

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

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dddnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Apgar, Deputy Commissioner

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$5.1 MILLION MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING INITIATIVE

Twelve Municipalities Join Partnership to Provide Affordable, Supportive Housing to People with Developmental Disabilities



TRENTON, NJ – As part of its on-going commitment to create more community-living options for people with developmental disabilities, the Christie Administration recently announced 12 municipal partners of the Special Needs Housing Partnership. These municipalities are the first commitments secured for the initiative launched earlier this year by the New Jersey Departments of Community Affairs (DCA) and Human Services (DHS), and the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA). The goal of the Partnership is to create 600 additional units of special needs housing by 2013.

The first municipalities to join the initiative are: Brick Township, Denville Township, Edison Township, Florham Park Borough, Hanover Township, Jackson Township, North Brunswick Township, Parsippany Township, Randolph Township, Roxbury Township, Washington Township (Morris County), and Wayne Township. Several other towns are in active discussions with the DCA and could begin participating as early as next month.

The participating municipalities are committing a total of \$5,100,000 to the effort, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the HMFA, generating a new \$10.2 million funding pool for creating housing opportunities. As part of the Special Needs Housing Partnership agreement, the municipalities have agreed to use money in their municipal affordable housing trust fund accounts to create affordable, supportive housing in their communities for people with developmental disabilities with assistance from the State. At a maximum cost of \$500,000 per residential property, a minimum of 20 homes can be purchased with the funds committed by the municipalities and HMFA to date.

“The Special Needs Housing Partnership was created in recognition of both the significant housing needs of people with development disabilities and Governor Christie’s challenge to develop effective partnerships that address complex quality of life issues,” said DCA Commissioner Lori Grifa. “The Partnership encourages towns to use money they already have at their disposal to create affordable housing for people who are among the most vulnerable citizens in our community. I commend these municipalities for being pioneers in this important endeavor and encourage more to do the same.”



Message to Department of Human Services (DHS) Stakeholders from Commissioner Jennifer Velez

Dear DHS Stakeholders:

Happy New Year!

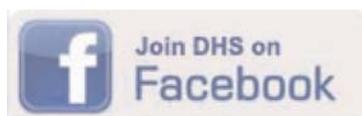
As state and local government agencies, business leaders, faith-based groups and community organizations, you all are essential partners in raising program awareness and providing services to about one in seven New Jersey residents.

Our collaborations, whether formal or informal, make up this state's safety net. It's a significant role, especially during these tough economic times. The potential for 2012 lies in our ability to continue the creative outreach we achieved in 2011.

DHS has pursued innovative approaches to connecting eligible populations to our services. Recently, we've updated our website's publications page with fact sheets and flyers about a host of services: for parents, for working families, for seniors, for individuals with disabilities. We will continue to update this page with new information. Feel free to download the documents and share, as appropriate, with your constituencies.

In addition, DHS has a Facebook page, which is kept current with relevant news articles and posts that track local and national reports on a variety of social service issues. This site is enhanced by our YouTube channel, on which we're posting videos of our priority issues: children's health insurance, community placement for people with developmental disabilities, or mental health disorders. Information about addiction issues, services for the blind and visually impaired, programs for the deaf and hard of hearing, and assistance for low and moderate income families also will be available.

I hope you will follow us as we advance our work in 2012. Wishing each of you a happy, productive New Year.



Find us on Facebook @ www.Facebook.com/NJDHS

New Lisbon Developmental Center Welcomes New CEO

Patricia Merk recently resigned her position as Chief of Staff at DDD's Central Office to begin as CEO of the New Lisbon Developmental Center (NLDC). The position was previously held by Linda Glod, who retired after 32 years of service (many of which were spent at NLDC). DDD wishes Linda the best in her retirement and thanks her for her many years of service.

Merk is grateful for the opportunity to be at NLDC and said several Division initiatives will guide her focus for the coming year. One goal is to give the men and women who live in a developmental center and wish to live in a community home the opportunity to do so. "Many of you have worked tirelessly to help make that a reality for the individuals living at NLDC," she stated. "This must continue with a more focused effort since the closure of a DC is likely. We will need all hands on deck to move the people who want to live in the community out because other people may need to move in."



Continued from Page 1

Christie Administration Announces \$5.1 Million Municipal Investment in Special Needs Housing Initiative

The DCA began the Special Needs Housing Partnership program in May with the Department of Human Services and the HMFA in order to expand housing opportunities and expedite the process of placing individuals with developmental disabilities into community-based supportive housing. The program's short-term goal is to create housing for 600 people with developmental disabilities by June 2013 through the purchase and conversion of existing residential structures within participating municipalities. The longer-term goal is to help integrate people with special needs into the community whenever possible. "This Partnership initiative is advancing New Jersey's efforts to move individuals with developmental disabilities into the community," said DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez. "These housing opportunities represent the commitment of this Administration to support the rights of individuals with special needs to live as independently as possible."

