

# DAWN AWAKENINGS

## Awaken to Independence

WINTER 2020

## DAWNcil employees welcome you to an exciting new year!



## A new year...a new decade Prepare for the 2020 census!

Starting in March of 2020, the Census Bureau will begin inviting people to participate in the census. Households will receive invitations by mail, asking them to respond online. There also will be the option to respond by phone or via mail. **The Census Bureau indicated all ways of responding will be fully accessible.** People with disabilities have historically been vastly under-counted. DAWNcil encourages everyone to participate in this year's census!

### Q: Why is the U.S. Census so important?

A: The U.S. Census not only counts the amount of people living in an area, but determines the amount of federal dollars that community receives. Counting every person ensures the needs of your community are recognized and receive appropriate funding for local services, including public transportation, schools, Medicaid/Medicare, Disability Services, hospitals, libraries and local police and fire departments.

### Q: How long is the survey?

A: The survey is made up of 9 simple questions. This will be the first time in Census history people will be able to answer online or by phone!

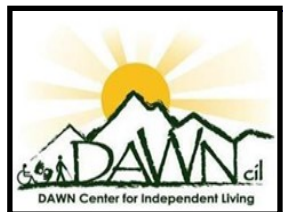
### Q: Will any of my information be shown or given to anyone else?

A: No, your information is strictly confidential. **Your information can't even be shared with your local law enforcement.** In fact, if any census worker discloses any personal information, they could face up to 5 years in prison.



### Inside this issue:

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Presents

A Taste of Good  
Monday,  
March 23, 2020

6-9pm

Hyatt Regency  
Morristown

Sponsored by:  
Four Seasons Wine  
& Liquor  
\$75pp

www.dawncil.org  
Tickets available  
on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-taste-for-good-tickets-93513644829>

**Census Continued...****Q. Should I be counted if I live in a community residential program?**

A: Those living in most group facilities, including college dorms, nursing homes, psychiatric, and other medical facilities, correctional facilities, group homes, and some shelters will be counted!

**Q: How could my participation in the Census impact the disability community?**

A: Census data helps direct more than \$800 billion a year in federal funding, including supporting key programs that **support** and **protect** the rights of people with disabilities! This is a great opportunity for us to ensure the needs of the disability community are adequately supported by federal funding.

**Q: Where can I learn more about the Census?**

A: **2020CENSUS.GOV** For those with Blindness or Low Vision you can print a guide to the questionnaire in braille or large print from the census website. And for those with hearing loss you can access video guides to the questionnaire in American Sign Language via their website. If you require further assistance in completing the census, please contact our Independent Living department at 973-625-1940.

**Are you a driver with a disability, and having difficulty finding a modified rental car?**



**Enterprise Rent-A-Car** has cars that are already modified to meet your needs! Whether you need a vehicle with hand controls, a swivel knob, a left side gas pedal or a seat belt extension, Enterprise Rent-A-Car has the vehicle to meet your needs!

For more information on this program, you can call their customer service line at 1-855-266-9565, ask to speak with someone in "Mobility Equipment."

**Need transportation, and not sure where to look?**

Below are some contacts/apps that may be of help!

Local County Paratransit System:

- Morris County (MAPS) 973-829-8103
- Sussex County (Skylands Ride) 973-579-0480
- Warren County (Easton Coach) 908-454-4044
- NJ Transit Paratransit (Access Link) 1-800-955-2321

**Other Transportation Alternatives**

- EZride's Ryde4Life Program offers transportation to those 18+ throughout NJ in partnership with agencies like Lyft and Uber. For more information, call 866-208-1307, option 4.
- Go Go Grandparent is an on-demand service. No smartphone is needed, just call 855-464-6872 from any phone for information.
- Lyft and Uber is comparable to hailing a cab, only through using an app on your smartphone. To get more information on using Lyft, find them at [lyft.com](http://lyft.com), and for Uber, find them at [uber.com](http://uber.com).



