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FRA Cares



FAMILY RESOURCE ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

FRA SURPRISES MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER PROJECT SEARCH INTERNS

SURPRISE! Family Resource Associates (FRA) recently made impromptu home visits to all seven of this year's Monmouth Medical Center Project SEARCH Interns to celebrate their many accomplishments during this academic school year.

The surprise visits were facilitated by Nancy Phalanukorn, Executive Director of FRA; Phillip Duck, Director of EmployAbility at FRA; Tyler Swiggart, Job Coach at FRA, Jessica Hamburg, Project SEARCH Instructor at FRA, and Julia Siersema, Project SEARCH Skills Trainer at FRA. The FRA team visited the homes of Molly Hebert, Gabe Aquino, Jim Peters, Janet Wells, Kate Danish, Angel Ramos Jr. and Robert Scott.

"It was a joy to be a part of the celebration, acknowledging each intern for all their commitment and accomplishments as they now prepare for employment in the community," said Phalanukorn. "Each intern grew tremendously and it gives us great pride to have been part of that growth."

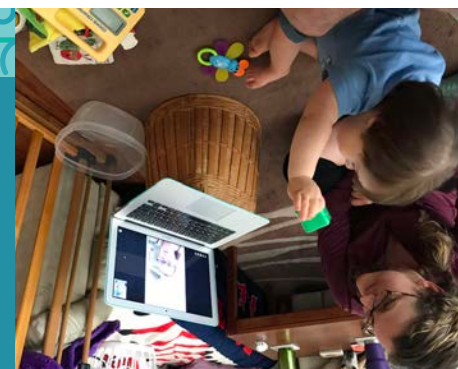
The interns were just as excited to see the FRA team. During his surprise visit, Angel Ramos Jr. said, "I'm nervous and excited to see you all here... I'm really touched by it." Another intern's mom expressed how the program has made a difference in her daughter Molly's overall growth as a person and she enjoys how she has become an independent thinker.

Project SEARCH is a 10-month internship program for people with disAbilities in their

last year of school through early adulthood. It is targeted to those whose goal is competitive employment. The program takes place at Monmouth Medical Center where total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process, as well as the acquisition of employAbility and marketable work skills. Interns participate in three unpaid internships to explore a variety of career paths.

"The goal of Project SEARCH is competitive employment for each intern utilizing the skills they learned during the program," said Phillip Duck, FRA's Director of EmployAbility, which encompasses the Monmouth Medical Center Project SEARCH program. "The skills acquired through Project SEARCH can be transferred to many different workplace settings." If you would like to learn more about how to hire a Project SEARCH graduate, please email pduck@frainc.org.

To learn more about Project SEARCH, visit projectsearch.us.



Pictured: Luke, 22 months, telehealth with FRA Physical Therapist Renee Schneider.



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Our Mission

Family Resource Associates (FRA) helps children, adolescents and people of all ages with disAbilities to reach their fullest potential. FRA connects individuals to independence through specialized therapies and advanced technology. Acknowledging the powerful influence of the family, we remain committed to them by offering both support and education.



DONATE TODAY!

Help us create possAbilities for people with disAbilities.

frainc.org/donatenow



ED Summer Note *By Nancy Phalanukorn, Executive Director*

The months have flown by and summer arrives with everyone still responding to COVID-19. Like all else, FRA's direct contact services closed on March 17. The creative and responsive FRA staff adapted by implementing remote services within five days. Some of the children, parents and adults are thriving in this computer-linked world, more than we realized they could manage. Adult students have shown how computer savvy they are by completing online tasks independently. Parents of infants and toddlers have learned how best to help their child succeed with the guidance of the interventionist team supporting them with these new remote activities. It has also been exciting for the staff to learn a new style. However, it is clear remote learning is not for all. Both our infant and adult services dropped by 52% enrollment and our employment services dropped by a stunning 82%. The loss in skills and abilities for these people will continue for many months, as will the loss in our revenue. We are busy planning to safely restart direct contact services and how to work more efficiently with less resources. Much is needed including temporary structural changes in order to keep everyone safe and well. These challenges will not deter our efforts to continue to meet our mission and to help those we care about so deeply. We miss seeing all of our FRA family members and know that the future will be brighter again!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Stephen Sabo
CEO & Founder of Simple Society
FRA Board Member

Steve lives in Lincroft with his wife Jaclyn and son Nathaniel. Steve joined FRA's 2019 Golf Committee after attending the outing in 2018. He later joined the FRA Board in December 2019 and also serves on FRA's Development & Marketing Committee.

What aspect of your work are you most passionate about?

"Connecting people is really what I've done naturally. It's become more and more my job to put things together and be a facilitator of new and creative ideas to generate new business for people."

Given the variety of volunteering opportunities with nonprofits in our community, why FRA?

"Dave Vadon, an FRA parent, invited me to the golf outing in 2018. I initially felt connected to FRA from Dave and seeing his passion come from it. My wife Jaclyn is also a school psychologist in a private school that serves individuals >>

FRA's 39th Annual Golf Classic is ON! - Sponsorships Available

Join us on July 13 at Navesink Country Club in Middletown! Come out and enjoy an afternoon on Navesink Country Club's beautiful golf course! We are excited to be the first outing of the season! Check-in starts at 10:30am. Event features include: Lunch burger bar, shotgun start, dinner reception and Live Auction & 50/50 raffle. To learn more or to register online, visit frainc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ PROGRAMS

with emotional and behavioral disAbilities. It's a population that she's passionate about."

How do the mission and values of FRA align with you?

"I have family members and friends that have children with disAbilities. It was kind of a natural fit. I knew an FRA parent, met an FRA Board member and some staff. I met so many great people at FRA that it drew me in."



Congrats to our EmployAbility Staff on their ACRE Certification!

Pictured: Imelda Medel, Janice Palmadesso, Tyler Swiggart, Shacana Smith, Kim Keune and Sam Kiningham (not pictured).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Rose Dowling, Prevocational Student

FRA student spreads positivity by giving back to staff that helped her through the pandemic.

Rose has been learning online since March. Living on her own and working at Dollar Tree, Rose inspires others every day by making small canvases and painted rocks with inspirational quotes that she gave to FRA teachers.

"I made these inspirational quotes for the FRA staff because I am grateful for all they have done for me during quarantine," said Rose. "I don't know how I would fill up the extra time in my day if it wasn't for the online classes at FRA. I enjoy keeping busy and having a chance to see my teachers and friends."



PRESS ROOM

PossAbilities during a Pandemic

FRA helps individuals with developmental or acquired disAbilities stay connected through remote learning and telehealth

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