



Mission Statement

Alternatives, Inc. provides comprehensive support services to individuals with special needs to enable them to reach their highest level of independence and integration in the community

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Vineland Developmental Center

There's been an ongoing debate in the legislature about the pending budget as it relates to the care of people with developmental disabilities. Governor Christie's initial budget called for the closure of the Vineland Developmental Center by June 2013 to comply with the Olmstead Act, a federal law that requires states to place qualified individuals with intellectual disabilities in community settings rather than keeping them institutionalized. Twenty-three percent of New Jersey residents with developmental disabilities live in state-operated developmental centers, nearly four times the national average.

Vineland Developmental Center, in Cumberland County, NJ, is the oldest of seven developmental centers still operating in New Jersey. It was established in 1888 as an alternative school for girls and women with disabilities. The 257-acre property includes nine residential buildings, an infirmary, a pool, a learning center and a cemetery. It was once home to more than 2,000 individuals but now has a population of 388.

Vineland was chosen for closure primarily because of the 2010 Individual Habilitation Plans (IHP) for residents of the center. They indicated that 165 residents, or 42 percent, have the support of their families and/or guardians for their placement in community supported housing. This is the highest number for anticipated compliance with Olmstead among the seven state developmental centers.

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A Lifetime of Personal Growth

Joan Simons has been a client of Alternatives for 24 years. Though she now lives in a Supportive Living apartment in Phillipsburg; she was once part of the group of people institutionalized in developmental centers.

Joan grew up in Cherry Hill with her parents and brother. Her father worked security at a local cemetery and her mother was a homemaker.

Joan was placed in the North Jersey Developmental Center by her family on her 15th birthday. While there, Joan's mother passed away and her father and brother left the state but she always kept a positive attitude. Joan is a caring woman by nature so she enjoyed working in the infant nursery and helping attend to older residents who needed assistance.

Joan lived in the NJDC for 28 years but yearned to be on her own. Her father supported this and in 1978, Joan left the NJDC and entered a "sponsor home." Similar to a foster home, it was here that Joan experienced greater freedom.

Joan's mother had taught her household chores and the NJDC taught her to care for others but it wasn't until she came to Alternatives in 1987 that she learned to blend all her skills to gain personal independence. Aside from living independently, Joan began socializing and working at a day program. It was here that she met Tim, her husband of 24 years, who is also an Alternatives client.

After working at a Nutrition Center for many years as part of their kitchen staff, Joan is now enjoying her retirement. She still loves to keep busy and spend time with Tim going on picnics, riding bikes and watching movies. Joan is a lifelong fan of Elvis Presley and has even visited Graceland. She collects all sorts of Elvis memorabilia and Tim loves to add to her growing collection.

In 2003, the NJ Association of Community Providers presented Joan and Tim with the STAR Award. This marked the first time that the award was given to a married couple.



Joan & Tim Simons

Berlin Family & Video Corporation of America Honored at 24th Annual Dignity Gala

The 24th Annual Dignity Gala took place on April 1st at Dolce in Basking Ridge. This year's Gala was the most successful in agency history! Through the event, Alternatives was able to raise more than \$ 100,000 to continue providing the best support services for individuals with special needs.

The evening's honorees were The Berlin family and their business, Video Corporation of America. They were recognized for their tireless support of Alternatives' mission. Al Berlin, founder and CEO of VCA, and Dolores Berlin's tie to the agency is a personal one. Their son, Alan, has been a client for the past 25 years and continues to grow with the agency. All three of them were on hand to give acceptance speeches and Alan even drew a standing ovation from the crowd. The Berlin's other son and President of VCA, David, and his wife, Margie, have also assumed a greater role in the family's commitment to Alternatives. David has utilized his resources to help produce professional and appealing agency videos and Margie currently sits on the Dignity Gala Committee.



