

2025 Annual Report

# Building Skills & Inspiring Confidence

@

# NJEDDA



TODDLERS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

ADULT PROGRAM

North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency



# Executive Director's Message



2025

The North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency's mission is to enhance and improve the lives of students and adults with disabilities. This year has been nothing short of amazing. The students, clients, families, and staff have worked collaboratively to enhance programming and opportunities for the ones we serve.

I want to thank the Board of Trustees Chairman Ronald Subrizi, his officers, trustees, and members for their leadership, trust, and support of all of our programs. I appreciate their continued service and expertise in areas such as; budgeting, facilities, insurance, and personnel.

I also want to thank the Passaic County Elks Special Children's Committee President Arthur Andreano, his officers, and committee members for their steadfast support and pledge to our agency and the programs and services it provides for our students, clients, and their families. We are blessed to have their dedication to ensuring financial support for the agency.

The administrative team works tirelessly to ensure that the students, clients, families, and staff have what is needed to help them grow educationally, therapeutically, professional, and emotionally. Our schools continue to grow tremendously.

We have expanded our Artist in Residency program with Solo Expressions and we have been able to reinstitute the Transition program at the high school since its pause during COVID. I would like to personally thank the administrators of each building; Marianne Iden-den, Principal of the Elementary School, Amy Hammond, Principal of the High School, Mary



*Rachel Herrington, M. Ed., Executive Director  
with Malcolm J. McPherson Jr.  
Past Grand Exalted Ruler.*

Fischer, Supervisor of Instruction, Michelle Sauer, Coordinator of Therapeutic Services, and Dolores Miles and Denise Pena for overseeing the business office operations.

The Adult Center has made steady progress towards overcoming its challenges. The Center will always face obstacles regarding operating under the DDD Model of Fee for Service, low client attendance, staffing, and transportation costs not fully funded by client budgets.



# Thank You



*Cherished Thought . . .*  
***Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference!***  
*- Winston Churchill*

Since the decision to remain open was made in May 2023, the enrollment has increased with the continued promise of more clients for the 25-26 program year.

Our therapists and DSPs continue to work collaboratively to assist the clients in attaining as much independence as they can to be contributing members of their communities.

I whole-heartedly thank the administrators of the Adult Center, Martha Roman-Torres, Supervisor, Christina Liguori, Client Care Coordinator, and Myra Ortiz, Administrative Assistant.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a few staff members on their retirement.

I wish you all well on your next adventure in life. Congratulations to Amy Hammond, Cynthia Mancinelli, and Laurie Keehn.

Their commitment and dedication to our students and clients was admired.

A final thanks again to the Board of Trustees, Special Children’s Committee, administrative team, staff, students, families, and our community members for their trust, dedication and steadfast support of the NJEDDA organization and its mission.

When you are positive, you will see opportunities instead of obstacles.

## NJEDDA Administration Team



Rachel Herrington, M. Ed.  
*Executive Director*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Dolores W. Miles, B.S.<br><i>Business Administrator</i>      | Mary Fischer, M.A.<br><i>Supervisor of Instruction</i>           |
| Denise Pena, M. BA<br><i>Assistant Business Manager</i>      | Michelle Sauer, M.S.<br><i>Supervisor of Therapy Services</i>    |
| Marianne Idenden, M.A.<br><i>Principal Elementary School</i> | Martha Roman-Torres, B.A.<br><i>Supervisor of Adult Services</i> |
| Amy Hammond, M.A.<br><i>Principal High School</i>            | Christina Liguori, RN<br><i>Client Care Coordinator</i>          |

**Elementary School,  
 Pre School, Toddler Program**  
 1481 Main Ave.  
 Clifton, NJ 07011  
 (973) 772-2600

**High School**  
 15 Union Ave.  
 Clifton, NJ 07011  
 (973) 772-2600 Ext 233

**Adult Training Center**  
 AGL Building, 600 Rt 46 W  
 Clifton, NJ 07013  
 (973) 772-2600 Ext 310



# Toddler Program



Ages: 18 Months to 3 Years



Our FREE Special Toddler Playgroup provides support and services to toddlers with special needs as well as their families. The program is an innovative program for toddlers, ages 18 months to three years of age, who are already receiving services through NJ Early Intervention Program. This program would not be possible without the generous donation from the Passaic County Elks Special Children's Committee.

