

ON THE HORIZON

Alternatives Embarks on New Initiatives

Alternatives kicked off a “new dawn” of projects and initiatives, with the creation of a 5-year Strategic Plan. We are thrilled about the future, and we have exciting plans for growth and expansion, all aimed at benefiting our clients and those we hope to serve in the coming months and years.

We are developing four new group homes in Somerset County, which are expected to open within the next two years. These homes will cater to the increased medical needs of our current and future clients.

A key aspect of our plan is to maintain focus on continually improving the quality of services provided at Alternatives. This translates to thoughtful planning in the areas of personal choice and community involvement for our clients, as well as retaining our dedicated staff, who through daily efforts, keep the focus on our number one priority, the best interests of our clients.

As we mindfully move forward, we would also like to enhance our communication and involvement with you, our partners. We value your input and contributions, and we look forward to many years of open dialogue and engagement.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Alternatives family had a full and eventful year. We were delighted to resume the in-person events that bring connection and joy to our clients, families, and staff. It was wonderful to see the many smiling faces at this year's Holiday Awards Dinner and Spring Dance. The Agency Luau, held at Forest Lodge, yielded an incredible turnout, with clients and staff alike enjoying great food and festivities, all while creating warm and lasting memories. These gatherings are more than just recreational events; they are the heartbeat of the Alternatives community and food for our souls.

We are proud to share that Alternatives is experiencing growth once again. The opening of a new group home, located in South Bound Brook, was another milestone for the agency. Additionally, our Support Coordination services have expanded into Sussex County, and we are planning to extend into Middlesex County. This expansion will allow us to reach and support even more individuals and families who benefit from community services.

Our team has been diligently working on our new 5-year Strategic Plan, which will guide our future efforts and initiatives. Key priorities include Financial Strength, Quality of Services, and the Quality and Strength of our Workforce. This plan reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and the valuable input and effort from our staff, clients, and other stakeholders.

As we look ahead to what is next on the horizon, we hope for your continued support and engagement. I am filled with excitement and optimism for the future. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant community and for your unwavering commitment to the Alternatives Mission. Together, we can achieve great things and continue to positively impact the lives of those we serve.

With gratitude,



Nancy Good



LIKE A TRUE STAR, MICHAEL SLINSKI IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Many members of the Alternatives family joined a room full of friends of the disability community, as we recognized Michael as one of the New Jersey Association of Community Providers 2024 Star Award recipients!

Michael's achievements and accomplishments over the past year made him a natural choice for this prestigious honor. Working toward independence has always been a priority for Michael, and we admire his determination to challenge himself to reach new heights.



ALTERNATIVES = COMMUNITY



Alternatives celebrated the Abilities in Motion II day program's one year anniversary with an Open House/Ribbon Cutting event in April 2024.

The event was attended by members of the Toms River Council, the Downtown Toms River Business Improvement District, Ocean County Business Development & Tourism, the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary of Toms River, and several family members and friends.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the passionate actions of its members."

- Coretta Scott King



BY THE NUMBERS



SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL/ DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD)

 **93 PEOPLE RESIDING IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS**

 **60 PEOPLE SERVED BY 3 DAY PROGRAMS**

 **136 PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH SUPPORT COORDINATION**



SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR HOUSING NEEDS

59

People receive clinical case management services through Community Support Services

9

People live in 3 Permanent Housing Programs

11

Families live in the Franklin House Transitional Housing Program for homeless families

160 people live in homes owned by Alternatives or ADTI Housing Corp., an Alternatives, Inc. subsidiary. ADTI also owns a 52 unit low-income apartment complex.



WE KNOW THE MEANING OF FUN!

After a long hiatus, Alternatives is back to planning lots of fun and exciting events where clients gather in large groups as well as more intimate gatherings.

Over the last several months, clients and staff came together at the Agency Luau at Forest Lodge in Warren. Clients played bingo, basketball and volleyball, and those who chose to exercise their more creative talents, painted birdhouses.



The return of the always popular Holiday Awards Dinner presented an opportunity for clients to dress in their finest and dance the night away, as we also recognized several clients for their outstanding achievements. Awards were presented to individuals, who were chosen by their peers, for demonstrating those outstanding achievements. The Paul Manion Award, named after one of the agency's very first clients, is the highest award achievable by an Alternatives client, and it recognizes and honors someone whose positive attitude and spirit have served as an inspiration to others. The December 2023 recipient of the Paul Manion Award was Humberto Quiroz.



Last Spring, clients shook off the doldrums of winter with the return of the Spring Dinner Dance at The Doubletree Hotel. They enjoyed getting together and feasting on the many delicious buffet options.



When clients weren't indulging in these largescale events, programs organized movie nights, apple picking, Super Bowl parties, game nights, beach trips, arcade fun, baseball games and many more opportunities for our clients to come together to celebrate their independence, and to explore the communities where they live.

"I can't envision my life without Alternatives being in it."

