

# Caregiver Connection and Support Program



As a caregiver, we rely on the support of other caregivers to:

- ◇ help us learn how to navigate a complex system,
- ◇ share our stories, and
- ◇ discuss our challenges

Caregiving is a lifelong journey that no one understands unless they have experienced it. This program offers education, support and socialization for caregivers who are caring for a loved one with a disability.

There is a focus on those caring for a loved one with a developmental disability, but all are welcome. We hope you will consider joining us.

## November Caregiver Support Group Sessions

### **Informal Support Group - Wellness Activity**

Join us for our informal support group for caregivers. Talk with other caregivers, discuss your journey, the challenges encountered, and learn from each other all while engaged in a fun, seasonal craft activity. This is a time for you, the caregiver, to discuss anything you like. The project we will be creating this month is a wine bottle scarecrow.



Facilitated by: Julie Ferguson, DAWN Center for Independent Living

***Supplies will be provided by DAWN.***

***Participants will need to pick up their supply bag from DAWN.***

Thursday, November 9, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this event:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscuCprD8pEtTocGefbXPMLLgCSCwOztW6>



### **Facilitated Support Group**

Join us for our facilitated support group for caregivers. This month's session will be "open topic". Come share your ideas and bring any questions or concerns you have to the group. This is a time for you, the caregiver, to talk with other caregivers to receive support and learn from one another.

**\*\* The Caregiver Support Group sessions are intended only for caregivers. \*\***

Facilitated by: Carmela Slivinski, Executive Director of DAWN Center for Independent Living and Julie Ferguson, Caregiver Support Coordinator

\* Please note: this session is for providing connection and support, not legal or professional recommendations.



Tuesday, November 28, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkfuCprD8jH9dyQ0ux\\_xHYtteMp7ed058t](https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkfuCprD8jH9dyQ0ux_xHYtteMp7ed058t)



# November Caregiver Education Sessions

## **How the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) & the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Support Employment Goals**

### **Presenters:**

**Toni Scott, Program Planning and Development Specialist, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development**  
**Christina Gonzalez, Supervisor, Office of Transition to Adult Life & Employment, Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities**

“The New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) provides support to eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities, and capabilities.”

“The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) promotes a person-centered planning process for individuals with IDD to explore their interests, skills, dreams and goals, including those related to employment.”

This presentation will cover who is eligible for DVRS services, the role of the DVRS vocational rehabilitation counselor, and the kinds of pre-employment transition and traditional vocational rehabilitation services DVRS provides. If DVRS services are not available or an individual is not eligible, DDD provides supported employment, career planning, and prevocational training services.

The presentation will include when it is appropriate to seek employment services through either DVRS or DDD. At the end of the presentation, caregivers will have the chance to ask questions.

Monday, November 13, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqd-GsrzwiGteGWMOUHL3svxKh7aV-8Xld>

### **“Meet the Ombudsman”**

**Presenter: Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families, State of New Jersey**

Paul Aronsohn will be joining us to introduce himself and share how his office supports and serves individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. He will also be sharing highlights from his most recent report, inviting feedback from caregivers, and answering questions.

Thursday, November 16, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://dawncil-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgdu2orjkoEtD5Lv37TnRw6qaTSBuStsxw>

*If you are new to our caregiver programming, after registering you will be contacted by Julie Ferguson, DAWN's Caregiver Support Coordinator, to gather demographic information prior to receiving a confirmation email containing the meeting link.*

**Please contact Julie Ferguson at (973)-668-7675 for further information.**

*This program is supported by Morris County Office on Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming. Contributions are gladly accepted. Contributions are voluntary and are not required to participate in this programming.*