Our toddler program has been a pioneer in providing a venue where parents can come to socialize and support each other through their journey of nurturing toddlers with special needs. Activities are geared to enhance gross and fine motor skills as well as language and socialization.

The program is staffed with a bilingual teacher, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and speech and language therapist who consult in the program each session. Additionally, a social worker provides consultation to those in need of community resources. The program is in session 3 mornings a week with approximately 8-10 toddlers attending each day.





# Pre-School Program



Ages: 3 to 5 Years

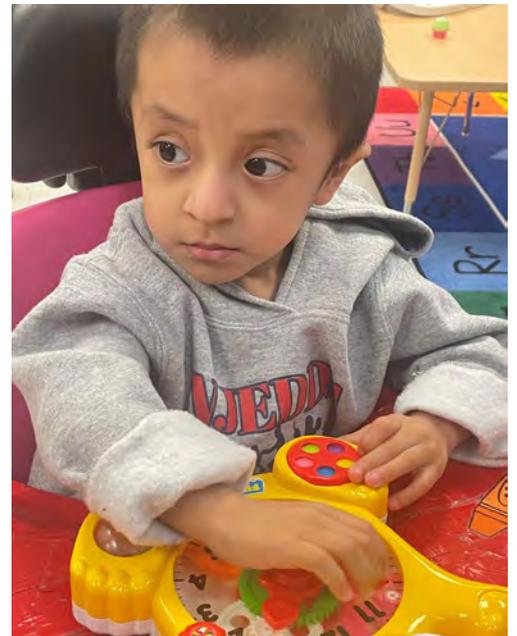


Our preschool program features an exceptional educational and therapeutic team approach that best serves young children with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Our therapeutic team consists of classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, nurses, and a social worker.

This collaborative approach assists students in all academic and therapeutic areas.

Our program is designed to develop pre-reading readiness skills, communication, mobility, therapeutic feeding, socialization, sensory integration, play skills and art. Preschoolers also have opportunities to participate in adapted physical education, music, special assemblies, and community outings.



Our three- to five-year-old students are a special part of the elementary program who attend full-day sessions, Monday through Friday. The team works closely with parents, child study teams, physicians, and specialists in order to meet each child's individual needs. When the student reaches the age of 5, they have the opportunity to move to one of our elementary classrooms, if it is deemed appropriate.



# Elementary Program



Ages: 5 to 13 Years



Our elementary school program provides instruction and therapy to students ages five through thirteen, who have a wide range of cognitive and physical disabilities. This special education program integrates academics, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy into a typical school day. Teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, therapists, and a social worker work hand-in-hand to optimize our students' educational and therapeutic experience.

Each class has a collaborative team that includes; a teacher and paraprofessionals. Some students may require additional assistance from a one-to-one aide or personal nurse, which is supported and occasionally provided by the sending school district. Our nurses and social worker are an integral part of the school. They assist students and their families with the many medical and social services they need.

Our curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Sensory integration activities, music, pre-vocational activities, family life



and character education are all part of our curriculum.

Some of the enrichment activities our students have the opportunity to participate in include; Special Olympics, Clifton Library trips, assemblies, class fieldtrips, traveling farm, annual field day, local parades, and various community outings.



# High School Program



Ages: 13 to 21 Years



Our high school offers educational and therapeutic programs for multiply-challenged young adults. We try to model a general education high school setting experience by presenting students their academic instruction following a rotating schedule and promoting that every student be as independent as possible.

Students receive academic instruction in mathematics, ELA, science, history, physical education, art, music, pre-vocational skills, and functional activities for daily living. Instruction is individually focused on each student achieving high school curriculum goals through the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The high school is also an approved site for the administration of state standardized testing.

The staff consists of talented teachers, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, instructional aides, nurses, and a social worker. They all share a strong sense of caring for our students in a disciplined, achievement-orientated environment. The entire staff collaborates to continuously challenge our students to achieve their person best.

Our Augmentative Communication Lab evaluates the technological needs of all our students and provides accessible means for each student to have a

voice as well as, access to various types of technology and equipment. These recommendations are then used in the classroom to enhance our student's written and verbal communication skills to reinforce their independence.

