

#### JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024 · VOL. 4



Photo: Happy New Year sign on confetti covered background

# From our ACIL family to yours...

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With another year in the rearview mirror, it's time to look ahead to 2024. Whether your new years intentions include meeting new friends, working on your health and well-being or learning new skills, we are here to support you. From everyone at Atlantic CIL, we wish you a Happy New Year!



### **Atlantic Center for Independent Living**

160 S. PITNEY RD., UNITS 3 & 4, GALLOWAY, NJ 08205 PHONE: (609)748-ABLE (2253) | ATLANTICCIL.ORG

**Our Mission** 

Atlantic Center for Independent Living, Inc. is a center that assists individuals with disabilities to live and work as independently as possible.

#### Our core services include:

#### **Information & Referral**

Information about & referrals to services and organizations that can help you achieve your independence.

#### Advocacy

Staff assist individuals with personal issues to advocate for what they need. Systems advocacy identifies issues that affect others within the community and develop strategies to bring about systems change.

#### **Peer Support**

We believe that individuals experiencing the same issues (peers) are in the best position to support one another dealing with similar experiences.

#### Life Skills Training

Services are designed to assist you in gaining the skills necessary to live independently in your community.

#### **Transition Services**

Youth: Our youth services provide support and guidance to students transitioning from school to adult life with a strong emphasis on employment. Seniors: Atlantic staff can assist seniors living with disabilities to ensure they are receiving benefits and services designed to ensure the greatest independence possible with the goal of remaining within their communities.

### **Community Spotlight**

Atlantic County

**Division of Public Health** 

Newsletter

Winter 2023

Low cost, nutritious foods:

Produce Leafy greens (kale, collards) Whole heads of lettuce or cabbage Broccoli, Radishes, Carrots Apples, Bananas Frozen unsweetened fruit en or canned vegetables (no salt added)

Whole grains (brown rice, millet, barley, bulgur) Whole grain pasta

Snacks

Peanuts, Popcorn cooked in an air-popper, String cheese

Beat the Winter Blues

common. To beat the winter blues, get moving. 20 minutes of activity four times a week has been shown

20 minutes of activity rour times a week has been snown to lift your mod. Get out in the sunlight or brightly lit spaces, especially early in the day. Set your alarm clock and stick to a sleep routine. Try to spend time with family and friends. Ear healthy foods and avoid overloading on

sugar and carbohydrates like cookies and candies.

See a mental health professional if sadness doesn't go

away or interferes with your daily life. For mental health resources visit www.mhaac.info. If you or someone you

know is struggling or having thoughts of suicide, call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat at

988lifeline.org. In life-threatening situations, call 911.

Feeling sad when the weather and seasons change is

er cereals (plain shredded wheat, bran) Whole rolled oats

Whole grains and pastas Store-brand high-fiber cereals (plain shred



Choose meatless meals. Plant proteins such as beans and tofu are generally more affordable than meats and fish.

Don't shop on an empty stomach. Munch on a piece of fruit or some nuts before entering the store.

Allow for flexibility in your shopping list if fresh produce or poultry and fish are on sale, purchase extra quantities and freeze them for later use. Meats, fish, bananas, berries, avocados, broccoli, cuilifower, and com freeze well.

Purchase nonperishable foods in bulk. It may cost more up-front to buy "family-sized" products like whole grains, lentils, and dried beans, but the cost per unit is usually cheaper.

• Buy store-brand items. They're generally cheaper because less money is spent on advertising and fancy food labels.

 Use what you have before buying more. Take inventory of all the food in your kitchen twice a month. Bring forward the buried items and plan meals based on these ingredients.

..... Free Flu Vaccination No appointment needed Walk-In Tuesdays 9am - 12noon 201 S. Shore Rd, Northfield Walk-In 3rd Tuesday 10am - 12noon 310 Bellevue Ave, Hammonton

Pediatric Flu Vaccination children 6 months – 18 years old Available by appointment. Call 609-645-5933

Atlantic County Division of Public Health: Work Atlantic County Executive Healthy People and Healthy Commu Atlantic County Board of Commissio John W. Risley, Jr. Chairman Su salud

Consejos para Alimentación Saludable con un Presupuesto Limitado Obtenga el mayor beneficio nutricional por su inversión

• Planeas algunas comidas para la semana y hagas una lista de compras en grediente

Gripe Gratis

Vacunación

adultos may

Sin cita

necesario

• Filia comidas sin carne Las proteínas vegetales, como los frijoles y el tofu ser más aseguibles que las carnes y el pescado

No haga compras con el estómago vacío. Mastica una pieza de fruta o unos frutos secos antes de entrar a la tienda.

Permita flexibilidad en su llata de compras si hay productos frescos, aves y
pescado en derta, compre cantidades adicionales y congételos para su uso
postreiror. Las comes, el pescado, los plátanos, las bayas, los aguacates, el
brécoli, la coliflar y el maíz se congelan bien.

Comprar alimentos no perecederos al por mayor. Puede que cueste más po adelantado comprar productos "de tamaño familiar", como careales integrale lentejas y frijoles secos, pero el coste por unidad suele ser más barato.

 Compre artículos de marca de la tienda. Generalma porque se gasta menos dinero en publicidad y etiquet fad y etiquetas elegantes de

• Utiliza lo que tienes antes de comprar más. Haga un im tos enterrados y

> Martes Sin Cita Pre 9 am - 12 mediodía 201 S. Shore Rd, Northfield

Sin Cita Previa el Tercer Martes

10 am - 12 mediodía

310 Bellevue Ave, Hammonton

nación Pediátrica Contra la Gripe

ara niños de 6 meses a 18 años Disponible con cita previa.

Llame al 609-645-5933

División de Salud Pública del Condado de Atlantic Invierno 2023

Boletín de Salud de la

Alimentos nutritivos y de bajo costo: Proteínas Frijoles, Guisantes, Lentejas (secos, congelados, enlatad Conservas de pescado (atin, atindins) Pavo molido magro, Musios de pollo (quita la pieli) Mantequilla de maní. Requesto hajo en grasa Tofu, Huevos

Productos Agricolas uras de hoias verdes (col rizada, cole: Cabezas enteras de lechuga o rep Brócoli, Rábanos, Zanahorias Manzanas, Plátanos Fruta congelada sin azúcar congeladas o enlatadas (sin sal añadid

Cereales Integrales y Pastas cos en fibra de marca comercial (tripo simple rallado os en fibra de marca comercial (trigo simple ralla salvado) Avena integral integrales (arroz integral, mijo, cebada, bulgur) Pasta integral

Aperitivos Cacahuetes, Palomitas de maíz cocidas en máquina de aire comprimido, Queso en tiras

#### Vence la Tristeza del Invierno

Es común sentirse triste cuando el clima y las temporadas comúns. Para venera la triste za invernal, múvete. Se ha demostrado que ao minutos de actividad cuatro veces por semana mejoran el estado de ámino. Salga a la lux de los o a espacios bien iluminados, especialmente temprano en el día. Configure su despertador y siga una rutina de sueño. Intenta pasar tiempo con familiares y amigos. Consuma alimentos saludables y evite sobrecarganse con azúcar y carbohidratos romo nalitates y dulaes. como galletas y dulces.

Consulte a un profesional de la salud mental si la tristeza no desaparece o interfiere con su vida diaria. Para recursos de salud mental, visite www.mhaac.info. Si usted o alguien gue salos mental y siste www.sima.and.s. peligro su vida, llame al 911.

División de Salud Pública del Condado de Atlantic: Trabajando para la salud de las personas y comunidades Ejecutivo del Condado de Atlantic Densis Lavinzan Ioho My, Risky, Ir., Chairman

### **National Federation of the Blind**

#### South Jersey Shore Chapter

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND Live the life you want. Meets on 3rd Saturdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Next Meeting: January 20th Ocean City Library, 1735 Simpson Ave. (17th St. Entrance)

For more information contact: Phil Harrison, President, 609-788-0890 Anthony Lanzilotti, Vice President, (609) 361-3038 | tti777@gmail.com Please visit <u>https://www.nfbnj.org/about-nfbnj/</u>

### 5 THINGS TO KNOW WHEN YOUR CHILD WITH DISABILITIES TURNS 18

#### By Earth M. Nieves

#### Social Security Public Affairs Specialist of Southern NJ

When your child turns 18 years old, they legally become an adult. This is an important time to consider their financial future – especially if they need additional care into adulthood. Here are 5 things that may help you prepare for this milestone:

#### 1. Health and Welfare Decision-making

- When your child legally becomes an adult, you can no longer make certain decisions for them about their health and welfare. However, you can stay involved through:
- A Representative Payee: Social Security will determine who best serves as a Representative Payee for your child's benefits. To learn more about the Representative Payee program, read our webpage at www.ssa.gov/payee/index.htm.
- Guardianship: This requires court involvement. It may be necessary if your child can't execute a power of attorney. Please consult an attorney for assistance.

