



DAWN AWAKENINGS

Awaken to Independence

DAWN AWAKENINGS

WINTER 2017

IT'S TAX SEASON: DID YOU FILE YET?

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. 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.

MORRIS COUNTY

First Memorial Presbyterian Church

51 W. Blackwell Street
Dover, NJ 07801

Tel: N/A

Open: Feb 2-Apr 13, TU 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.;

TH 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; 6:30-9 p.m.

Special instructions: *Walk-in*

Mount Olive Library

202 Flanders Drakestown Rd
Flanders, NJ 07836

Tel: 973-691-8686

Open: Feb 2 - Apr 11; TH 11:00am - 3:30pm; SA (Feb 18, Mar 18 & Apr 15) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Last appointment noon)

Parsippany Community Center

1130 Knoll Road
Lake Hiawatha, NJ 07034

Tel: 973-263-7351

Open: TU 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Morristown Senior Center

200 South St.
Morristown, NJ 07960

Tel: 973-292-6690

Open: M 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Morris County Library

30 East Hanover Avenue
Whippany, NJ 07981

Tel: 973-538-3451

Open: Feb 4 - Apr 15; SA 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Mar 8 - Apr 12; W 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

SUSSEX COUNTY

Franklin Cares @ Skylands Medical Group

406 Route 23 North
Franklin, NJ 07416

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

United Way of Northern New Jersey

2 Spring Street
Newton, NJ 07860

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

WARREN COUNTY

Warren County Library

Main Branch
2 Shotwell Dr.
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

Open: M, W, TH, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Catherine Dickson Hofman Library

4 Lambert Rd
Blairstown, NJ 07825

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

Open: M & F

United Way of Northern New Jersey

699 Washington Street, Suite 102
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Tel: 973-993-1160 ext. 521

Phillipsburg Free Public Library

200 Frost Ave.
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Tel: 888-387-9830 ext. 3502

Open: TU 4 - 8 p.m.; F 11 a.m.-3 p.m

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Meet Ed Roberts, leading advocate of the Disability Rights Movement and later the ADA.

See how far we've come ...

Google search Ed Roberts, The Disability Rights Movement and the ADA, or go to:

https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/VwLy4PBo_Ty9Jg?utm_campaign=ed-rob-erts&utm_source=google&utm_medium=hppromo

20 years of dedicated service!

It's hard to believe that DAWN Center for Independent Living recently celebrated its 20th anniversary serving individuals with disabilities and their families in the tri-county area. It is even harder for me to believe that I have been fortunate enough to be a part of that for the past 17 years. I remember coming to work at DAWN as a part-time information and referral specialist in March 1999. At the time, we were based out of an office in Wharton and the staff consisted of two full-time and three part-time employees. I knew when I joined the organization that DAWNcil was a great place to work, offered quality service and had the potential to make a significant impact in the counties we served. Over the years, the organization has changed its shape and size, taken on new initiatives and collaborated with partners to ensure that people with disabilities had a place where they could get the support needed and answers to their questions. The changes we have implemented have always been very thoughtful and methodical to ensure that we stay true to our mission and maintain a clear vision. Today our staff of 34 employees is providing services to more individuals and families than ever before through our vast array of programming. I am so proud of the work we have accomplished to date. In spite of our accomplishments, DAWNcil is still a well-kept secret. Not a week goes by that I hear from someone that they had no idea who we are and what we do. So in an effort to help spread the word, we will be using our newsletter as a means for marketing ourselves. In this edition, we share a snapshot of the services delivered through our Independent Living department. Each newsletter this year will focus on a particular department, provide an overview of the services delivered and shine a spotlight on the employees within that department. I hope you will enjoy this edition and please share this with anyone you think can benefit from our services.

Thank you for your well wishes as we mark our 20th anniversary and join us as we continue to enhance our services to meet the needs of community we serve.

Carmela Slivinski, Executive Director

DAWNcil along with the Morris County Partnership on Transition and Employment are co-sponsoring;

“Navigating Your Future”

On
Saturday, March 25, 2017
at
Randolph High School

This program is open to anyone interested in transition from school to adult life.

Speakers will be on hand to answer any questions from both Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)..

Morris County Partnership for Transition and Employment Services and DAWN Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Present:

**NAVIGATING YOUR FUTURE
THE ROAD THROUGH TRANSITION**



Saturday, March 25th, 2017
Registration and Exhibitors 8:30am-1pm
Program 9:00am-12pm

Hosted By
RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
Randolph High School Commons
511 Millbrook Ave, Randolph, NJ 07869

Representatives from the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities will be on site. Service Coordination Agencies, as well as other service provider agency representatives will be on hand to dispense information and answer questions.

To RSVP or for additional information please contact:
Brienne McBreen Transition Coordinator Randolph at (973) 361-2400 ext. # 6251
or email: bmcgreen@rtnj.org

Special Accommodations may be available upon request (i.e. interpreter, etc.). All requests must be made no later than two (2) weeks prior to the event to Brienne McBreen. Contact info above.

CEU's are available

In Memoriam

Forever Remembered... Forever Missed...

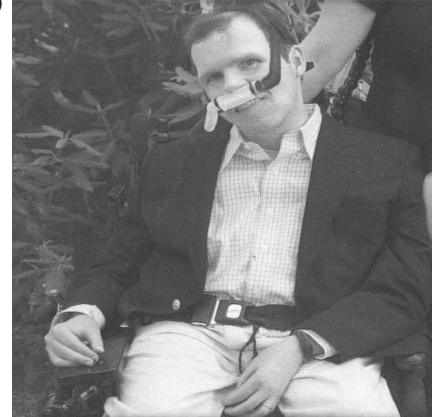
Peter B. Gimbel

1983 - 2017

It is with deep sadness we share news of the death of longtime DAWN employee Peter Gimbel, 33. He passed away on January 9, 2017, at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, having succumbed to a respiratory illness.

Diagnosed in childhood with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which required him to use a wheelchair from age 11, Peter became a staunch advocate of independent living for people with disabilities. Peter joined the staff at DAWN in May 2009 as an Independent Living Specialist, where he “found his calling” working to help people with disabilities remain integrated in their communities.

In later years, when his disability made it difficult to speak on the phone or meet with consumers, Peter assumed the responsibilities of managing DAWN’s newsletter and social media, including its website, Facebook page and Twitter account. As DAWN’s webmaster, Peter was instrumental in the re-design in 2014 of the agency’s webpage. In addition to writing for and editing DAWN’s newsletter, Peter also began a blog focusing on current issues and events affecting people with a wide range of disabilities.



Prior to coming to DAWN, Peter led an extraordinary life. He graduated in 2005 from Brown University, where he studied comparative literature with a focus on Spanish literature. While in college, he studied abroad, spending a semester in Madrid, Spain. At Brown, he was recognized with honors.

After graduation, Peter spent a year working in Houston, Texas, while taking psychology classes and volunteering with organizations including the Ronald McDonald House and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, where he used his Spanish language skills to lead a support group for people facing the same disease for which he had been diagnosed.

After his marriage in 2006, Peter worked as a counselor in Bergen County, NJ, before coming to DAWN, where he continued to advocate for people with disabilities. He and his wife, Jessica Renick-Ault, have a daughter, Helen Gimbel, age 6. They settled in Scarsdale, NY, in 2012. Despite his limited mobility and reliance on a ventilator, Peter remained active in his community.

In his spare time, Peter enjoyed reading science fiction and watching films. He also enjoyed vocal music – he recorded a CD while in high school at The Port Ledge School, and was a member of singing groups at Brown and the University of Houston. Although he stopped singing formally as his ability to breathe deteriorated, Peter passed his love of music on to Helen and enjoyed composing songs with her on the computer.

Whatever the task or challenge, Peter was willing to take it on and give it his all. Peter’s professionalism was equally matched by his engaging personality and indomitable spirit. His energy, talent and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Love Is ...

“Love is playing in the garden. Love is drinking hot cocoa out of the same cup. Love is giving away your secret checkers strategy. Love is playing family. Love is reading together, even chapter books. Love is starting a scrapbook together. Love is listening to recorder practice. Love is watching me swim. Love is nature walks where you know the name of every bird. Love is ice cream on half-birthdays. Love is playing 20 questions, even when the answer is Capybara or Jaguarundi. Love is making experiments together. Love is going outside with me even when you have to wear two ponchos. Love is being excited when you pick me up from school. Love is hugs, kisses, snuggles and robots before bed. Love is my dad.”

— Helen Gimbel

Program Spotlight: Independent Living Services

DAWN Center for Independent Living is a non-residential center for independent living (CIL) committed to providing the resources to enable persons with disabilities to remain independent in the community. The Independent Living Department at DAWNcil provides the following services:

Transition



Youth Transition

Courses and skills offered for young adults who have completed their education entitlement, and transitioning into the adult service system.



Adult Transition

With the proper supports, assist in moving those with disabilities out of institutions and back into the community.

Independent Living Skills Training



Skills (SKIL) for Independent Living

Comprehensive, life skills program for teens and young adults with disabilities. Designed to expand a broad range of skills required to live an independent life.



Living Well with a Disability

An eight-week workshop teaching goal setting and problem solving as ways to create a healthier and happier life.



Diversion

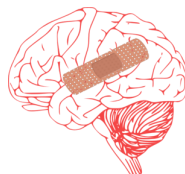
Connecting people with disabilities with the proper resources to remain in the community.

Information & Referral



Information & Referral

Connects people with services and resources available both in state and nationwide.



Traumatic Brain Injury Program

In collaboration with the Division of Disability Services, individuals deemed eligible are assisted with creating a support plan for financial aid through the TBI Fund.



PASP and ADRC

PASP — A program providing personal assistants for individuals 18 to 65 with a physical disability who are working, attending school or volunteering.

ADRC — Provides one-stop access to long-term supports for those with disabilities and seniors.



Enhanced Life Skills

Interactive monthly sessions examining real life situations.

Peer Support



AKTION Club

A community service group comprised of adult citizens living with disabilities. The club's mission is to provide members the opportunity to serve their community.



Franki's Fund

Arts-and-crafts sessions to inspire creativity and provide enrichment for young adults with special needs, ages 14 to 25.



DAWN Employment Network Services

DAWN's Independent Living Employment Specialist will answer your questions and partner with you to help you meet your employment goals.

Employment Readiness



It's All About Work

Courses designed to assist students, 14 and older, and adults with disabilities to prepare for, acquire and maintain employment.

Recreation Programs



Events are held during the year for ages 16 and older.

Next Chapter Book Club



A book club for readers at all levels held weekly at local coffee shops.

Advocacy



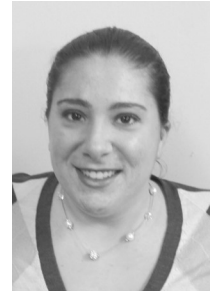
Provide training to individuals to enhance their self-advocacy skills; also assists with systems advocacy issues to enhance services for individuals with disabilities.



MEET THE INDEPENDENT LIVING STAFF:

Lindsay Tuman, MSW, LSW

Lindsay Tuman has worked for DAWNcil since 2012. A longtime advocate for both herself and people with disabilities, Lindsay found her calling while attending Monmouth University, and became a social worker. When first hired at DAWNcil, she worked as an Independent Living caseworker in Warren County. After much studying and testing, she then became DAWNcil's first Certified Employment Specialist. Being a licensed social worker, Lindsay also organizes and co-facilitates our TBI Support Group. Lindsay has proven to be a leader and strong advocate for people with disabilities.



Kelly Kryspin, MSW



After graduating in 2014 from Marywood University, Kelly came to DAWNcil and was hired as an Independent Living Specialist and PASP Coordinator for Warren County. Having an immediate family member with a disability, she has a good understanding of the everyday trials and tribulations that a person with a disability must face. In addition to her everyday duties with the Personal Assistance Services Program and the Traumatic Brain Injury Fund, Kelly also co-facilitates the TBI Support Group. Kelly is definitely a strong, well-versed advocate for people with disabilities.

Laura began working with DAWNcil in June 2016. She comes from a Supportive Employment background where she put together programming for transitioning students as well as assisted adults in finding, obtaining and retaining employment. Laura first learned of DAWNcil when her son came to us through Early Intervention. Laura now works as an Independent Living Specialist assisting individuals with all aspects of needs as well as running our Social Media pages.



Laura Dicker



Marc started his career at DAWNcil in 2003, joining the staff as an Information and Referral Specialist. He then assumed the responsibility of planning and coordinating recreation events which are geared toward activities held throughout the year for individuals with disabilities ages 16 and older. Marc received a bachelor's degree in sociology and received certification in elementary education at William Paterson University. As an individual with disabilities, Marc had a strong desire to work with others sharing that experience. Coming to work at DAWNcil has been a perfect fit.