We also offer a Life Skills Program that is community-based instruction where students familiarize themselves to various real-life skills. These skills learned are initially introduced in their classrooms and therapy sessions, and then carried over for generalization as they venture into the school's surrounding community.

For example, students can visit local shops, grocery stores, laundromats, salons, restaurants, and parks. They also learn how to take public transportation when possible and are introduced to Access Link. Recently, we have restarted our Transition/Career Exploration program where students have the opportunity to volunteer at various work sites to learn on-the job skills. Some sites include a pizzeria, the library, and Walgreens.

Additionally, a classroom has been set up as a studio apartment where functional life skills such as bed making, vacuuming, light cooking, laundry, and basic household skills can be applied and practiced.



# Adult Training Center



Ages: 21 & Over



Our Adult Training Center Program serves individuals with developmental delays and medical needs ages 21 and over who have graduated from high schools. The program incorporates independent living skills and socialization with work skills for employment.

The Adult Program partially funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Medicaid, provides a day program which includes work activities, nursing care, social services, physical, occupational, and speech therapies, sensory integration, employment and volunteer opportunities, and continuing adult education programs.

The Adult Center also assists our participants to grow emotionally and functionally by providing specialized equipment, technology, and transportation. As well as, all vehicle maintenance, supplies, and materials to carry out the activities provided.





Our goal is to focus on the abilities of the adult participants to maximize independent functioning in their daily lives through enhanced communication and activities designed to promote growth.

We can't do this alone. That is why we are asking for your financial support to help advance the independence and enrich the lives of our adults. To-

gether, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those who need our support most.

If you would like to make a donation to NJEDDA'S Adult Center, mail checks to North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency at 1481 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011. You can also go to [www.njedda.org](http://www.njedda.org) and click the donation button.





# Therapeutic Services



At our facility, we pride ourselves on offering a unique and comprehensive array of therapy services. These services are specifically designed to enhance individuals' independence and well-being, setting us apart from other providers. Our services include:

## Assistive Technology Support:

We use assistive technology to maximize inclusion and equity for individuals with complex needs. Assistive technology encompasses a variety of tools and devices designed to facilitate individuals' interaction and functioning in their environment. From computers to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices and power wheelchairs, our team collaborates to implement innovative solutions tailored to each individual's needs. The assistive technology used throughout our agency enhances individual's social and emotional experiences and cognitive, communicative, and academic performance.

## Physical Therapy:

Our highly skilled and experienced physical therapists are dedicated to working with students and adults to optimize mobility. Through a combination of exercises, sensory activities, ambulation training, and adaptive equipment, we strive to empower individuals to achieve their highest independent physical potential. In addition, our physical therapists are adept at obtaining adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs, bath chairs, walkers, gait trainers, and adaptive bicycles.



## Occupational Therapy:

Focusing on fine motor skills, motor planning, sensory activities, and activities of daily living (ADL), our occupational therapists assist clients in acquiring and honing functional skills essential for independence. Our occupational therapists strive to enhance an individual's self-care, academic and vocational abilities, and recreational or leisure activities. Our team specializes in self-feeding, dressing, hygiene, sensory integration, self-regulation, and vision/perception and is dedicated to fostering growth and autonomy in every individual.

## Speech and Language Therapy:

Communication is critical to meaningful interaction and relationship building. Our speech and language pathologists are dedicated to improving individuals' communication, social, academic, and feeding skills. Hearing screenings are conducted every year. Utilizing a variety of methods, including Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems and sign language, we create tailored strategies to support each individual's unique needs. Under the care of an SLP, our clients learn digital competencies that

enhance their independence.

By offering a holistic approach that integrates these therapy services, we strive to empower individuals to thrive and succeed in their daily lives.



# Professional Services





# Family & Community



Our agency's mission is to bring our families, our children and adults, and staff together to celebrate and support each other. We welcome parents and families to visit us during the program day so that they can understand our dynamic educational and therapeutic techniques. Also, parents attend Individualized Educational Plan (I.E.P.) and Individualized Service Plan (I.S.P.) meetings and participate in the planning for their loved ones.





This year in all three of our facilities, our families and students were able to enjoy a variety of events and activities. Some of the activities our families were able to participate in were: concerts, Paint & Sips, birthday and holiday parties, Family Fun days, and graduations.

We send out a special thank you to the United Parcel Services (UPS) for the holiday gifts to our students and to the Holiday Express Band and performers for creating wonderful memories for our special students and adults by bringing their concert to all three of our locations. Thank you, parents, guardians, and siblings, for sharing these events with us. You continue to inspire us to work towards higher levels of success.





# Chairperson's Message



2025

To The Families,  
Teachers and Friends,

Let me start by saying what an honor it has been serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated members. Their diversities of expertise make our meetings fruitful and enjoyable. The many hours we spend together show just how dedicated they are.

This year we accomplished many things to make our school look outstanding for our open houses, and beneficial to our students and staff. Let me list some of the upgrades we did this year. We installed safety glass coverings to our windows to enhance security. We upgraded exit signs for more visibility and safety for both schools. We had the parking lots repaved and rebuilt the exterior street sign. We also installed a new playground for the enjoyment of our elementary school students.

On the inside we had the Life Skills Apartment completely redone with a new kitchen area. The students sell baked goods and learn life skills to help them become as independent as possible. We upgraded the reception area and new cubicles for the staff.

This year the elementary school went from 97 to 109 students.

The school runs smoothly due to our Executive Director Rachael Herrington and her staff, along with our teachers, aids, therapists, nurses and our maintenance workers. We couldn't ask for more dedicated staff.



Ronald Subrizi and Rachel Herrington with  
Malcolm J. McPherson Jr. Past Grand Exalted Ruler.

I want to thank the Passaic County Elks Special Children's Committee, under the guidance of Arthur Andreano for providing additional funds for the benefit of our students. They do an outstanding job. Good luck to Marge Theobald on her upcoming year as president.

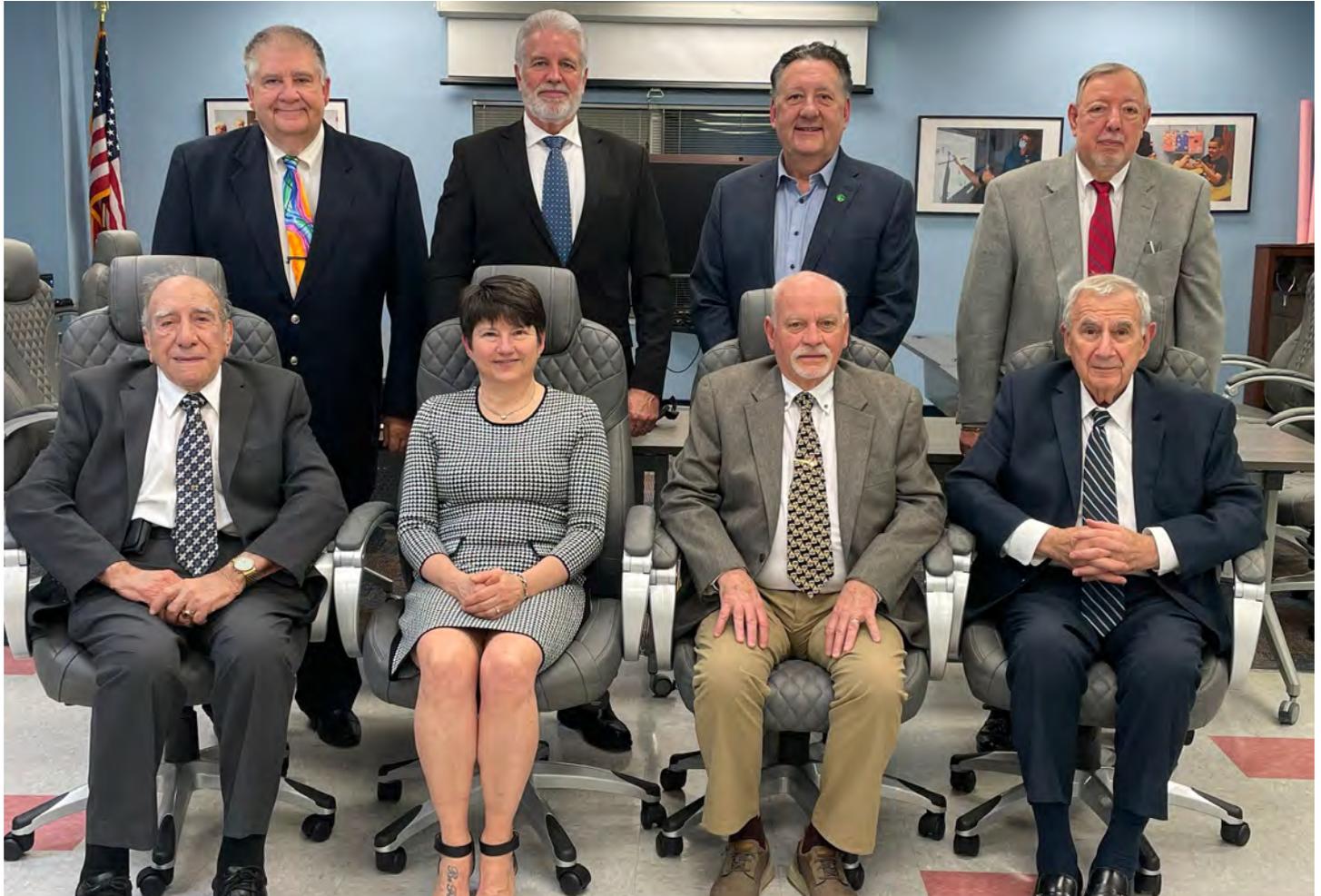
When you walk through the corridors you see nothing but smiles on the staff and students' faces. This is more than a school, it is a family. Good luck to Guy Schweizer as our incoming Chairman of the Board. I know he will continue to work with all the Trustees to bring more great things to NJEDDA.

