



Family Resource Associates, Inc.
210 Newman Springs Road East
Red Bank, NJ 07701

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FAMILY RESOURCE ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

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Real World Training Makes a Difference



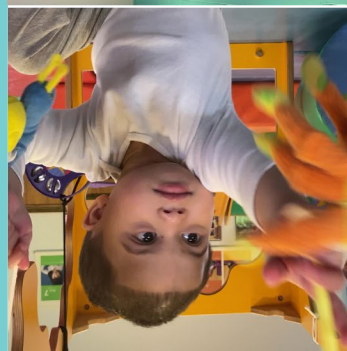
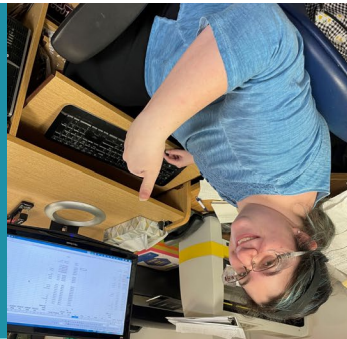
There is an old axiom that through hard work and dedication anything is possible. Very few exhibit this truism more clearly than Pam. Her laser-sharp focus and unflagging work ethic are apparent from the moment you encounter her. A recent graduate of Project SEARCH at Monmouth Medical Center (MMC) in Long Branch, Pam spent ten months in the program honing her transferable work skills, developing the tools to deal with the myriad of challenges found in a workplace, and forging new relationships with the hospital's staff. She was hired by MMC after graduation and now works part time in Food Services. Her tasks include fulfilling patient menu orders, delivering food trays, dishwashing, and much more.

Since its inception in 1996, Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to a large and continuously expanding international network of sites. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disAbilities. Pam was one of a cohort of six interns at MMC that completed the program in June and are either currently working or exploring employment opportunities with the support of the team at Family Resource Associates (FRA).

Staffed with an instructor, skills trainer, peer mentor, job developer, and program coordinator from FRA, the Project SEARCH program at MMC has resulted in more than twenty interns securing competitive, integrated employment in a variety of community businesses since 2019. The program takes place fully 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 career paths over the course of the ten months. Pam's success both during and after the program is a testament to her hard work and dedication, as well as the efficacy of the Project SEARCH model. More than 70% of graduates across the program's 600+ sites secure meaningful work either at the host business or in other community enterprises.

Please join us in congratulating Pam on her new job!!

To learn more about the program or how you can support its mission, contact Phillip Duck, Director of EmployAbility with FRA, at pduck@frainc.org.



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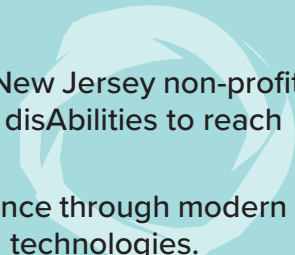
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OUR MISSION

Family Resource Associates (FRA) is a New Jersey non-profit agency helping people of all ages with disabilities to reach their fullest potential.

FRA connects individuals to independence through modern therapies, employability and advanced technologies.



DONATE TODAY!

Help us create possibilities for people with disabilities.
frainc.org/donatenow



Mark your calendars now for Giving Tuesday, 11/29/22



ED NOTE *By Nancy Phalanukorn, Executive Director*

Meeting the summer heat with cool success has brought renewed energy to FRA. Our Golf Classic was held on a very hot day with 100 golfers enjoying the summer sun at Navesink Golf and Country Club. Nearly a cool \$100,000 was raised! There are new staff members, new parents and infants, new adult students and regrowth of our programs. Seven new interns will begin their employment training at our joint Monmouth Medical Center Project SEARCH. The team attended the week-long Project SEARCH National Convention in Baltimore, giving two well-received presentations. Phillip Duck, Program Director and Michael Doherty, Peer Mentor made a splash with the national leaders of Project SEARCH as they discussed Michael's unique role on the team after graduating as an intern. Now Michael and Jarred McInnes, who works in Materials Management at Monmouth Medical Center, were recognized by the Monmouth County Workforce Development Council as exemplary employees. How cool is that!