## Introducing our newest program!!!

### Franki's Place: Bringing the Joy of Art & Employment to Warren & Hunterdon Counties

For many, art is a lifelong passion. It is not only defined as a talent, but as a lifestyle — a creative lens through which we see the world. I, like so many others, struggled to see how a passion such as this could ever become a career. How do I embrace my creativity? How do I choose the right path? It is so much more than just identifying a strength. That is why we are so pleased to announce our newest program, “Franki’s Place.”

“Franki’s Place,” located in our new Washington office at 150 Boulevard, is a program where residents of Warren and Hunterdon counties receiving a budget through DDD, can come and explore the many aspects of the arts as well as prepare for the workforce. The program is designed to offer you services “a la carte” so that those who do not wish to participate in our arts-based services can simply come to prepare for the world of employment! These direct services include Career Planning, Pre-Vocational Training, Arts-based Community Inclusion, and (coming soon!) Supported Employment.

“Franki’s Place” is a program that is named to honor the memory of Francesca Slivinski. “Franki” greatly enjoyed the arts and found joy in the many forms of self-expression that it provided. Our dream is to carry on this beautiful lifestyle of talent and passion and support it through every step of its fruition. Questions regarding this new program may be directed to our new Vocational Instructor, Jessica Mass at 973-625-1940 ext. 219 . We will truly leave no stone unturned in helping our consumers reach their highest level of independence. Join us at “Franki’s Place,” where we will foster your growth as an individual so the world can see you shine!

#### Executive Director's corner:

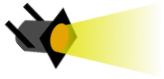
Welcome everyone to our first newsletter of the Year and the Century. 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This piece of landmark legislation has been critical to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in mainstream America. As much progress as been made, there is so much more we need to do as a country and as a society. People with Disabilities are still excluded from many aspects of daily living that so many take for granted. The NJ Network of Centers for Independent Living along with many others will be hosting statewide events to acknowledge the passing and also to take the opportunity to remind all that we cannot remain complacent, we must continue to advocate for equal rights and equal opportunities. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information on this important and relevant topic.

Also, within this newsletter you will find information about what is happening at DAWN, a spotlight on one of our newest and critical programs, information about transportation access, access to free tax preparation, and most importantly information about public forums being held throughout the state to gather input for the State Plan for Independent Living. It is imperative that you take the opportunity to voice your thoughts on the gaps in services that exist prohibiting full inclusion and equal opportunity. See details inside for how to submit your comments.

Finally, please consider joining us for our first fundraiser of 2020. The event “A Taste of Good” is a food and beverage tasting along with a tricky tray. It promises to be a fun-filled evening. I hope to see you there.

Regards

*Carmela Slivinski*



## Program Spotlight: (Pre-ETS) Pre-Educational Transitional Services

### What is the program?

DAWN Center for Independent Living is offering several Pre-Employment Transition Service (Pre-ETS) programs through its partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). Eligible students are those in the 14-21 age group having either an IEP or a 504 plan providing non-curriculum based accommodations. In all cases students will be eligible for DVRS Services. We currently have three ways to engage:

1: **Course Vouchers** are offered through DAWNcil for individual participation in Pre-ETS services. This provides students the opportunity to work at their own pace in a learning environment they are comfortable in and utilize tools that best showcase their abilities. These vouchers focus on the soft skills of employment and pre-employment readiness skills. Since the beginning of our Pre-ETS services in 2017, DAWNcil has served over 100 students.

2: **Student Transition Empowerment Project – Unlimited Possibilities (STEP-UP)** is a program created by DAWNcil. Our agency partners with school districts in Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties to provide an in-classroom intensive year-long curriculum on employment and career development. Included in this are community trips, guest speakers discussing post-secondary options, community resources, and employers. At the end of the school year, students may be eligible for a summer internship in their identified field of interest. In our first year running the program, DAWNcil served 53 students and as we move through the second year DAWNcil is serving 80 students in local schools.

3: **Learn Earn Apply Progress (LEAP)** is the newest addition to the Pre-ETS programs offered. This program was built to serve individuals as well as small groups. LEAP will offer students an opportunity to explore career interests by looking at their own disability, how it impacts them on a day-to-day basis, and how to identify work settings that are best suited to their unique abilities. Internships will be provided for all individuals who complete the curriculum based on their career interest and goals. Students will attend a job club which will be an effective way to meet others, network to discuss their internship experiences and gather input from their peers.

### A Proven Success!!

Our Pre-ETS programs have seen great success in a short time. This is in part because of our staff who adapt to meet the unique needs of each student enabling them to move beyond barriers, learn how to identify their interests, and successfully engage in career development activities. For example, in STEP-UP we worked with a 19-year-old. Based on the skills this student built through the Pre-ETS program, they secured a job which matched their interests. In addition, the job site was so pleased with the student's work, they were willing to financially support the student's pursuit of higher educational opportunities. We also were fortunate to have a group of students participate in the 2019 Dare to Dream Student Leadership Conference held at William Paterson University. There they facilitated a presentation on "Success and Failure" which was accompanied by a team-building activity they developed during their in-school sessions. Through their hard work they showed excellent communication and mentoring skills to the 50 teachers and students who participated in their activity! For others, it has been successes like learning a skill that developed confidence, meeting new friends that increased their social circles, or putting experience with a hobby to practice as an intern! We are looking forward to the amazing things this year's students will accomplish!



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUMS

### NJ STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (NJSILC)

Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs) fulfill an important and unique role in each state. SILCs are responsible for determining the direction for the Independent Living (IL) Program in the state. SILCs not only identify the needs of the Independent Living (IL) community, but also, jointly with the centers for independent living (CILs), develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) to respond to those needs. The NJSILC is in the process of preparing for the next 3-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). As part of that process, the **Council is seeking input from people with disabilities regarding issues that are critical to their living as independently and inclusively as possible in their communities.**

Examples of such issues include:

- ♦ *public transit*
- ♦ *housing accessibility and availability*
- ♦ *work readiness and employment assistance*
- ♦ *training and education programs, including special education*
- ♦ *student transitioning from school to work*
- ♦ *access to community services*
- ♦ *emergency preparedness*

Consumers, families, service providers, and other disability/Independent Living stakeholders are invited to give input.

- ♦ Participation can be in person at one or more of the Forums listed below OR can be via written testimony (email or letter) that will be read into the record at one of these sessions.
- ♦ Please send emails to the SILC Coordinator at [meneary@njsilc.org](mailto:meneary@njsilc.org)
- ♦ Please send written comments to M.E. Neary c/o PCIL 3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 40, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Sign Language Interpreters will be present at each Forum. *If other accommodations are needed for you to attend or participate, please discuss these with the Coordinator (noted above) at least 10 days prior to the Forum you wish to attend.*

- ♦ **Forum 1/South Jersey** - Tuesday March 31, 2020 Noon to 2 pm  
Center for Independent Living - South Jersey 1150 Delsea Drive, Suites 1 & 2, Westville, NJ 08093
- ♦ **Forum 2/Central Jersey** - Tuesday April 7, 2020 Noon to 2 pm  
Progressive Center for Independent Living 3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 40, Hamilton, NJ 08619
- ♦ **Forum 3/North Jersey** - Tuesday April 28, 2020 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
DIAL CIL/Clifton Senior Citizens Center @ Municipal Complex 900 Clifton Ave # C5, Clifton, NJ 07013

For space and seating arrangements, we would appreciate your letting the Coordinator know if you plan to attend a specific Forum; however, this is not required. (Coordinator's email is [menary@njsilc.org](mailto:menary@njsilc.org))

**NJSILC representatives look forward to hearing from you!**

## DAWNcil Annual Meeting 2019

On November 20th, Executive Director Carmela Slivinski reflected on the past, present, and future happenings at DAWNcil. The evening was filled with reflection about dedication and service to our mission. This started with the recognition of outgoing board member Lou Bodian who served the agency faithfully for many years. Sadly, longtime board member Mike White passed away earlier that month. There was a dedication to his service and commentary on how his enthusiasm and passion for supporting others was present in his everyday actions.

We welcomed two newly elected board members who are starting their journey with DAWNcil, Hank Peterson and Jim Koons. DAWNcil was proud to present Jodi Cullen “The Christine Crown Schnorr Advocacy Award” for her continuing advocacy efforts on the behalf of people with disabilities. Kristen Carew, Assistant Executive Director, recognized various employees for their long service to our agency including several who have been at DAWN over 10 years! We closed the evening by honoring our Executive Director Carmela Slivinski who has dedicated 20 years of service to DAWNcil, and has been the Executive Director for 18 of those years.

Thank you to all those who attended and continue to support DAWNcil!



## Holiday Gala 2019

On December 7th consumers and their families enjoyed a great time at our Holiday Gala. Once again, DAWNcil partnered with Holiday Express who supplied the food, live entertainment, and wonderful prizes. A big “thank you” to Holiday Express for yet another memorable event!



## TAX SEASON IS UPON US!

Ever wonder if you're required to file a tax return? To find out, go to [www.irs.gov/uac/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return](http://www.irs.gov/uac/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return). If you need to file, one of the many VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites are available to assist. This is a free service for low-income individuals. Below is a list of some of the sites available. Be sure to call ahead for an appointment. For other locations, see a full listing of all VITA sites at [www.nj211.org/nj-vita-centers](http://www.nj211.org/nj-vita-centers).

### MORRIS COUNTY

#### **First Memorial Presbyterian Church**

51 W. Blackwell Street  
Dover, NJ 07801

Special instructions: *Walk-in site*  
Open Tue, Thur 11:30-3pm  
Thur 6:30-9 pm

#### **Mount Olive Library**

202 Flanders Drakestown Rd  
Flanders, NJ 07836

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

#### **Parsippany Community Center**

1130 Knoll Road  
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

Tel: 973-263-7351

#### **Morristown Senior Center**

200 South St.  
Morristown, NJ 07960

Tel: 973-292-6690

#### **Morris County Library**

30 East Hanover Avenue  
Whippany, NJ 07981

Tel: 973-538-3451

### SUSSEX COUNTY

#### **Sparta Library**

20 Woodport Rd.  
Sparta, NJ 07871

Tel: 973-862-6680

#### **Family Partners of Sussex and Morris**

67 Spring Street  
Newton, NJ 07860

Tel: 973-862-6680

### WARREN COUNTY

#### **Warren County Library—Main Branch**

2 Shotwell Dr.  
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

#### **Centenary University**

#### **Edward W Seay Administration Building**

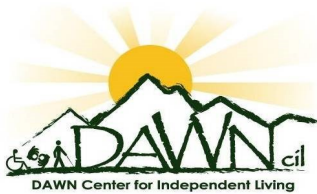
400 Jefferson St.  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

#### **Warren County Library—Phillipsburg Branch**

200 Frost Ave.  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502



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)

**DAWNcil Mission Statement:**

“Providing support to persons with disabilities throughout their lifespan so they can achieve their highest level of independence in their community.”

**DAWNcil Vision Statement:**

“People with disabilities will have equal opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of community life, to live independently and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.”

**DAWNcil provides the following services:**

- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Nursing Home Transition
- Early Intervention Services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- DAWN Employment Network Services
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection
- Student Transition Empowerment Program – Unlimited Possibilities
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Franki’s Place
- Aktion Club (Young Adults)
- Advocacy
- DDD Support Coordination
- Care Management
- It’s All About Work
- Living Well with a Disability
- Working Well with a Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury Program
- Peer Support
- Recreation
- Learn Earn Apply Progress (LEAP)