Most importantly, God Bless our special children.

**Ronald Subrizi,**  
Chairman, 2024-2025  
Board of Trustees



# Board of Trustees



Back Row: Richard Tabachuk, Guy Schweizer, Anthony J. De Nova, Nicholas Trentacoste. Front Row: John V. Galletta, Diane Ackerman, Ronald Subrizi, Anthony Fiorello. Not Pictured: Ernest P. Canali, Marc-Allyn Gloriande, Gary Margiotta, Mary Anne O'Brien, John M. Szczomak, Frank Tiernan, Lisa Szegedi.

## OFFICERS

Ronald Subrizi .....Chairman  
 Guy Schweizer.....First Vice-Chairman  
 Diane Ackerman .....Second Vice-Chairman  
 Anthony Fiorello..... Treasurer  
 Ernest P. Canali.....Secretary

## TRUSTEES

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Anthony J. De Nova   | Lisa Szegedi                                    |
| John V. Galletta     | Nicholas Trentacoste                            |
| Marc-Allyn Gloriande | Richard Tabachuk                                |
| Gary Margiotta       | Frank Tiernan                                   |
| Mary Anne O'Brien    | John M. Szczomak<br><i>Financial Consultant</i> |



# Passaic County Elks Special Children's President's **Message**



2025

Dear Friends of the Passaic County Elks Special Children's Committee,

It has truly been both my honor and a pleasure to have served as President of the Passaic County Elks Special Children's Committee during the 2024 – 2025 year.

Our Special Children's Committee is dedicated to raising funds throughout the year which are then used to support the programs and services at NJEDDA.

One of the Special Children's Committee main missions is the successful performance of the Super 50/50 raffles and the coordination that takes place between the five lodges (Elmwood Park-Paterson #60, Clifton-Garfield #1569, Pompton Lakes #1895, Passaic Valey # 2111 and Wayne #2181) that share in running this Super 50/50 raffle. Of the 6 bi-monthly raffles held this year our Lodges have succeeded in raising and increasing the dollar amount with each successive drawing. This has resulted in more money for both NJEDDA and the winning ticket holders.

Some other successful fund-raising events include the raffles of handmade quilts donated by our Secretary, Beth Toole and the Dine to Donate held at Thatcher McGhee's of Pompton Lakes which is a four-day event held in October and April. I thank Gene Schnaidt for planning these events.



I would like to congratulate our new members Kathy Andreano and Linda D'Anton of Elmwood Park-Paterson #60 and Jamie England of Hackensack #658 on joining this important Elks committee.

To all the Officers and Members of our Special Children's Committee, I Thank You for your excellent teamwork and commitment in assuring another successful year at NJEDDA, without your commitment our committee would not succeed.

Also Thank You NJEDDA Director, Rachel Herrington, for your tireless commitment and support to our Special Children's Committee.

Lastly, A special thanks to Vivian Bender for all your help keeping everything organized and coordinated during the past year.

Arthur N. Andreano Sr.  
President 2024-2025  
Passaic County Elks  
Special Children's Committee



# Committee Members



Back Row Left: Jamie England, Alice Filippelli, Kathy Andreano, Gloria Hardy, Mary Beth Clark, Diane D’Anton. Front Row Left: Beth Toole, Joanne T. Stolarz, Donna Tutuian, Arthur Andreano, Gene Schnaidt, Kenneth Low. Not Pictured: Ronald F. Doncoes, Jayne McLaughlin, Marge Theobald, Maureen Whalen.

## OFFICERS

Arthur Andreano ..... President  
 Marge Theobald ..... First Vice President  
 Joanne T. Stolarz ..... Second Vice President  
 Donna A. Tutuian ..... Third Vice President  
 Gene Schnaidt ..... Fourth Vice President  
 Kenneth Low ..... Treasurer  
 Beth Toole ..... Secretary

## MEMBERS

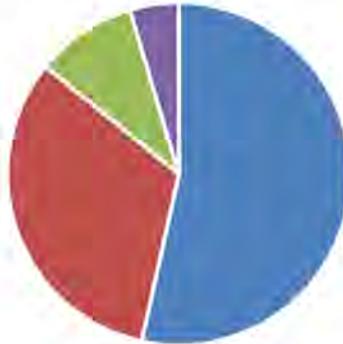
Kathy Andreano  
 Mary Beth Clark  
 Linda D’Anton  
 Ronald F. Doncoes  
 Jamie England  
 Alice M. Filippelli  
 Gloria Hardy  
 Jayne McLaughlin  
 Maureen Whalen



# Special Activities



**NORTH JERSEY ELKS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AGENCY  
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT BY PROGRAM  
AT JUNE 30, 2024**



■ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ■ HIGH SCHOOL ■ ADULT MEDICAL DAY CARE ■ BPOE SPECIAL EVENTS, DONATIONS & FUNDRAISERS

|  |           |                          |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOL                            | \$        | 9,635,000                |
| HIGH SCHOOL                                  | \$        | 5,824,000                |
| ADULT MEDICAL DAY CARE                       | \$        | 1,724,000                |
| BPOE SPECIAL EVENTS, DONATIONS & FUNDRAISERS | \$        | 831,000                  |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                         | <b>\$</b> | <b><u>18,014,000</u></b> |

**We would like to extend our gratitude to all who have graciously supported our programs and endeavors to enrich the lives of our students and Adult consumers.**

## Would You Like to Help NJEDDA?

Every dollar donated to NJEDDA provides educational and therapeutic services or helps us purchase equipment for our special needs children and adults.

Some gifts may bring the simple joy of story telling by purchasing books. Other donations or endowments can be made to help fund specific items, including therapeutic items, such as specialized chairs or computers, to something larger, such as an expansion to one of our facilities.

There are many needs at NJEDDA and that list evolves annually. Would you like to help? To find out more and discuss ways you can help, call the Director's office at 973-772-2600. Click the donations link on our website: [www.njedda.org](http://www.njedda.org).

We also participate in the CARS Donation Program. If you have a car, van, boat, or RV that you feel no longer is worth fixing, you can donate it by calling 877-537-5277 or visit [cardonatingiseasy.org](http://cardonatingiseasy.org).



# Thank you Contributors & Corporate Sponsors

Also special thanks to the many supporters for who space does not permit us to list individually.



The North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency gratefully acknowledges the very generous contributions of the following individuals, corporations, foundations and donors. Also special thanks to the many supporters for who space does not permit us to list individually. We appreciate everyone's efforts to improve the quality of life for our special children and adult clients.

