



# DAWN AWAKENINGS

## Awaken to Independence

Summer - 2011

### DAWN RECEIVES ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT FROM THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Through a grant received by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, DAWNcil now has five pieces of assistive equipment available in both the Denville and Hackettstown offices. The equipment is as follows:

- **JAWS Software (Screen Reader)** – A software program that makes personal computers using Windows accessible to blind and visually impaired users. JAWS provides the user access to information displayed on the screen via a text-to-speech or Braille display, and allows comprehensive keyboard interaction. JAWS also allows users to create custom scripts using the JAWS Scripting Language. This script ultimately makes many programs that were not designed for accessibility, accessible.
- **Zoom Text** – A screen magnifier for Microsoft Windows 7. This software can help individuals with early vision loss, computer vision syndrome, and other visual impairments. Zoom Text has dual monitor support and is capable of magnifying the screen up to 36 times, while preserving text definition. Color controls help improve the clarity of the screen and mouse pointers can be resized. Zoom Text also enhances navigation capabilities, helping users to launch programs, find documents on the desktop, locate links and controls on websites and to search for words or phrases.
- **Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)** – An electronic magnification reading system that enables visually impaired users to read a variety of different types of materials and writings. A CCTV uses a stand-mounted or hand-held video camera to project a magnified image of any printed material on a television screen. It can also be used to write letters and checks, read text, and to perform crafts such as needlepoint.
- **Kurzweil Reading Machine** – A device that allows individuals with visual impairments to access printed materials by scanning text and converting images into text through optical character recognition. A speech synthesizer then reads this information out loud.
- **Scanner** - A device used in conjunction with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software. Printed documents are scanned and converted into electronic text, which are displayed on screen as recognizable text.

Members of the general public who are blind and/or visually impaired are invited and encouraged to use the equipment located in both our Denville and Hackettstown offices. For more information, or to make arrangements to utilize this equipment, please call the office at (973) 625-9140 (Voice), (888) 383-3296 (Toll Free) or (973) 625-1932 (TTY).

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#### SAVE THE DATE

**Franki's Fund—  
Tricky Tray  
Annual Event on  
Sunday, November 6,  
2011 – Zeris Inn, 372  
Route 46 East,  
Mountain Lakes, NJ  
from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
The mission of Franki's Fund is to offer young adults with special needs ages 14 – 25 an opportunity to explore artistic and vocational pursuits. Donations of various ranges can be made.**

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I hope you are all enjoying the summer and staying cool. There has been a lot of activity to report on since our last newsletter, which will impact DAWNcil as well as individuals with disabilities in New Jersey.

- **Working Toward a “New-and-Improved” DAWN.** In the last issue of DAWN Awakenings, we were very excited to announce the opening our new branch office in Hackettstown, which is giving us the ability to more effectively serve residents of Sussex and Warren counties. We are thrilled to share more exciting news in this issue. Recently, DAWNcil began an intensive examination of our organizational efficiency and effectiveness as the framework for a new project called Capacity Enhancement to Advance Independent Living (CEAIL). Our assessments included input from our Board of Directors, staff and consumers, helping DAWNcil to identify a plan to enhance our capacity to provide the tools and information necessary to ensure that people with disabilities have the same civil rights, options and control over their choices in their lives as do people without disabilities.

Following our three-part capacity assessment, DAWNcil applied for a capacity enhancement grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – New Jersey Health Initiatives. Only ten New Jersey non-profits will be selected for this award, so competition is stiff. Whether or not we are selected as a grantee under this award, DAWNcil plans to do whatever we can to advance our CEAIL project to respond to the insights we have gained from our consumers, staff and leadership. Grant awards will be announced in November 2011 – we will keep you posted! Please note that DAWNcil plans to conduct more surveys and focus groups in the future. If you missed the recent consumer focus group, contact Peter Gimbel, Independent Living Specialist, via email at [pgimbel@dawncil.org](mailto:pgimbel@dawncil.org) or phone, 973 625-1940, TTY 973-625-1932, or fax 973-625-1942, to be added to the notification list for the next focus group down the road. All consumers are welcome to request a copy of the highlights of the July 2011 focus group, as well.