At present, there is a collective pool of about \$280 million in municipal affordable housing trust funds that has been set aside by municipalities for the purpose of providing safe and decent affordable housing for the people who live in those towns. As part of the initiative, the Partnership is helping municipalities utilize the money in these trust fund accounts to provide housing for people with developmental disabilities.

The Partnership is also helping municipalities leverage the money by matching a municipal commitment of funds dollar for dollar with financing available through the HMFA. To assist in the process, the DCA has approved, through a Request for Qualifications process, approximately 90 qualified affordable housing developers/supportive services providers that municipalities can contract with to create the housing.

The partnering municipalities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to the basic requirements of the program. Their governing bodies also approved a resolution authorizing the execution of the MOU.

NEW JERSEY REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS NJWINS FOR REMOVING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

The New Jersey Rehabilitation Association (NJRA) honored The Family Resource Network for its program NJWINS, a Social Security Administration's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program run with The Community Focused Excellence in Service Award at the 2011 NJRA Annual Meeting on Friday, December 2.

The NJRA judges each nominated organizations based on the following criteria: they exemplify a commitment to the Vocational Rehabilitation field, they demonstrate excellence in support and advocacy in the Rehabilitation field, and they produce positive results in the community that improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The NJWINS program provides Social Security Work Incentives planning services to New Jersey's SSI and SSDI beneficiaries, who are considering working, returning to work, continuing work, or augmenting work. Such advisement often removes fear of losing benefits, a fear which acts as a barrier to work and work retention efforts.

President of the NJRA, Joni Dolce recognizes, "NJWINS is an important component to our state's commitment and mission to create a recovery-oriented system."

NJWINS Community Work Incentive Coordinators are available to meet with individuals, families, and providers to provide clear advisement on the application of available Social Security Work Incentives, which allow beneficiaries to control the loss of SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits for as long as they are needed while transitioning to work and self-sufficiency. NJWINS also helps establish a strong relationship between beneficiaries and their SSA local offices, further ensuring that all work incentives are applied accurately and benefits are retained for as long as they are needed.

The Family Resource Network (FRN) is a comprehensive, family-focused, organization designed to meet the growing need for community-based programs and services to this rising population. FRN's affiliated organizations are Autism Family Services of NJ, Caregivers of NJ, Epilepsy Foundation of NJ, and the Family Support Center of NJ. Please visit www.familyresourcenetwork.org for more information.

Story Ideas?

E-mail us at: DDDnewsletter@dhs.state.nj.us

We will happily consider your request!



ADVOCATES HOST SUMMIT ON EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The NJ AFP Summit 2011, Employment: First Choice for Everyone was held on Friday, October 28, 2011, at the Heldrich Center in New Brunswick in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It was sponsored by NJ Alliance for Full Participation (NJ AFP), of which DDD is a member. A total of 110 people, including family members, advocates, employment specialists, state employees, and supported employment vendors and providers, met to discuss New Jersey becoming an Employment First State. "Employment First" is a declaration of philosophy and policy that supports employment as the first priority and preferred outcome of people with disabilities, including those individuals with significant disabilities.

Attendees also met to address and respond to the vision of the National AFP Announcement of its new campaign, "Real Jobs – It's Everybody's Business," and its goal of doubling the employment rate for people with developmental disabilities by 2015. All who attended the summit received a new Employment/Job Development Resource for students in the transition process and their families.

Several members of NJ AFP went on to attend the National AFP Summit 2.0 Real Jobs--It's Everyone's Business in Washington, DC held November 17-19, 2011, at the Gaylord National Harbor. Over 1,250 people participated in the Summit, which marked the mid-point in the campaign to double integrated employment for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities by the year 2015. The Summit featured several plenary speakers, including U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Tim Shriver from Special Olympics. A Town Hall moderated by former CNN Reporter Frank Sesno was convened to discuss the current state of supported employment. The summit featured national advocates Ricardo Thornton, David Egan, and Julie Petty. Several fortune 500 employers, direct support professionals and employment specialists, providers and vendors, and state and federal leaders attended the summit to ultimately discuss and develop both policy and strategies in meeting AFP's employment goal.

