

SENIOR VOICE

Warren County Division of Aging and Disability Services

Steve Unger - Executive Director

NEWS & FEATURES

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HAPPY
new year

PASP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a resident in NJ.
- Have a permanent physical disability that impacts their activities of daily living.
- Between the Ages 18-70 years , have the capacity to self-direct their care.
- Must be in school, working or volunteering in the community for up to 20 hours month.
- A needs assessment is completed and eligible consumers may receive up to 40 hours of service, allocated into a monthly budget.
- A cash management plan is established to identify the budget based on service hours.



SustainAbilities™ electronics recycling program provides training – and a valuable community resource



If you live in Warren County and you've ever wondered how to safely – and in an environmentally friendly way – get rid of old PCs, monitors and printers, there is a solution. Abilities of Northwest Jersey, Inc. recycles computer equipment and other electronics materials through its SustainAbilities™ program.

While most communities no longer allow disposal of this equipment through trash or bulk pickup, and chain electronics stores charge large fees, SustainAbilities™ will accept many of these materials for free.

“SustainAbilities™ is one of our six community service programs that help Abilities fulfill our mission of improving the employability and quality of life for people with different abilities,” said April B., who oversees the program. “What’s unique about SustainAbilities™ is that it lets us offer meaningful “green” job skill training while providing an environmentally sound solution to the community.”

According to April, SustainAbilities™ has processed about 150 tons of equipment since it began operation in 2013.

This includes computers and accessories (keyboards, wires, speakers, servers, etc.), audio-visual components, telephones and fax machines, and small kitchen and household appliance, all of which can be dropped off for free.

Television sets and monitors are also accepted for a \$25 fee, although SustainAbilities™ does not accept individual items that weigh more than 50 pounds.

Really, the only things we can't accept are large, professional copier machines, anything with freon or oil, fire and carbon dioxide alarms, and anything over 50 pounds," April explained.

A complete list of items that can be brought to SustainAbilities™ is available by clicking on the link below. The drop-off point for SustainAbilities™ is located at the rear of Abilities' facility at 264 Route 31 in Washington, NJ.

"We partner with local townships for e-waste collection events, and can also help local organizations coordinate these as well," said April. "Call 908-689-1118 or email abradley@abilitiesnw.com for more information."

Another benefit of SustainAbilities™ is that it provides training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. When asked what they liked best about working for SustainAbilities, three individuals provided very different answers. Karen M. stated, "I like to take things apart." Brianna H. commented, "Every time I work here it's like Christmas morning." And Carol C. had a more practical answer. "I like getting paid," she said.

In addition to SustainAbilities™, Abilities also offers the following community-based services:

• PrintAbilities high-quality, custom screen printing, embroidery, promotional products, and vinyl printed banners, job signs decals and magnets;

- Fulfillment packaging services;
- PossAbilities thrift boutiques in Phillipsburg and Flemington
- Star on Campus store at Warren Community College (WCC), which sells branded merchandise, school supplies and sundries.

For more information about SustainAbilities™ and Abilities, please visit <http://www.abilitiesnw.com>.

Share your tale with us!

FUNERAL PLANNING-WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Ben Franklin is quoted as saying that “Nothing is certain but death and taxes.” We all have to deal with the death of, and the funeral of, a loved one. This is not a topic most families want to talk about in advance, or at a family dinner or gathering. The planning of a funeral immediately following the death of a family member is difficult and emotional for everyone. You may have all gotten a phone call from an upset family member who is unhappy with the funeral arrangements that are being made. Questions are common, including who makes the decisions such as traditional burial versus cremation or even questions as to when and where the funeral should take place, who should be attendance, etc. Pre-planning a funeral can answer many questions as to what a decedent’s wishes were concerning a funeral and can go a long way toward eliminating the stress and potential conflicts among family members.

In New Jersey, you cannot preauthorize your own final disposition. You can prearrange and prepay for your funeral, you can acquire a cemetery plot or express where you would like your ashes to be scattered, but you cannot sign the final authorization of disposition yourself. There are two ways to make sure that the person that you want to make your funeral plans is making the decisions. NJ law allows you to designate in your Last Will and Testament a person to control the funeral and disposition of the human remains. This person does not have to be the executor. Some suggested language in a Last Will and Testament would be:



"I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint [insert name] to serve as my Funeral and Disposition Representative, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:27-22. My Representative shall have the authority and power to control the arrangements for my funeral and the disposition of my remains. My Executor shall notify my Representative of this appointment, and shall advise my Representative of the financial means available to carry out the Funeral and Disposition arrangements. In the event [insert name] should predecease me or for some other reason not qualify to serve as my Funeral and Disposition Representative, then I nominate, constitute and appoint [insert name of alternate] as my Funeral and Disposition Representative."