- **Major NJ Medicaid Changes.** Effective July 1, upon the adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2012 budget, individuals who were previously exempt from managed care enrollment in the Medicaid/NJ Family Care must be enrolled in managed care in one of New Jersey's four (4) Medicaid Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). The four HMO's available are to individuals residing in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties are:

<b>Amerigroup</b>	1-800-600-4441	TTY 1-800-855-2880
<b>Healthfirst NJ</b>	1-888-464-4365	TTY 1-800-852-7897 (Morris and Sussex only.)
<b>Horizon NJ Health</b>	1-877-765-4325	TTY 1-800-654-5505
<b>United Healthcare Community Plan</b>	1-800-941-4647	TTY 711

You will receive a packet of information from the NJ Family Care/Medicaid Program entitled "Ready to Enroll." If you have not received one, the packet will have information that will help you select a health plan. Assistance will be available to you from the NJ Family Care program at 1-866-472-5338 (TTY 800-701-0720) and/or from the Medical Assistance Customer Center (MACC). NJ Family Care hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday and Thursday; and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. MACC hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Cont'd Pg. 3) - Director's Desk

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## PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM (PASP)

The PASP Program is a program for people with physical disabilities to assist them to live independently. The eligibility requirements for the program are as follows:

- You must be permanently physically disabled.
- Between the ages of 18 and 65
- Living within the community
- Capable of directing and supervising your own attendant or services—YOU are the employer
- Working, attending school or volunteering in the community

Services provided include:

- Non-medical personal care
- Meal preparation and clean-up
- Light housekeeping
- Shopping and errands
- Driving in your own vehicle

PASP is a consumer directed program and not a medical-model entitlement. You must be able to participate in all activities listed. Eligibility is not based on income or assets. To find out more about this program in your county call:

Morris County	973 285-6865
Sussex County	973 704-6350
Warren County	973 625-1940
or call toll free at	800 383-DAWN (3296)

### DIRECTOR'S DESK (Cont'd From Pg. 2)

Information about the nearest MACC can be obtained from the regional Medicaid Hotline at 1-973-977-4077.

Many people with disabilities who are navigating these changes may experience problems in choosing an HMO, securing services, supplies, and equipment. The staff at DAWNcil will do our best to assist you through this transition. Please be sure to document the details of the problems you are encountering and be ready to provide us with the name of the agency and individual spoken to, when the conversation occurred, and the specific nature of the problem. Please contact us at 973-625-1940, or via email at [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org).

## DAWN BOWL-A-THON FUNDRAISER IN WARREN COUNTY

A Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Oakwood Lanes, 234 Route 31, Washington, NJ. There is a minimum donation of \$20.00, which includes unlimited bowling and rental shoes. Organize a Team! Have Fun! Walk-ins are welcome! Proceeds will benefit DAWNcil recreation and socialization programs.

### ACCESSIBLE GOLF, ANYONE?



DAWNcil has the opportunity to apply for an accessible, inclusive, grant-funded golf event. If you might like to “putter” around a golf course with us, contact Carolee at (973) 625-1940 x 224, or at: [cmarano@dawncil.org](mailto:cmarano@dawncil.org).

### MANGIA! CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF SAN GENNARO WHILE SUPPORTING DAWNCIL

A fundraiser for DAWNcil celebrating the Feast of San Gennaro will be held during the month of September at Mama's Restaurant & Café Baci, 260 Mountain Avenue, Hackettstown, NJ. Bring the flyer mentioning this event or mention DAWNcil and you will receive a 10% discount off of your check and a portion of your eat-in or take-out check will be donated to DAWNcil. Menu selections include gourmet pizzas, classic Italian Cuisine, a healthy eating menu and a full gluten free menu.