Guests of the Gala enjoyed gourmet food, dancing, horse racing and casino games throughout the night. Among the number of tricky-tray and auction prizes were baseball tickets for the New York Yankees and Mets, a weekend getaway to South Carolina, Tiffany jewelry and designer handbags. To cap off the night, one lucky cash raffle winner walked away with over \$ 7,000. There were many big winners at the end of the night. After all is said and done, the true winners are those who benefit directly from everyone's generosity - Alternatives' clients.



Dolores, David & Alan Berlin



Mindy Morris, Kay Cardali, Sal Cardali, Al Berlin & Nancy Good

'It's All Good' Celebrates Grand Opening

Downtown Somerville's newest shopping experience, 'It's All Good,' celebrated their grand opening with a special ribbon cutting ceremony. Operated by Bridges to Employment, 'It's All Good' helps job seekers with disabilities prepare for the workforce through job sampling and training while also providing Somerville with boutique shopping at thrift store prices.

The ribbon cutting event brought out local and state representatives including Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman, Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi, Assemblywoman Denise M. Coyle, Freeholder Peter Palmer, Mayor Brian Gallagher of Somerville, NJ Deputy Commissioner of Labor Richard E. Constable III, Director of NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Alice Hunnicutt, and Director of The Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board Michele Horst.

'It's All Good' is located at 91 West Main Street in Somerville, New Jersey. Store hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm and Sunday, 12pm - 5pm. 'It's All Good' is continuously accepting donations of men's, women's and children's gently used and new clothing, jewelry and accessories in "LIKE NEW" condition.



STAR POWER



The New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) recently hosted its 12th Annual "Community STARS" Dinner where one of Alternatives' own, Heidi Schultheis, received an award! The NJACP is a collection of support providers dedicated to advancing the quality of services to enrich lives and build futures to support thousands of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They present the STARS Award to individuals who deserve recognition for the way that they meet the challenges they face in their everyday lives. Heidi was among thirty individuals representing several agencies statewide that were honored at the Community Stars Awards Dinner in May.

Heidi grew up in Albany, New York with her parents and siblings and came to Alternatives 24 years ago. She first lived in a Supervised Apartment but for the past 19 years, she has lived independently in her own apartment in Somerville with support provided by Alternatives staff.

Heidi enjoys being involved. She has worked at Ortho Pharmaceuticals for nearly 20 years and at Stop and Shop for 6 years. In her spare time she serves as a member of Alternatives' Consumer Advisory Counsel, where she and other clients review and give their input on agency policies, procedures and events. Heidi is also an active member of her church and she is well-known in Somerville because of her participation in community events.

One reason Heidi was nominated for a Community Stars Award is because of the strength and drive she has shown in recent years to set personal goals regarding her health. She has been dedicated to eating a healthy diet and exercising regularly. This has resulted in tremendous weight loss and as a result her doctor is delighted with the overall improvement of her health and attitude.

"Heidi has flourished during her time here at Alternatives," said Nancy Good, Alternatives, Inc. President. "Her personality is bright and her achievements are glowing - she is a STAR in every way!"

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

Harriet Tubman

Vineland Development Center...continued from page 1

The ultimate goal is for the state to operate fewer institutions and enable people with developmental disabilities to live in community settings and receive home-based services such as those provided by Alternatives. The few facilities that will remain open will continue to provide services for those who are unable to live in the community.

The New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP), a group that advocates on behalf of Alternatives and other New Jersey agencies for people with developmental disabilities, supports this closure. They cite the 1998 closing of North Princeton Developmental Center as an example of what can be achieved with de-institutionalization. It took 32 months to secure placement for the center's individuals; nearly 75 percent of residents were moved into the community, in housing such as group homes and supervised apartments, while the remaining 25 percent were placed in alternate developmental centers or nursing homes. A survey conducted by the Developmental Disabilities Planning Institute five years after the closure of North Princeton found that those living as part of the community were doing "equal to or better than their institutionalized counterparts." They demonstrated a better quality of life in community participation, family contact, self-care, utilization of mental health care and productivity. Reports also found that their families were happier with their post-institutionalized placement.

