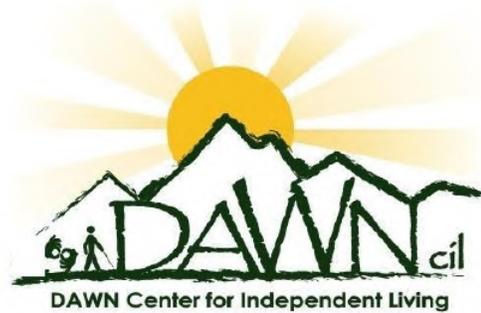
Donation - \$20 EACH

**70 chances to win!**

**Better odds than the lottery!**

SPONSORED BY

**DAWN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**



DAWN's popular Calendar Raffle is back for its third year. Each ticket is entered to win **every day** for 70 days. If you win, your ticket goes right back in for the next drawing. Tickets cost just \$20. With so many chances to win, each ticket is well worth the price! Best of all, you will be supporting a good cause: helping fund DAWN programs that serve people with disabilities in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. Anyone interested in participating can purchase a ticket by contacting Janine Mellini by phone at 973-625-1940 ext. 210 (TDD 973-625-1932) or by email at [jmellini@dawncil.org](mailto:jmellini@dawncil.org) before July 25.

**May the odds be ever in your favor  
...to win!**

## DAWN in the Community

### **Navigating Your Future Conference** by Carolee Marano & Heather Goldschmitt

On March 22, 2014, in collaboration with the Morris County Partnership for Employment and Transition (MCPETS), DAWN co-hosted the annual Navigating Your Future conference at Morris Knolls High School. This event was designed to give high-schoolers with disabilities and their families tools and resources for a successful transition from school to adult life. Speakers included Alice Hunnicutt, State Director for the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DVRS); Jennifer Joyce, Employment and Adult Services Coordinator for the NJ Department of Human Services - Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD); and Carolyn Hayer for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN). The event was well attended by state agencies, providers, educators, and families. Significant changes to the service delivery systems were discussed, including the new DVRS school-based statewide pilot program, "It's All About Work," and the new DDD Supports Program for adults with developmental disabilities. DAWN is involved in service delivery under each of these new programs. DAWN's outreach table attracted many visitors, and we were pleased to receive calls after the event from families who are interested in staying connected with DAWN.

### **Game of Life Event** by Carl Brand

On March 19th, The Game of Life was an event with a terrific premise. Sussex County Technical School students had cards with a scenario spelled out, and the students were supposed to navigate the system by going around in search of the appropriate organizations that could either attend to their needs or refer them to someone who could. It helped the organizations learn as well, as even DAWN staff were stumped a few times. The students were given stickers for good questions and searching. Once they reached a certain number of stickers, they were put into a drawing for prizes. Most importantly, students learned that if you are in crisis and have no idea who to call, just start and call SOMEONE!

### **Facing the Future Conference** by Carolee Marano

On March 21, 2014, DAWN attended the 22nd annual Facing the Future conference, co-sponsored by the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and the NJ Association for People Supporting Employment First (NJAPSE). The event, subtitled "Building Bridges to Successful Employment," featured keynote speeches, several workshops on employment topics, and recognition awards. Do you remember Cousin Geri on the old TV sitcom, "The Facts of Life?" This role was played by actress and comedienne Geri Jewell, who is the first person with a visible disability to become a regular performer on a national, prime-time television show. Geri gave a hilarious and insightful final keynote presentation, drawing on her own personal experiences, which underscored the motivational ideas that barriers are made to be broken, and the easiest limitations to overcome are the ones we place on ourselves.

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**We are on the web!**  
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### DAWN MISSION STATEMENT

DAWN Center for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities to strive for equality and to take control of their own lives by:

- Providing the tools that encourage independence and self-advocacy.
- Promoting public awareness of the needs, desires and rights of individuals living with disabilities.
- Offering community activities that create new experiences and opportunities.
- Creating informed communities that advance the Independent Living Philosophy.

### DAWN PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES AND MORE:

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| - Independent Living Skills Training      | - Advocacy                 |
| - DDD Support Coordination                | - Peer Support             |
| - Living Well with a Disability           | - Recreation               |
| - Skills for Independent Living (SkIL)    | - Information and Referral |
| - Early Intervention Service Coordination | - Next Chapter Book Club   |
| - Aktion Club (Morris County only)        | - Care Management          |
| - Brain Injury Alliance Support Group     | - It's All About Work      |
| - Working Well with a Disability          | - Employment/EN Services   |

*For questions or comments about the newsletter, contact the Newsletter Coordinator, Peter Gimbel, at [pgimbel@dawncil.org](mailto:pgimbel@dawncil.org) or 973-625-1940 ext. 219.*