#### 2. Changes in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility

- SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income and resources below specific financial limits.
- If your child receives SSI, when they turn 18 we will review their eligibility for continued SSI payments based on the disability rules for adults. For more information, please review the publication, What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18 at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf. Please be sure to review this with your child. We also encourage you to check out Social Security's Youth Resources page at www.ssa.gov/youth.

#### **3. Education Transitions**

- If your child attends public school, they have a few options to continue their education, such as pursuing:
- A diploma: They may pursue further education in college or trade programs with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). More information on the IEP is available at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-118.pdf.

- A certificate: They may have the opportunity to continue in a transitional program in their high school even after they complete their senior year. Most are permitted to remain until they turn 22.
- Employment: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Services can assist with employment options during pre-graduation IEP meetings.

#### 4. Support for Living Arrangements

- Once your child turns 18, they may choose or qualify for different living arrangements depending on the services they already receive. If your child receives therapy services at school, how will they receive them once they leave? They could receive them through a Medicaid waiver or private insurance.
- Qualification for respite services may also look different. Respite services allow family caregivers time to step away from their duties. It is essential you understand all the benefits and options available to your child after they complete high school before deciding on living arrangements and services.

#### **5. Financial Protections**

- Special Needs Trust: Update estate planning documents before your child turns 18. Otherwise, inheritance may terminate your child's governmental benefits.
- ABLE Account: You can deposit funds into this account up to a certain limit each year; however, there are limits on what its funding covers. More information on ABLE accounts is available at www.ssa.gov/payee/able\_accounts.htm
- Children receiving benefits on a parent's record may continue to receive those benefits until age 19 if they're a full-time elementary or secondary school student. People who have a qualifying disability that began before age 22 may also be eligible to receive child's benefits at any age. For more information, please review the publication, Benefits for Children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf.

As your child turns 18, consider these issues while you navigate their financial future. For more information, please contact the Special Needs Alliance at www.specialneedsalliance.org/contact-us or visit the Social Security website at www.ssa.gov.



# **Virtual Support Groups & Activities**

The Atlantic Center for Independent Living supports equal access for all. For accommodations please contact Jennifer at jburke@atlanticcil.org | (609)748-2253 ext.4

Sketchbook Club | Mondays | 1pm | Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83854391536? pwd=YWtFekQyeE9wTlBqdVpkQVIvRUdiQT09 Call In: 1-309-205-3325 | Meeting ID 838 5439 1536

Life Skills Activities | Tuesday | 2pm | Zoom <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81172982370?</u> <u>pwd=V2hBUTBRQnZKZmdJb1VhelAzYzFGZz09</u> Call In: 1-301-715-8592 | Meeting ID 811 7298 2370

Current Events with Donald | Tuesday | 3pm | Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83238366293? pwd=aDErbzd3K0FKczZJeGl1Q3p5bmRLQT09 Call In: 1-305-224-1968 | Meeting ID 832 3836 6293 Passcode 955834

Chronic Pain & Illness Support Group | Wednesday | 2pm | Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85449180096 Call In: 1-301-715-8592 | Meeting ID 854 4918 0096

Life Skills Activities | Thursday | 6pm | Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85063153999? pwd=NmJXd1ZUUHhpUkxneExISEJQWk8xQT09 Call In: 1-646-931-3860 | Meeting ID 850 6315 3999 Passcode 154100

Socialization and Wellbeing Group | Friday | 1pm | Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88558466172 Call In: 1-301-715-8592 | Meeting ID 885 5846 6172

Active zoom links for virtual groups can also be found on our monthly calendar.

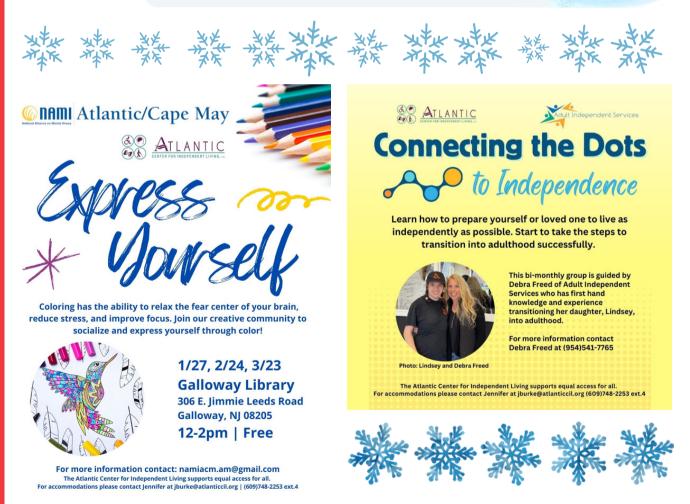


Would you like weekly zoom links sent to your inbox every Monday? Email Jen at jburke@atlanticcil.org to join our weekly link eblast.