### REMINDER

Game Night - Every 4th Thursday of the month. Contact Jason Alvarado for more information at (973) 625-6140 or via e-mail at [jalvarado@dawncil.org](mailto:jalvarado@dawncil.org).

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REPORT ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The *World Report on Disability*, produced jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, indicates that about 15% of the current global population — more than a billion people — experience some form of disability. 2-4% of this number experience significant difficulties in functioning.

These numbers are significantly higher than earlier WHO estimates, which date from the 1970s. The report states that numbers of people with disabilities are increasing due to a number of factors, including an aging population, the rapid spread of chronic diseases, and improvements in the methodologies used to measure disability.

The report indicates that people with disabilities

*In 2011, about 15% of the world's population — more than a billion people — lives with some form of disability.*

generally have poorer health, lower educational achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities, largely due to a lack of services available to them and everyday obstacles.

The report provides the best available evidence about what works to overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, and support services, and to create environments which will enable people with disabilities to flourish. The report ends with a concrete set of recommended actions for governments and their partners.

The report is available in six different languages including English, Spanish and Chinese. To read the full report or get a copy visit the WHO website at [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html).

## ADVOCACY ALERT!

### Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) Seeks Feedback on Mishandled Mobility Equipment in Air Travel

Have you ever experienced undue stress while flying due to lost or damaged mobility equipment? The DOT wants to hear your story!

Details are excerpted below from their release:

The DOT is interested in capturing data about the number of mishandled wheelchairs/scooters transported in aircraft cargo. The proposed data collection is crucial to understanding the magnitude of the problem. **We invite interested persons to comment on this proposal.**

The Department plans to publish the data it receives from the carriers, which would increase public awareness of the issue, provide passengers with disabilities a means by which to compare the overall mishandled wheelchair/scooter rates by carrier and create an added incentive for air carriers to treat these mobility devices with greater care. **All comments must be received by September 13, 2011.** You may submit comments to Docket RITA 2011-0001 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

The DOT will post all comments received, without change, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**Docket:** To read background documents or comments received, visit the website located at:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

## ONE STOP FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE APPLICATIONS FOR NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

New Jersey One App, located online at <http://www.njoneapp.org>, allows New Jersey residents to self-screen and apply for a variety of health and social services. The service is available in English and Spanish.

### Screening for Services

The screening portion of the site (accessible directly at <http://mynjhelps.org>) takes about 10-15 minutes. This screening can determine if residents qualify for a variety of programs encompassing the areas of Food and Nutrition, Utility Assistance, Child and Family Resources, Income Support for Adults, Health Insurance, Affordable Housing, Employment and Training Assistance, and Foreclosure Prevention. Of particular interest to DAWNcil's consumers are programs assisting seniors and people with disabilities, which include: Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD), Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (HAAAD), Community Resources for People with Disabilities (CRPD) Waiver, NJ WorkAbility and more.

Consumers enter information about their household members, income and expenses. All the answers are anonymous and the information provided during the screening is confidential. At the end of the screening, the results list possible eligibility for the programs, along with information about which agency manages the program, based on county of residence.

### Applying for Services

After screening for services, consumers may want to apply for services. The application process for social services takes about 20-45 minutes. Unlike the screening portion of the site, the application will be connected to the applicant, and submitted as an official request for aid.

Consumers do not have to complete the application all in one sitting, and can also access unfinished applications at [njoneapp.org](http://njoneapp.org). After completing the application process, consumers can check the status of their applications at the website.

## DAWN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OFFERS HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES LIVING IN MORRIS, SUSSEX AND WARREN COUNTIES

DAWN Center for Independent Living is pleased to announce the availability of funds made possible through a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. The grant will provide home modifications to people with spinal cord injuries (SCI) living in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. Priority will be given to persons at risk of institutionalization if modifications are not made to their home. Medical and financial need must be demonstrated. Types of modifications may include but are not limited to: ramps, widening of doorways, raising countertops, grab bars, floor level showers and stair glides. Applicants must provide two cost estimates of the work to be done as well as before and after photos. The amount available per recipient will average \$2,000 - \$4,000 on a first come, first serve basis.