While DDD continues to keep us masked, we have made it through the worst and remain hopeful that this may be the final phase of Covid. Students have been amazingly mask-compliant despite the heat and have managed to enjoy our backyard in Red Bank to get cool. We appreciate the many donors who made this possible. Gardens here and in Brick are flourishing too as the instructors now encourage students to harvest some vegetables. The creativity and dedication of our staff remains inspirational and a joy as we watch the growth and changes in all those they serve!

Growing in many ways, FRA welcomes our new Board members: Nikki Berzinskis and Juliet Gossett, who are long time members of the caring community! We know they will help assure the future of FRA as they join our exemplary Board in strengthening our foundation. FRA is truly blessed by the guidance, work and commitment of our full Board of Trustees as they lead FRA into our 44th year of making a difference to the general community and "Creating Possibilities for People with disabilities"

Join us and renew your contribution and your commitment to making a difference in your community. YOU are needed to sustain the growth of our people and programs. Thank you for being a cool donor!

Exploring Careers in Adult Class

At the start of FRA's adult education spring semester, the Exploring Careers in Agriculture classes in both Red Bank and Brick planted strawberries, carrots, onions, tomatoes, peppers, corn, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower, and various flowers. At the beginning of the summer semester our students noticed that some critter was eating their hard work! So, the class built an enclosure in hopes that the local wildlife will stop eating their crops. Only time will tell!



EARLY INTERVENTION



*By Sue Levine, MA, CSW
Early Intervention Program*

For children between the ages of birth and 3 who have developmental challenges, Early Intervention services at FRA provide critical support and education to both the children and their families. Because our therapists (physical, speech and occupational therapists) and special educators provide services wherever the family spends time, the nicer weather of summer and early fall provides a unique opportunity to go into the community. The beach, the playground and even the food store provide countless learning opportunities for therapists to model how to direct a child's social skills, direction following, expressive communication to label, request and comment on the world around them.

In the home environment, physical and occupational therapists use the couch, chairs, stairways and even the crib to practice walking, crawling and climbing. On the playground, those skills are put into practice in a meaningful way as children learn to negotiate novel surroundings including stepping over obstacles, using ladders, and walking up ramps. Parents often appreciate the support when going with the family to settings out of the home, as such excursions can be challenging when a child learns differently. Showing parents how to turn every setting into an opportunity for learning can help parents feel empowered. Teaching families is the essence of early intervention.



ADULT PROGRAM



*By Alexis Spektor, M. Ed
Adult Program Director*

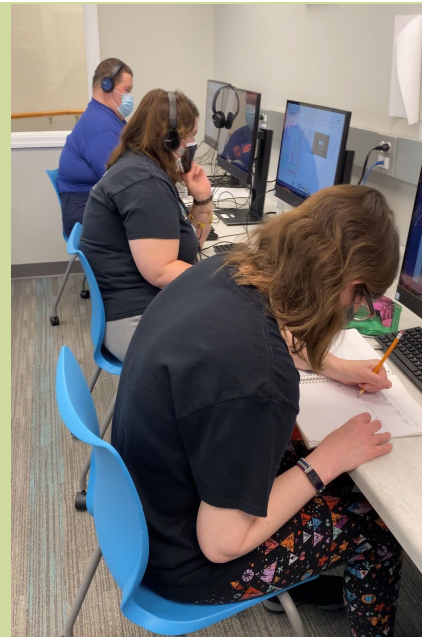


This fall brings back a return in numbers not seen in our FRA Adult Classes since before the pandemic. "As we become accustomed to operating with COVID, people are more and more eager to come back in person," says Alexis. "Finally, we are getting back to normal."

On the other hand, what is not normal for many FRA families, is that other programs across the counties of Monmouth and Ocean have closed or are not operating at full capacity, and this has created a supply and demand issue. Families are desperate to secure their loved one a spot at FRA and as a result, registration has become more and more time sensitive. "In the past it would have taken weeks for registration to trickle in, and now we are almost at full capacity within a few days," states Alexa DellaMonica, Registration Coordinator at FRA.

"FRA has been blessed to retain most of the Adult Program staff throughout the pandemic. This has been an advantage for the Adult Program. I, for one, cannot be more grateful for the staff that we have, and I know the students are happy to come back to see familiar faces they trust leading the classroom!" explained Alexis.

For more information on the Adult Classes being offered or to join our team, check out our website at: www.frainc.org.



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