# **Monthly Calendar**

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	liappy New year 1	<u>Life Skills 2pm</u> <u>Current Events 3pm</u>	<u>Chronic Pain 2pm</u>	Life Skills 6pm	<u>Social/Wellbeing 1pm</u>	
	ttott godt 1	2	3	4	5	6
	Sketchbook Club 1pm	<u>Life Skills 2pm</u> <u>Current Events 3pm</u>	<u>Chronic Pain 2pm</u>	<u>Life Skills 6pm</u>	<u>Social/Wellbeing 1pm</u>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		<u>Life Skills 2pm</u> Current Events 3pm	<u>Chronic Pain 2pm</u>	<u>Life Skills 6pm</u>	Social/Wellbeing 1pm	
14	MLK Jr. Day 15	16	17	18	19	20
	<u>Sketchbook Club 1pm</u>	<u>Life Skills 2pm</u> Current Events 3pm	<u>Chronic Pain 2pm</u>	<u>Life Skills 6pm</u>	<u>Social/Wellbeing 1pm</u>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<u>Sketchbook Club 1pm</u>	<u>Life Skills 2pm</u> Current Events 3pm	<u>Chronic Pain 2pm</u>	Life Skills 6pm	<u>Social/Wellbeing 1pm</u>	
28	29	30	31			

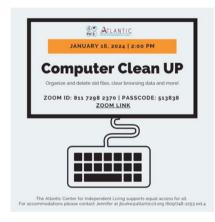
Contact us for more information at jburke@atlanticcil.org | (609)748-2253 ext. 4



# **Weekly Life Skills Activities**

Tuesdays at 2pm with Outreach and Activities Specialist, Jen Burke

Zoom Meeting ID #: 811 7298 2370 Passcode: 513838 <u>Zoom Link</u>



Thursdays at 6pm with Independent Living Specialist, Jenny Walker Zoom Meeting ID #: 850 6315 3999 Passcode: 154100 <u>Zoom Link</u>

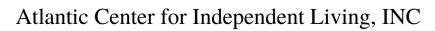
















Our Stories



Photo: Alyson and Dylan Bakley with their rescue dogs at the Pink Elephant in DeForest, WI.

#### On September 19th, 2020, Alyson Bakley,

experienced a sudden cardiac arrest. She found herself navigating a long process that led to a diagnosis of a rare micro-vascular disorder effecting her small blood vessels. Doctors had to rule out a heart attack by checking large arteries. Only after checking small vessels, did they find Alyson had 5 small heart attacks. Not much is known about the causes of this disorder but once diagnosed Alyson explained, "It's important I monitor my blood pressure, cholesterol, and prevent type 2 diabetes in order to avoid future issues." Medications and balancing exercise without over doing it helps with this effort.

Navigating her new life with a disability led Alyson to connecting with Atlantic CIL. "I knew Donald through school and we kept in touch, I knew he was part of the CIL and recached out to see if they could help." Alyson's goal has been to live as a back to normal as possible and there have been many twists and turns along the way. " I've worked with almost everyone," she detailed. "Donald has helped me interpret regulations and assist me in the process of applying for a disability parking pass. Patti has helped me keep records and document things. Dawn has assisted me with questions I had about Social Security. Ana has helped me navigate employment with career exploration, resume and interview preparation. I even joined the drawing group and made a vision board with Jen." Through it all, a key take away Alyson mentioned is, "You don't always realize how much you have to ask for, Doctors don't always connect you with resources unless you ask." Through working with the CIL, "I've learned to advocate for myself."

Alyson and her husband, Dylan, love to go on road trips with their rescue dogs. She likes to cook. be creative, and help people by volunteering. In fact, Alyson is currently serving on the Atlantic CIL Board alongside her peers, advocating for disability rights. "Representation makes such a big difference. Having our board comprised of at least fifty percent of people living with disabilities themselves sets us apart, our intentions are very genuine. We say what we mean and mean what we say, we come from a place of understanding."