If someone you know is interested in the Home Modification Program or other DAWN services contact Marc Moldé at (973) 625-1940 or e-mail him at [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org). Funds are limited and may expire soon.

### **DAWNcil Membership Meetings**

All membership meetings are held in the Denville office at 30 Broad Street, Suite 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. Transportation is available. Light snacks will be provided. Please contact Peter Gimbel at 973-625-1940 x219 or via email at [pgimbel@dawncil.org](mailto:pgimbel@dawncil.org) if you plan on attending.

- **September 28**—New York City Travel. Learn how to get into the city, how to get around once you are there, and some suggestions of fun things to see and do.
- **October 26**—A representative from the New Jersey State Police will facilitate a discussion on Internet Safety.

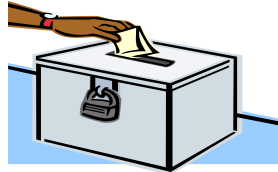
## CAPE MAY AND MONMOUTH COUNTY BEACH GUIDES

The Monmouth and Cape May County Offices for the Disabled have published guides to accessible beaches in their counties. For copies, contact:

**Monmouth County:** Sue Moleon, Director,  
(732) 308-3770 ext. 3599.

**Cape May County:** Paulann T. Pierson, Coordinator,  
(609) 465-4117.

## ELECTION DAY LEGAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) is New Jersey's designated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities pursuant to federal statutes intended to protect the legal, civil, and human rights of people with disabilities.

DRNJ attorneys will be available by telephone to answer questions concerning problems that may arise for individuals with disabilities while voting.

Any person needing assistance can contact DRNJ at (800) 922-7233 or (609) 633-7106 (TTY) from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Ciccone, Managing Attorney, at (609) 299-9742.

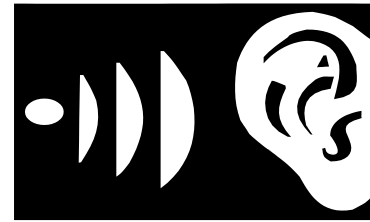
## OOPS!

In our previous newsletter, we reported on a support group for teens with autism. The group has not been formed yet, it is in the initial planning phases. When the group is formed, it will be held in the Union County area. The individual planning the group is still interested in hearing from families who would like to participate once details are finalized.

To express interest in the group, please contact coordinator Bridget Bardge via email at [bridgetbardge@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetbardge@yahoo.com).

We apologize for the misinformation. We do our best to ensure all printed information is accurate and timely.

## ASSISTIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE DEMONSTRATION CENTERS



The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) operates Assistive Communications Device Demonstration Centers throughout the state. These centers display assistive communication devices for people with hearing loss. The devices on display include those in the Equipment Distribution Program as well as other practical devices for home and office use, such as doorbells, alarm clocks, video phones, amplified sound systems and more. The centers offer hands-on demonstrations so that consumers can make informed decisions prior to purchasing such devices.

### CENTER LOCATIONS

- **John Kohn Rehabilitation Center**  
130 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
- **Goodwill Industries of New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.**  
40 Supor Boulevard  
Harrison, NJ 07029
- **Bridges for Employment**  
600 First Avenue  
Raritan, NJ 08869
- **The Brian C. Shomo Assistive Device Center, located at the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf**  
320 Sullivan Way  
West Trenton, NJ 08628
- **Burlington County College**  
Mt. Holly Center  
1 High Street  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08806

To schedule an appointment at a center, contact DDHH at (609) 984-7281 V/TTY or (609) 498-7006 VP or e-mail [jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us) or [traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us).