Submitted by:

Bret Li-Vaks, MBA, Training and Consultation Specialist, The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHEERLEADING TEAM LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Hamilton Starz All Star Cheerleading, now in its 10th year as a competitive All Star Organization and the first ever All Star Cheerleading team in Hamilton, NJ, recently established a special needs team and staff are looking for new members to join.

Hamilton Starz prides themselves on one major factor - that they are all one family and do what they love to do best, CHEER! All ages and genders are welcome to join the team. Practice is one day a week and team members do attend competitions. It is a great way to learn a sport, work together as a team, exercise, and have fun!



For more information, please e-mail Christie Lawson at: Clawson@hamiltonstarz.com

NEW TOOLKITS HELP PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM HANDLE ROUTINE MEDICAL PROCEDURES

Taking the Work Out of Blood Work: Helping Your Child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a new toolkit offered by Autism Speaks that provides a variety of tools to help parents and children prepare for future medical visits and reduce the stress and worry that may come with blood draws. It contains strategies for easing the child's medical appointments, particularly those involving blood work. The kit's resources include ready-made visual supports, social stories, relaxation and distraction techniques, and tips designed specifically for children with ASD.



Although the toolkit focuses on phlebotomy, the information and techniques presented also apply to other aspects of a clinic visit, such as measuring vital signs, undergoing physical exams, and tolerating those inevitable wait times. A medical provider version of this toolkit is also available.

To get the toolkit for parents or providers, visit:

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/resources-programs/autism-treatment-network/tools-you-can-se/blood-draw-toolkits>

Able Newspaper is an established, widely known publication in the disability community and a monthly newspaper that is published for, by, and about those with disabilities. The newspaper features:

- News that pertains to people with disabilities
- A calendar of events
- Columns written by various experts
- A variety of informative articles, in a large type format
- Personal ads

The New Jersey edition of Able can be read online for free. Just visit www.ablenews.com and click on the [“Click Here for Free Edition”](#) at the top of the page.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLANETARIUM TO OFFER SPECIAL STAR SHOW FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH AUTISM OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



The Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Planetarium in Branchburg will offer a special star show designed for families with children on the Autism spectrum or those with developmental disabilities.

|Shows are scheduled on Feb 19, March 25, April 22, and May 20.

“We have many groups that visit us throughout the year from special needs schools and classrooms, but this is our first time offering a public program for families,” said Jerry Vinski, Director of the RVCC Planetarium. “The idea is

to accommodate parents with children on the Autism Spectrum that rarely attend public programs, such as movies and plays, with their children.”

The sensory-friendly show, which is appropriate for audiences of all ages, will provide a comfortable and judgment-free space that is welcoming to all families. During the show, the doors will remain open so children may freely leave and return if they choose. Lights will be left dim (instead of dark) and the audio will be lowered and kept at a consistent level. The sky show will include music, laser lights, stories, and information about the planets, the Moon, and constellations.

Cost is \$5 per person. Reservations are strongly suggested. For additional information, call 908-231-8805 or visit www.raritanval.edu/planetarium.

As a side note, the Arc Mercer, which has a partnership with the New Jersey State Museum & Planetarium in Trenton, is considering the possibility of hosting similar programs. “We were inspired by RVCC’s efforts and hope to initiate steps to follow suit,” said Steven Cook, Arc Mercer’s Executive Director.

20TH ANNUAL

FACING THE FUTURE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MARCH

The 20th annual Facing the Future Conference sponsored by The Boggs Center and NJ APSE will be held on Friday, March 23, 2012, at the Doubletree Somerset Hotel. This year’s theme is “Employment 1st: Expect. Explore. Earn.” Keynote presenters are MaryAlice Mowry and Scott Chesney. Workshops will focus on job development/coaching, education/transition, employer perspectives, career exploration, program management, self-direction, and technology. Continuing education credit will be available from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and the NJ Department of Education.

Register by February 24, 2012, and save \$25 on the registration fee. For additional information and to register, please go to: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/conferences/Facing_the_Future.html
Award nomination forms and exhibitor information are also available on the conference page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ELIZABETH M. BOGGS CENTER
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



ROBERT 'R'
MEDICAL CENTER

THE BOGGS CENTER HONORED WITH THE ARC ANGEL AWARD BY THE ARC OF SOMERSET

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities was honored with the 2011 Arc Angel Award by The Arc of Somerset. The special award was presented to The Boggs Center for its partnership and inspiration in enhancing the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The award was accepted by Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of The Boggs Center (pictured at center in photo), at the Arc Angel Gala on November 18, 2011, in Bedminster, NJ.



ALLIES NEW SERVICE PROJECT IN WEST NEW YORK OPENS

Submitted by: Allies, Inc.