# **Collaboration Activities**



#### 12PM - 1PM MONDAYS: COPING SKILLS SUPPORT GROUP

MEETING ID: 975 3587 3500 <u>https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjmodoygqtgvgtsw\_lungcbyey582Mb6vzkl</u> Learn New Coping Skills to help develop resiliency and ways to process stress. Types of activities vary from writing, art, poetry, and music.

#### 8PM-9PM MONDAYS: KEEPING OUR COMMITMENTS

MEETING ID: 918 0901 4251 <u>HTTPS://ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TJULDCORZ80H9XRYD030HTXQJPQDNWCVR-T</u> OPEN SHARE/TOPIC FOCUSED GROUP – CONSUMERS WILL EXPLORE WAYS TO KEEP COMMITMENTS TO OTHERS BY EXPLORING WHAT MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ISSUES THAT THEY MIGHT BE EXPERIENCING AND HOW TO FACE THEM.

#### 2PM-3PM WEDNESDAYS: BETTER TOGETHER

MEETING ID: 875 6132 4882 <u>HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZMOCEIRRD8IETAPSQODD-O1VP4GHGIVIBFO</u> TOPIC FOCUSED GROUP - THIS IS A SUPPORT GROUP FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO STRUGGLE WITH A COMBINATION OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES. TOGETHER WE WILL DISCUSS A TOPIC SURROUNDING THE STRUGGLE OF BALANCING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING. LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN OUR JOURNEYS TO WELLNESS!

#### 4PM-5 PM THURSDAYS: YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

MEETING ID: 948 2568 3415 <u>https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjaldeyup/gug9fawk7/m7hbnsyxhez3rro7</u> Allow People to be seen and heard by giving them the floor so to speak to talk for up to five minutes. May also include, from time to time, topics on better communication skills.

#### 2PM-3PM SATURDAYS: COLOR ME HEALTHY

MEETING ID: 963 4262 7503 HTTPS://ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TJIUC-UURDWVGTEKARAQZUZ3IYUT8TLIL3U6

ACTIVITY GROUP - GRAB YOUR COLORING BOOK & ART SUPPLIES OF CHOICE AND COLOR WITH US DURING THIS RELAXING, CREATIVE HOUR! CONVERSATION IS KEPT LIGHT AND FOCUSED ON UPLIFTING TOPICS.

#### 10AM-11AM SUNDAYS: CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP

MEETING ID: 891 6452 0279 <u>HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZ0SCE2TRDS0HD2CUHEEDTNYHPPOAQ00LQL</u> OPEN SHARE/TOPIC FOCUSED GROUP - THIS IS A SAFE SPACE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH COMMON EXPERIENCES, FEELINGS & STRUGGLES OF LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN. SHARING AND DISCUSSING COMMON WORRIES... WHILE LISTENING, LEARNING, AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.

#### 7:30-8:15PM SUNDAYS: MEDITATION

MEETING ID: 927 8257 0162 <u>https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjyqf-utqtsrhnyabpfwumgq4nvxjhifkp-x</u> END YOUR WEEKEND/ START YOUR WEEK OFF PEACEFULLY WITH OUR MEDITATION HOUR.

#### 8-9 PM REDISCOVERING YOU THROUGH VITAL WELLNESS (2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY)

MEETING ID: 895 1210 9665 <u>HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZ00DUUPBJISHNGSWWTJEDQSX88\_DY88M04E</u> TOPIC-FOCUSED/ACTIVITY-BASED – A SOCIALLY OPEN GROUP IN WHICH WE DISCUSS COPING SKILLS FOR TODAY'S STRUGGLES AND TOMORROW'S SUCCESS. JOIN US TO BE A PART OF AN ACCEPTING CONVERSATION OR ACTIVITY.



WWW.MHAAC.INFO/UBW

UNITEDBYWELLNESS@MHANJ.ORG (🕻)609-652-3800







Inclusive Healthy ihc Communities

This initiative was funded by an Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant from the Division of Disability Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services.

# Civic Engagement Initiative

**YOU** can be the change



Cover picture: Advocates protesting for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. \*Image credit: Tom Olin \*Via: Wellesley College



### Join United by Wellness to participate in our workshops

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https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8VXP2K8

The Atlantic Center for Independent Living and The Mental Health Association in Atlantic County support equal access for all.