Those opposed to the closure of Vineland are predominantly those whose employment will be affected by the closure of the facility. There are currently 1,460 people employed by the center, some of whom would become temporarily unemployed. Many of them, however, could be hired for positions in other residential programs where clients would be placed. The Department of Developmental Disabilities has said that it will provide continued support to those whose employment will be affected. In the last days before the budget was passed the Legislature passed S-2928 to delay the closure pending further study of workforce and economic development issues. However, as Governor Christie has stated in his budget remarks, people's civil rights and our ability to meet the needs of people should be the priority.

www.alternatives.org

Donor List

Alternatives, Inc. is grateful to the following individuals, corporations and foundations for the donations made during Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011).

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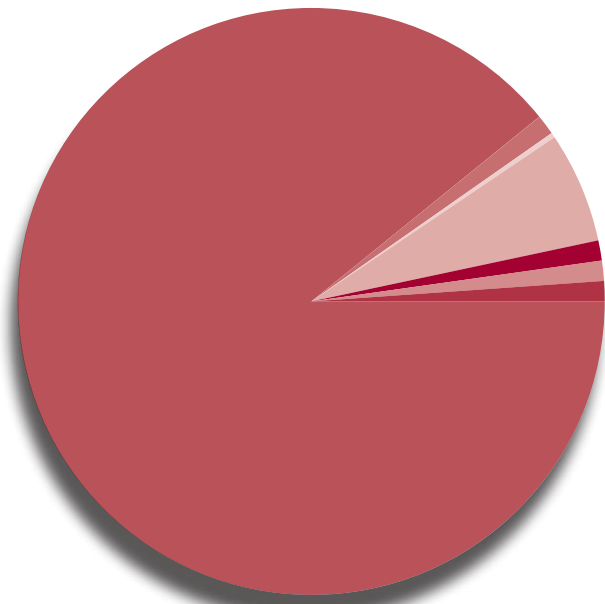
Finance

Your tax-deductible contribution is very much needed and appreciated. There are various ways to give and each one helps to sustain Alternatives' programs and services.

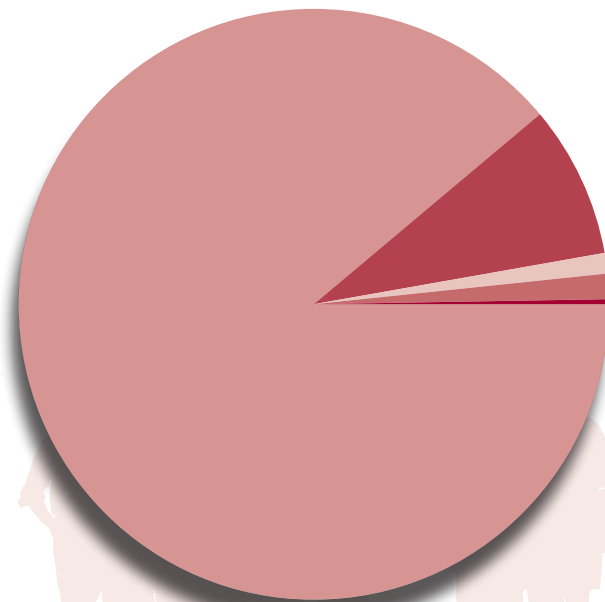
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- Cash contributions
- Support Special Events
- Employer matching gifts
- United Way designations
- Honor & Memorial contributions
- In-kind goods & services
- Name Alternatives as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement account
- Remember Alternatives in your will or estate plan

Unaudited Revenues and Expenses for FY 2011



Support & Revenues	Amount	Pct.
Grants & Contracts	\$11,482,332	89.17%
Client Services & Rental Fees	807,410	6.27%
Contributions	141,452	1.10%
United Ways	20,275	0.16%
Special Events (Gross)	123,718	0.96%
Investment Income	173,806	1.35%
Other Income	127,968	0.99%
Total Income	\$12,876,961	100.00%



Expenses & Reserves	Amount	Pct.
Program Services	11,450,814	88.92%
Management & General	1,085,230	8.43%
Fundraising & Development	133,914	1.04%
Capital Expenditure	154,048	1.20%
Operating Reserves	52,955	0.41%
Total Expenses	\$12,876,961	100.00%

Leaving a Legacy of Independence

For many individuals Alternatives, not only provides a place to sleep – it is a place where they can feel empowered through their independence today and into the future. Those who support the agency today can continue their care and concern for people with special needs by remembering Alternatives, Inc. in their will or other planned giving mechanism. Leaving a planned gift is a way of receiving tax benefits while adopting an issue close to your heart.

Planned gifts, including bequests, annuities, trusts, retirement mechanisms and gifts of stock or life insurance ensure the continuation of Alternatives' work in the future. To learn more about these options consult with qualified financial and legal advisors as well as the Alternatives, Inc. Development office.



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- Liz Boles
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- Branchburg Sports
- Candy Bouquet
- Courtside Racquet
- Daily Show with John Stewart
- Design Studio
- Dog Days Day Care
- Eat n' East
- John Fagan
- Flemington Nails
- Michael Frost
- Gaetano's
- Giorgio Dry Cleaners
- Nancy Good

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- Salon at Warren
- Snap Fitness
- Somerville Bike Shop
- Stoney Brook Grille
- Rick St. Pierre - Verve Bistro
- Somerset Learning Center
- Theater at RVCC
- The PeopleCare Center
- Tropiano's Jewlers
- Tru Hair Salon
- Tumbling Dice Entertainment
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SAVE THE DATE

Alternatives' VERY FIRST GOLF OUTING
Tuesday, October 4, 2011
Raritan Valley Country Club

Your ability to help can come in many forms. There are opportunities for the golfer and non-golfer alike to fit every budget and each one supports a remarkable organization.

For more information contact: Anita Feiner at
(908) 685-1444 ext. 226 or afeiner@alternativesinc.org

VISIT US ON THE WEB! www.alternativesinc.org



Find us on Facebook, Search for Alternatives, Inc. – Raritan NJ

Fundraising in the Community

The Community Outreach Services Department, which serves people with mental illness, ran the concession booth at a Rutgers Wrestling Championship match. Volunteers from throughout the agency served the capacity crowd gathered to see top seeded RU and Lehigh. Smart move COS! Attendance and concessions were at an all-time high that night; they earned nearly \$ 1,800 and best of all, they were invited back for future events.

The Phillipsburg programs brought back the popular Longaberger Basket Bingo Fundraiser. The event was held at Jay Bird Bingo in Easton, Pennsylvania which is owned by former Heavy Weight Champ, Larry Holmes. Those winning ways must have rubbed off; The P'Burg staff raised more than \$ 6,000 to help support their programs and clients.

Bridges to Employment, along with Delta Community Supports, co-hosted the Second Annual Walk for Work at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. The event raised more than \$ 5,000 for the two agencies to help people with disabilities find and maintain employment.

Hearing and Communication EXPO

Bridges to Employment's Career Development Center held its second annual Communication Expo at Raritan Valley Community College on Saturday May 7th. The event attracted more than 250 guests including people with hearing loss, their families, sign language interpreters and students. Vendors demonstrated the use of their devices and informed people of their services. The Career Development Center seeks to improve the quality of life and employment opportunities for New Jersey's 800,000 people with hearing loss.

Ethicon Supports those with Mental Illness

Once again, Alternatives has been fortunate to receive a contribution from Ethicon for the Community Outreach Services (COS) Department to provide people who are homeless or mentally ill with supportive housing and support.

The COS Department is a major resource to our community. People with a mental illness who are living on their own without this kind of support can enter a cycle of eviction, hospitalization and homelessness. This has a devastating impact on each person's life and subsequently on the community as a whole.

"I'm so grateful for Ethicon's help!" said Nicole Zenner, Director of COS. "These days we are faced with so many cuts from the public sector. Ethicon's \$20,000 contribution will bridge that financial gap."