The second option is that NJ allows you to sign a form appointing a person to control the funeral and the disposition of your remains. Your funeral director has the form available for you or it can be found online at <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/cem/Applications/cadf.pdf>.

The biggest issue with these two options to designate funeral agents is that families often do not know the location or content of the Will or the Appointment of Agent to Control the Funeral Form prior to the funeral. In addition, the majority of Americans die without a Will, so there can be no designation of a person to be in charge of the funeral and disposition. If this case the funeral director is required to look to the family members in the following order when determining who has the right to control funeral and disposition: (1) Surviving spouse or civil union/domestic partner; (2) A majority of the surviving adult children; (3) The surviving parents of the decedent; (4) A majority of the brothers and sisters of the decedent; (5) Other next of kin of the decedent according to the degree of consanguinity; and (6) If there are no known relatives, a cemetery can rely on the authorization of any person acting on behalf of the decedent. As is the case in most matters, communication between family members can prevent most disputes. Talking, planning and getting your arrangements in order in advance will allow your family to grieve without these issues causing unnecessary disputes. If you have questions, contact your funeral director or the Warren County Surrogate.

Jersey Assistance for Community Caregiving

(JACC) is a State funded assistance program to help:

- Adults 60 and older who need help with their daily living skills.
- Homebound and need assistance with their care
- Is a US Citizen or Resident Alien
- Living in the home or community
- Has no supports or resources to help meet their needs
- Financial & Clinical eligibility guidelines apply.

Services include:

- Care Management
- Home Health Aides
- Respite Care
- Special Medical Equipment Supplies, Meals and more...

Benefits are limited to \$761 per month / \$7,200 annually. The program benefits cover costs of services. Income and resource guidelines apply, such as being financially ineligible for Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver Services; Having a countable monthly income that is no more than \$3,799 individual or \$5,143 couple; and having countable resources at or below \$40,000 for an individual or \$60,000 for a couple. For more information and how to apply, call us at 908-475-6591.

Baking with Kristen

Brownie Pudding

- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup of flour
- ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla
- 1-cup butter melted

- Mix sugar and eggs in a mixing bowl. Beat on medium speed until thickened and is pale yellow.
 - Sift flour and cocoa powder together and then add flour mixture to egg mixture stir until combined.
 - Add in vanilla and melted butter.
 - Pour batter into a buttered 2-quart baking dish.
 - Place baking dish into a larger dish and fill with enough water to come up halfway of the inner dish, creating a water bath.
 - Bake in a preheated 325-degree oven for 1 hour then let cool for 20 minutes
- Great served with ice cream!



Caregivers Coalition

Join the Caregivers Coalition of United Way of Northern New Jersey three times monthly for their virtual programs. Some examples of programs offered are “Self-Care Tips to Boost Your Immune System”, “Beware of Scams Around the Coronavirus”, “Taking Care of the Caregiver”, “Prepared not Scared: Emergency Preparedness for Seniors and Caregiver.” The Caregivers Coalition provides support, information, education, and resources to unpaid family caregivers. They welcome the providers who support family caregivers to join them also. To become a member of the Caregivers Coalition contact your local Manager at Robin.Ennis@UnitedWayNNJ.org or 973-993-1160 x305.

To learn more about the virtual events listed above or the many more that are offered, please visit <https://caregiversupport.unitedwaynj.org/>



Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Program (PAAD)

PAAD offers help paying for your prescriptions drugs by covering the monthly premiums for certain Medicare Part D plans. You may be eligible for PAAD if you meet the following requirements: You are a New Jersey resident; you are age 65 or older or between ages 18 and 64 and receiving Social Security Title II Disability benefits; and your income for 2022 is less than \$38,769 if single or less than \$45,270 if married. For more information or assistance please contact the Warren County Division of Aging and Disability Services.

**Warren County Department of Human Services
Division of Aging & Disability Services-ADRC
Wayne Dumont, Jr. Admin. Bldg.
165 County Route 519
Belvidere, NJ 07823**

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