As I meet Tawanda and Linda in their new apartment in Horizon Heights, West New York, I am struck by their excitement and pride in their apartment. They can't wait to give me a tour - from their beautiful contemporary living room with beautiful red couches, their bedrooms, and even the laundry room in the building. Their apartment has been a dream for the two young women with disabilities - Tawanda having moved from a group home to be more independent and Linda as she returned from Texas to be closer to her family.

Horizon Heights is an affordable supportive housing complex built by Regan Development, which offers quality living at affordable rent. We are proud that Regan Development Corporation chose Allies as their disability service provider based on our resume in the sphere of supportive housing.

Tawanda and Linda's apartment is just one out of five Allies' apartments projected to open in the complex. Our partnership with the Division of Developmental Disabilities as the funding source has made this dream possible for the people with special needs we support. This is just one example of the how Allies Inc. is expanding to create new opportunities for people within the state developmental centers, consumers placed out of state, and developing further independence for our existing consumers. With our third apartment residents moving in it is only a matter of time until another new story is told and someone else's dream is realized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Training Opportunities January – March 2012

Aging and End of Life

- * Grief and Loss: Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities at End of Life

Community Building and Connection

- * In Community: Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities in Establishing Meaningful Community Connections

Employment Specialist

- * Employment Specialist: Introductory Level
- * Employment Specialist: Advanced Level



Faith Based Supports

- * Building Connections and Community Supports with Your Congregation or Faith Community: A Workshop for Individuals, Families, and Community Members

Individual Habilitation Plan

- * IHP Plan Coordinator Training
- * IHP Train the Trainer

Management

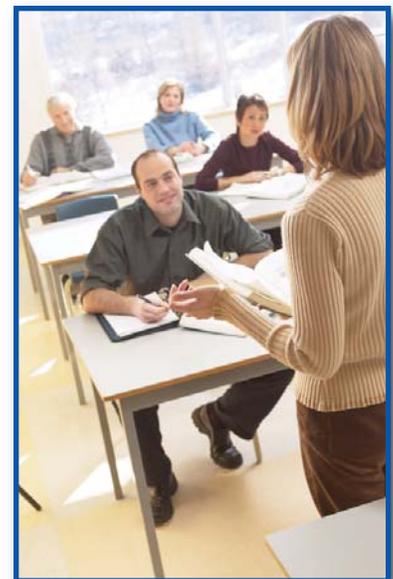
- * Survival Skills for Managers in Community Supports
- * Leadership Skills for Managers in Community Supports
- * Personal Skills for Managers in Community Supports

Person Centered Thinking

- * Person Centered Thinking

Positive Behavior Support

- * Basic Positive Behavior Support
- * Applied Strategies for Implementing Positive Behavior Support
- * Mental Health Supports



View training courses, dates, locations, and register online at:
<http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/training/overview.html>

View continuing education information for training courses at:
http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/contin_ed/index.html

DDD ACCEPTING REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CAMP FEES



Even though winter is still upon us, it's time to start planning for summer camp enrollment. For those who are interested, the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) Family Support program can assist families with some of the costs of day or overnight summer camps, as long as the camp has a contract with DDD or is on DDD's list of "Qualified Providers."

However, there are some limitations to this, such as:

- * Family Support funding cannot be used to pay for registration fees, transportation, or the costs of day trips taken during camp. When families apply for Family Support for camp, they are required to submit documentation showing that the camp's registration fee has been paid. Family Support may be able to cover the cost for up to one for residential camp or up to two weeks of day camp at one of the camps under contract with DDD.

- * Families should be aware that camps may require full payment before DDD determines whether Family Support will be able to assist with any portion of the costs. It is also possible that the support received from DDD may not cover the full cost of the approved camp; in such situations, families will be responsible for paying the difference.

- * Families of children still in school must provide verification of extended school year services, or lack of same, as per the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The application deadline for requesting assistance with camp fees is always the first Monday in May and the actual date will be posted on DDD's website each spring. This year, the deadline for requesting funding for camp for 2012 is May 7. Families are encouraged to apply early and to call their DHS contact to request Family Support funding for camp. Additional information about DDD funding for camp can be found on the Camp Services fact sheet, which is available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/fss>



For more information about DDD-funded Family Support Services, see:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/fss/>, as well as Division Circular # 39, which is based on the Family Support Act of 1993, described in N.J.A.C. 10:46A. Division Circular # 39 can be found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/news/publications/divisioncirculars.html>

MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR

Individuals with autism often demonstrate behaviors that interfere with learning and socialization and are disruptive in school and at home. Functional Behavior Assessment is a method of gathering information about problem behaviors in order to determine why they are occurring. Once parents and caregivers understand the purpose of the behavior, they may be able to teach more appropriate alternatives. Participants in this workshop will learn about identifying common functions of challenging behaviors, implementing strategies for preventing and changing behaviors, and how to monitor progress.