## FRANKI'S FUND MOSAIC DESIGN

Franki's Fund is hosting its fifth in a series of artistic and vocational activities for youth!

Participants will create designs on ceramic pots to be used as planters and decorative pieces. Each participant will make two pots: one to take home, and one to be used as a centerpiece at the Franki's Fund Gala held on November 6th, 2011.

- **Session 1: September 10, 17 and 24th.**
- **Session 2: October 15, 22 and 29th.**

Sessions are held at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School art room, 95 East Main Street in Rockaway Borough, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Parents are requested to remain for the entire session. A private room is available for parents. There is a \$10 fee for each session. To sign up, please contact us via email at [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org), or call 973-625-1940.

## BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP AT DAWNcil BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 19TH

DAWNcil will host a support group for persons with brain injuries and their families. The group, which is affiliated with the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey, will provide the opportunity to meet others in similar situations, gain valuable support and obtain information.

The group will meet on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m., beginning on September 19th. For more information contact Peter Gimbel at 973-625-1940 x219, or via email at [pgimbel@dawncil.org](mailto:pgimbel@dawncil.org).

## LIVING WELL WITH A DISABILITY

New sessions of the Living Well with a Disability program are beginning in September. The sessions will be located in Hackettstown, in Warren County. For more information on the program, please contact Independent Living Specialist Peter Gimbel at 973-625-1940 x219, or via email at [pgimbel@dawncil.org](mailto:pgimbel@dawncil.org).

## ADVOCACY ALERT! MEDICAID RALLY TO TAKE PLACE IN DC, SEPTEMBER 21 2011

While no immediate cuts were made to Medicare and Medicaid in the debt ceiling deal earlier this month, the second round of budget negotiations are slated to begin in the fall. Additional cuts to an already stressed system are likely.

ADAPT, a national grass-roots group that organizes disability rights activists to engage in nonviolent direct action, is organizing a rally demanding responsible Medicaid reform.

The rally will take place on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011** on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC at noon. Disability rights activists and organizations from all over the country will be present to demonstrate to Congress that arbitrary and broad cuts to Medicaid are unacceptable. Organizations sponsoring the rally include the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) and the United Spinal Association.

More information about the rally can be found on ADAPT's webpage at [http://www.adapt.org/main/medicaid\\_rally](http://www.adapt.org/main/medicaid_rally).

DAWNcil does not have a trip to DC organized, but we want to know if our consumers would like to attend. We are also collecting written testimony about the impact of potential Medicaid cuts in the lives of our members. If you are interested in sharing your story, attending the rally, or participating in any of these advocacy efforts, please contact Marie Martin via email at [mmartin@dawncil.org](mailto:mmartin@dawncil.org) or by phone at 973-625-1940 x230.

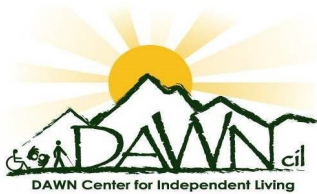
## WEB SITES, ETC.

[www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com) – American Association of People with Disabilities.

[www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov) – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Civil Rights.

<http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/posts/we-connect-now/> — Organization seeking to unite people interested in the rights of and issues affecting people with disabilities.

30 Broad Street  
Suite 5  
Denville NJ 07834

The logo for DAWN Center for Independent Living features a stylized sun with rays rising behind a mountain range. The word "DAWN" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the mountains. Below the mountains, the text "DAWN Center for Independent Living" is written in a smaller font.

Phone: 973-625-1940  
Fax: 973-625-1942  
TTY: 973-625-1932  
Email: [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org)

**We are on the web!**  
[www.dawncil.org](http://www.dawncil.org)

### **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:**

- Information and Referral
- Living Well with a Disability
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Aktion Club (Morris County only)
- Nursing Facility Transition
- Independent Living Skills Training
- School to Adult Life (*STEP-UP* Program)
- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Recreation
- SAIL
- Care Management