AGL Welding Supply, Fenelon Family  
 Allen, Willie Mae & Family  
 American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.,  
 Anstadt, Ms. Barbara, St. John's Knitters' Club  
 Bach, Mr. Michael, UPS Manager  
 Bimbo Bakeries, Totowa, Walter Syracuse  
 Board of Trustees' Officers & Members (NJEDDA)  
 Brawer, Mr. Scott (Lillian & Jerome Brawer Memorial Foundation, NY, NY)  
 Canali, Ernest P. & Family  
 Canali, Ernie V. & Dottie  
 Capra, Mr./Mrs. Wally & Stacy  
 Charitable Adult Rides & Services Inc.  
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 Comprehensive Winter Services &  
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 Cusack, Ms. Leigh  
 Daisy's Bakery Inc., Clifton (Jose and Karina)  
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 Donato, Mr. Thomas V. (Mutual of America)  
 Dunleavy, Ms. Sue Anne  
 Elmwood Park/Paterson Elks Lodge #60  
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 Gloriande, Mr./Mrs. Marc-Allyn & Pat  
 Hackensack Elks Lodge #658  
 Hawrylko, Tom – Tom-A-Hawk Promotions  
 Herrington, Mr./Mrs. Rachel & Robert J.  
 Holiday Express Entertainers, Mr. Tim McLoone  
 Horel, Ms. Christine  
 Knights of Columbus, Clifton, Mr. John Christiaens  
 Leong, Mr./Mrs. Judith & John  
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 Mills, Mrs. Evelyn & Family  
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 New Jersey State Elks Association, Charities, Inc.  
 Nicastro, Mr./Mrs. Susan & Toby  
 North District Past District Deputies, NJ - Elks  
 Northeast District Special Children's Com.  
 Northeast Past District Deputies, NJ - Elks  
 Northeast District Special Children's Committee  
 North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Staffs:  
 (Elementary, High School & Adult Training Center)  
 Park Ridge Elks #2234  
 Past District Deputies, Northeast  
 Passaic County Elks Special Children's Com. Inc.  
 Passaic Valley Elks Lodge #2111  
 Passaic Valley Elks #2111 Past Exalted Rulers' Assoc.

Plunkett, Ms. Robyn L.  
 Pompton Lakes Elks Lodge #1895  
 Pompton Lakes Past Exalted Rulers' Assoc.  
 PSE&G Power of Giving Campaign  
 Reda, Mr. Richard & Family  
 Rothe, Mr./Mrs. Maryanne & Bob  
 Rutherford Elks Lodge #547 (Spec. Children Com.)  
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 ShopRite, Brookdale, Bloomfield, Greenstein Family  
 ShopRite, Passaic, Guillermo Garcia, Manager  
 Sideout Sports Volleyball Club (Daniel Altamar)  
 Sitts, Alexander  
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Clifton  
 Stephanie's Italian Restaurant, W. Caldwell,  
 The Lombardo Family  
 Stolarz, Joanne T., Clifton Elks #1569  
 Szczomak, Mr./Mrs. John M. & Jody  
 Tabachuk, Mr./Mrs. Richard & Linda  
 Theobald, Marge & Whalen, Maureen  
 Toole, Beth, Special Children's Com.  
 UK Online Giving Foundation  
 United Givers Plan of Packanack Lake, Inc., Wayne  
 United Parcel Service (UPS) Saddle Brook, NJ  
 United Parcel Service Givers United Way Campaign  
 United Way of Bergen  
 United Way of Essex and West Hudson  
 United Way of Morris County  
 United Way of Passaic County  
 United Way of Tri-State  
 United Way – UPS Pledge  
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 Weiss, Mr./Mrs. John F. & Susan  
 Westwood Elks #1562

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 Tarpey Group, Brian Tarpey  
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 United Parcel Service Corporate

## IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Henry "Hank" Behring, Pompton Lakes Elks #1895  
 Tyler Kirwin, HS Student, Class of 2022  
 Aram Krichian, Parent of ATC Client  
 Dr. Roger E. Lope, Parent of ATC Client  
 Kathleen "Kathy" Payne, Wayne Elks #2181  
 Nubia Magdalena Perez, Parent, Business Office Staff  
 Richard W. Ritner, Jr.  
 Daniela Runtak, HS Student, Class of 2023  
 Marylou Trentacoste, Very Special Friend