March 15, 2012

6:30-8:00p.m.

FREE

Warren County: Brass Castle Elementary School, 16 Castle Street, Washington, NJ 07882

Register online at www.autismnj.org

Call 800.4.AUTISM for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Autism Society and AMC Theatres® to Host Sensory Friendly Films®

WHAT:

AMC Theatres (AMC) and the Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities and sensory issues a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. Sensory Friendly Films® will continue with a showing of *The Secret World of Arrietty* on February 25.

In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for children with autism or other special needs, AMC movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing--in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden®" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event

WHEN:

February 25 - *The Secret World of Arrietty*

March 10 - *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*

April 7 - *Pirates! Band of Misfits*

*Please note all dates and films are subject to change.

(Never miss a movie! Sign up for the Autism Society's free e-newsletter for updates on upcoming Sensory Friendly Films, as well as the latest information on autism news, advocacy, research, education, conferences, and resources!)

WHERE:

A list and map of participating theatres is available at www.autism-society.org/sensoryfilms.

WHY:

An estimated 30 million people in the world have an autism spectrum disorder, 1.5 million in America alone. In America, 1 in every 110 children has an autism spectrum disorder. These families face challenges of care, support, education, financial hardship, and medical and health care issues that make autism a national public health issue, costing the U.S. economy \$60 billion a year. Though there is no cure, autism is treatable and individuals with autism have tremendous potential.

ABOUT THE AUTISM SOCIETY:

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

For more information, visit www.autism-society.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

Look at me now



my Home, my Community, my Life, my Way

If you:



Have lived in a developmental center for more than 3 months and



Are interested in living in the community

Then contact New Jersey's Money Follows the Person Program:



1-800-832-9173 (press 4)



www.nj.gov/ddd/mfp

RESIDENTS OF WOODBINE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER MEET HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Report by: The Media Center

Thanks to the Community Activities Department at Woodbine Developmental Center, residents Larry M., James J., Derrick L., Frank C., and Kevin T. received a once in a lifetime chance to meet Harlem Globetrotters Jefferson Sobral and Herbert Lange at the Wildwood Convention Center last year.

To date, the Harlem Globetrotters have performed for more than 123 million people in 118 countries. The Harlem Globetrotters is a brand that celebrates annually over having won the struggle both racially and socially to evolve from modest early beginnings of traveling cross-country in a Model T Ford to the stature of a national treasure. In 2005, 80 years later, the team's achievements represent a story of courage, talent, and pride. For over seven decades, the Harlem Globetrotters have used their unique brand of basketball and ambassadorial good work to aid in breaking down barriers to bring people closer together.



Pictured left to right: Larry M., James J., Jefferson Sobral (Globetrotter), Derrick L., Herbert Lang (Globetrotter), Frank C., and Kevin T.

In an era when popularity is often defined as crude and edgy cable television images, the Harlem Globetrotters stand out as not just acceptable, but loved by a diverse set of audiences. No team, and few leagues, draw as many people annually; and, according to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, no other team has given as much to sports, particularly the game of basketball, as these ambassadors.

Bob Ryan, a popular writer from the Boston Globe stated, "The Globetrotters have outlived the depression, two World Wars, rock n' roll, disco, and just about every 'pop' phenomenon imaginable over the past 70 years."



*Happy New Year
from
the Staff at the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities!*

*"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on,
with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us," Hal Borland*

Recycling for a Cause



The Men and Staff of the WDC Recycling Program are proud to announce that they have collected and donated over 2,000 bottle caps and can tabs to the Cape Regional Hospital for children to receive 2 free chemotherapy treatments.

DDD Today

A Publication of the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Contact us at:

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Trenton, NJ 08625-0726

**DDD Information and DHS
Central Registry Hotline:
1-800-832-9173**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) was created in response to the need for better and more effective services for state residents with developmental disabilities. Advocates for those services included many parents and other family members who wanted community-based alternatives to the institutional care that had been their only option for many decades.

Today, more than 43,000 individuals are eligible to receive services funded by the division, including a growing number who are under the age of 22. Most DDD-eligible individuals live in the community, either with family or in a community residence such as a group home or supervised apartment or in a Community Care Residence with a family caregiver. Almost 2,600 individuals reside in one of the seven developmental centers now administered by DDD.

Visit us on the Web at: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd