



PLANINJ

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey



Lifetime Advocacy for People with Differing Abilities

Dear friends of **PLANINJ**,


Earlier this year, I learned of an individual who had been sleeping upright in his recliner chair — because he did not own a bed. With no living relatives, “Nicolas” lived in an apartment and was well-liked as an employee in the maintenance department of a government office. He also lived with an undiagnosed developmental disability.

When he did not come to work for several days, his supervisor became concerned and requested a wellness visit be made to his home by adult protective services. He was discovered to be quite ill with a serious infection. Unfortunately, Nicolas did not realize how ill he was and did not seek medical attention because he was quite fearful of going to the hospital for treatment.

After two months of intensive, in-hospital medical care, we were asked to become Nicolas’ temporary Guardian, as he needed help to understand and manage his complex needs. Although he had earned a modest income, his funds were largely depleted because he had been taken financial advantage of by others. Today, Nicolas still needs daily medical care.

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PLANINJ helps families of people with disabilities in New Jersey answer the question:

“Who will care for my loved one when I’m gone?”

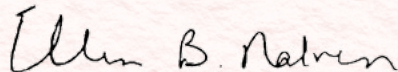
With his agreement, **PLAN | NJ** has since been appointed Nicolas’ permanent Guardian and we actively promote his choices and decision making as his future unfolds now that his health issues are under control. We ensure his bills are paid and basic needs are provided for; we visit him regularly and support him to understand his complex needs and reconnect with his interests, hopes and dreams. We ensure those around him strongly consider his rights and preferences where his health and well-being are concerned. Nicolas’ comprehensive services are provided through our Family Support program, which protects individuals in need, thanks to contributions from foundations and individuals like you.

In New Jersey, 20% of all adults live with a mental health challenge, an intellectual, developmental or physical disability, or a combination of several. This year, 742 people benefitted from our legal, fiduciary, care coordination and life planning consultation services.

Please help provide more individuals who have disabilities with the dignity, protection and advocacy they deserve. You may make an online donation to **PLAN | NJ** at www.plannj.org/donate. To make a donation by check, watch for this annual appeal in your mailbox, complete the donation form included, and return it in its envelope with a check made payable to **PLAN | NJ**.

Thank you for considering a contribution to **PLAN | NJ** to support more people like Nicolas. Should you have any questions, please call, email or visit our website today.

Sincerely,



Ellen Ball Nalven, M. Ed.
Executive Director