



# PLANINJ

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey

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Lifetime Advocacy for People with Disabilities

Dear PLANINJ supporter,

The thought of an uncertain future—when you can no longer care for your child with a disability—is a constant, heavy weight that many parents share. You might focus on long-term planning but underestimate the risk of an unexpected crisis. And it is exactly during a sudden medical emergency that already having a plan in place for your child’s current and future life will become a lifeline for their well-being.

This scenario became reality for Don, an older parent living alone with his adult son with disabilities. Their world was upended when Don had a fall and was rushed to the hospital. Although his son David was capable of being alone, he was suddenly without support. Until that moment, his father handled everything: groceries, appointments, and access to money. In an instant, David became isolated and vulnerable.

Thankfully, Don had already connected with PLANINJ staff around longer-term planning. From his hospital bed, Don reached out to PLANINJ, and a social service coordinator’s

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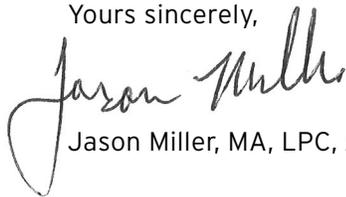
response was immediate: that same afternoon, she was at David's door with groceries. The Service Coordinator was David's anchor, providing transport and comfort during medical appointments until his new supports were finalized. She ensured David had immediate financial access and taught him vital new independence skills, like online grocery ordering.

Tapping into her knowledge of David's needs, she collaborated with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to quickly revise his budget. New services were added: she arranged dedicated transportation for him to continue attending his day program and established credits with a reputable car service so that he could still attend crucial appointments on his own. A Direct Support Professional was brought in two days a week to handle other essential shopping, cooking, and errands. This third-party support meant that Don was able to focus on his own health and recovery, knowing his son was no longer alone.

In the face of this emergency, David demonstrated incredible resilience and growth, learning to advocate for himself. For Don, the immediate, compassionate, and decisive action of **PLAN|NJ** staff was a profound relief, transforming a chaotic crisis into steady, relevant and unwavering support for David as he navigated this challenging time.

During this giving season, I urge you to consider making an online donation to **PLAN|NJ** at [www.plannj.org/donate](http://www.plannj.org/donate). Your generous contribution will allow us to expand our reach and offer the same kind of support to other families like Don and David who may suddenly be incapacitated and unable to coordinate their loved one's care and interests. Should you prefer to mail a check, please make it payable to "PLAN|NJ" and mail it to PLAN|NJ, PO Box 706, Green Brook, NJ 08812. Please call or email us with any questions or visit our website today.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Miller, MA, LPC, *Executive Director*