Join us for our upcoming Enhanced Life Skills Courses at the DAWNcil office located at 66 Ford Rd. Suite #121 in Denville:

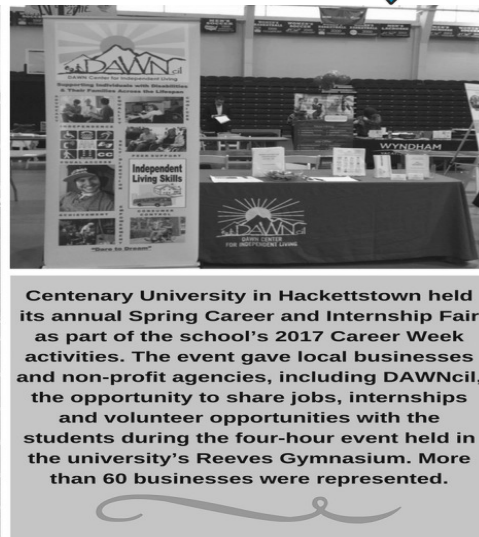
Interactive Enhanced Life Skills
Classes 6-7:30 PM :

March	28th	Changing Unhealthy Relationships
April	25th	Self Advocacy
May	23rd	Conflict Resolution
June	27th	How to move on from disappointment



RSVP to Laura (973) 625-1940 ext. 223

DAWNcil in the Community



Centenary University in Hackettstown held its annual Spring Career and Internship Fair as part of the school's 2017 Career Week activities. The event gave local businesses and non-profit agencies, including DAWNcil, the opportunity to share jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities with the students during the four-hour event held in the university's Reeves Gymnasium. More than 60 businesses were represented.

Project Homelessness/Community Connect – Warren County

This event was held in Phillipsburg, NJ, on Wednesday, January 25th, and primarily served individuals and families that are considered homeless, disabled or are at risk of becoming homeless. This was my second time attending this event, and I was eager to go back after such a great experience last year. Upon arriving at this event there was an overwhelming amount of vendors, service providers and volunteers preparing for the day. It was very clear that the main goal of this event was to connect residents to needed services and information in the hopes of stabilizing their current situations. In addition, they provided residents with food, toys and clothing handouts, a hot meal, flu shots, dental/medical screenings and haircuts. "Overall, I feel the event was well received and beneficial for all participants." At the end of the event there were a lot of referrals made. You could tell that as the participants were leaving they had a more positive outlook on their current situation, and some hope for the future.

Written by Kelly Kryspin



DAWNcil celebrates 20 years of service for people with disabilities



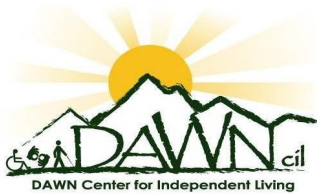
On December 1, 2016, DAWN celebrated its 20th anniversary with a buffet dinner at The Mansion in Mountain Lakes. Executive Director Carmela Sliviski presented a program reflecting on DAWN's accomplishments and services over the past 20 years, while sharing the agency's goals and plans for the future. Keynote speaker for the evening was Ruben Fuentes, a devoted husband, father, community leader, volunteer and disability advocate.

Three volunteers with Franki's Fund, DAWN's arts-and-crafts program for young adults with special needs, were presented with awards for their commitment – Joyce Garrow, Ruben Fuentes and Jodi Cullen – and DAWN's four IT volunteers were presented with awards for their efforts. They are: Gary Bainbridge, Les Milner, Edmund Gould and Maurice ChaFong. All volunteers received citations from Sen. Anthony Bucco's office.

2016 Holiday Gala



Originally scheduled for December 17th, the 2016 Holiday Gala had to be postponed to January 7, 2017, due to inclement weather. No matter when celebrated, the Holiday Gala is always enjoyed by all of those in attendance. Also held at The Mansion in Mountain Lakes, there was plenty of food, great entertainment and a lot of good company!



Phone: 973-625-1940
 Fax: 973-625-1942
 TTY: 973-625-1932
 Email: info@dawncil.org

We are on the web!
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