



October 18, 2021

Dear DAWN Members, Consumers, and Friends,

I remember all the funny quotes about how bad 2020 was and the hope we had starting this new year. Hope is a strange thing. It can come from a new bloom, the start of a new day or year, new surroundings, but usually something new, either new and present, or something new we are looking forward to. The past many months our lives, our communities and our world have continued to be challenged. At DAWN we have accepted these challenging times and met them head on. We have seen new opportunities to live and share our mission with a community that has been especially hit hard by the pandemic and its reciprocal social, financial, and medical effects. The pandemic caused many in our community to lose jobs they fought hard to obtain and maintain, and although some have resumed these positions, many have not been so fortunate.

Like most of us, our clients often found themselves fearful and in need of hope as services they depended on were stopped, suspended or drastically changed. At DAWN we have had new doors open as we were privileged with the opportunity to reach those in need. We have met each challenge as encountered from providing services while minimizing risks for both our clients and our staff to keeping up with rapidly changing governmental guidelines. Despite these challenges, DAWN has continued to provide social activities, educational activities, support services and activities which influence policy issues at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Your membership with DAWN Center for Independent Living allows you, and me, the opportunity to partner with an organization that provides hope. We share the hope of a community seeking personal choices. We share the hope of a community seeking opportunities to dream, set goals, and achieve them. We share the hope of a community striving to live in a world which empowers those with disabilities to strive for equality, to exercise their independence by making choices and taking control of their lives. All of us have been challenged with limited personal control over our lives in the past year, but the disability community has been hit especially hard. Throughout this challenging time, DAWN Center for Independent Living has continued to serve our consumers with disabilities and their families with an array of professional and support services which has both empowered and renewed a sense of hope to a hurting community.

Your membership in DAWN Center for Independent Living allows you to share not only in our mission but invites you to have a voice in selecting and participating in DAWN events, programs and activities throughout the year. The renewal of your membership will bring valuable and needed resources to continue that mission. Members show the value they hold for DAWN's programs and services by participating in meetings, advocacy and recreational events, and by voting in the organizational elections. Active members take part in the governance of DAWN Center for Independent Living. They vote. They make their voices heard. Aligning with our corporate charter, only dues-paying members in good standing may vote in organizational elections. We value your opinions and hope you will become an active member by paying dues and exercising your membership rights with DAWN. Participate and be heard! We value your input and opinion!

Members, please send in your renewal today! If you are not currently a member, I urge you to consider DAWN Center for Independent Living as a worthy cause, and join us on our task. For your convenience, we have enclosed a 2021 DAWN Center for Independent Living membership form. Additional forms are available online at www.dawncil.org or by calling 973-625-1940.

Should you have any questions, please contact me, call the office, or e-mail info@dawncil.org. Thank you and I look forward to you joining us for another successful year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabrielle Waldman".

Gabrielle Waldman,
Chairperson Board of Directors

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