Alternatives Trustee

HOW TO GIVE

Your tax-deductible contribution is very much needed and appreciated. There are various ways to give, and each one helps to sustain Alternatives' programs and services.



- **Contributions** – Mail, Credit Card, Venmo
- **Recurring Gifts** – Choose Monthly, Quarterly or Annually
- **Payroll Deduction** – \$5 per week can make a big difference
- **Honor & Memorial Contributions** – In Lieu of Flowers
- **Special Events** – Four fundraising events held each year

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Ask your employer if they will match your contributions

1



2



3



LEAVING A LEGACY OF INDEPENDENCE IT'S AS EASY AS 1 - 2 - 3!

For many people, Alternatives is a place where they can feel empowered through their independence today and into the future. Those who support agency efforts today, can perpetuate their care and concern for the individuals we serve by remembering Alternatives, Inc. in their will or another planned giving mechanism. Leaving a planned gift is a way of receiving tax benefits while adopting an issue close to your heart.

Planned gifts - including bequests, annuities, trusts, and gifts of stock, property or life insurance - ensure the continuation of Alternatives' work into the future. To decide if planned giving is an option for you, consult with a qualified financial planner, accountant, or attorney. Then contact us to learn where your plans best fit with our needs.

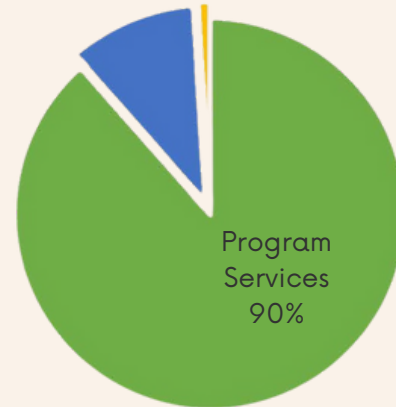
FY23 EXPENSE ALLOCATION

When you're treated like you are capable of great things, you can achieve great things.

- Mother of an Alternatives Client

Management
8.9%

Fundraising 1.1%



OPERATING REVENUES

- Grants & Contracts
- Client Services & Rental Fees
- Contributions & Special Events

AMOUNT

\$1,241,563
\$20,004,133
\$354,523

Company Matches

\$27,000

*Thank you for supporting
employee giving and
volunteerism*

Colgate, Johnson & Johnson, GAF,
Merck, Sanofi, Morgan Stanley,
Bristol Meyers Squib, Enterprise,
Verizon, The Horizon Foundation

Volunteerism

6,000 hours

Thank You

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For more information, contact us at:

(908) 685-1444

● info@alternativesinc.org

● www.alternativesinc.org

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COMMUNITY IN ACTION

We were incredibly thankful to QuickChek for designating Alternatives as the beneficiary of their Annual Golf Invitational for the second consecutive year in 2023. The event raised an impressive \$90,000 to support Alternatives' clients. To top it off, we were delighted to learn that QuickChek chose Alternatives again for the 2024 Golf Outing! It was a beautiful day as golfers united to support Alternatives, and we anticipate that this year's funds raised will surpass \$100,000!



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Donors, Event Volunteers, Project Volunteers & Product Donations are a BIG hit with our clients!

There are many ways to get involved to improve our clients' lives.

Contact Anita Feiner, Director of Development, at afeiner@alternativesinc.org to discuss how you can make a difference.



"The staff at Legrand loves the opportunity to volunteer at Alternatives' homes. It gives a sense of purpose and fosters a sense of unity as they engage in community service."

Tom McCann



WE PUT THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

Alternatives kicked off its spring events with the always elegant, but never stuffy, **Dignity Gala** and then moved into summer with 18 holes of friendly competition at the **Dignity Golf Outing**.

The Gala, held at the Marigold in Somerset, was magnificent in every way. We were pleased to honor Risk Strategies and Withum for their years of service and support to the agency, and guests enjoyed bidding on fabulous auction items when they weren't filling the dance floor to enjoy tunes from the 80s, courtesy of the always entertaining band High in the Mid 80s.



Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at Beaver Brook Country Club at the Alternatives' Fourth Annual Dignity Golf Outing. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful, which only added to the excitement for playing at the lovely and picturesque venue.

The dollars raised through events enhance the quality of life for our clients and enable Alternatives to support them live their best lives.

Planning for 2025 events is already underway. If you would like to help plan for the 2025 Dignity Gala or Dignity Golf Outing, we would love to have you. Contact Anita Feiner at 908-809-8654 to learn more.

THE FUN CONTINUES THIS FALL

Our next event is the **Dignity Dash**, scheduled for September 8th at Bridgewater's Duke Island Park.

You can join the fun by doing a 10K, 5K, Fun Walk or Kids' Dash!

On October 20th, join us for our 10th Annual **Dignity Run**, and stay for the after-party at the Bridgewater Eagles, including music, food, vendors and more!



<https://bit.ly/DignityDash>



<https://thedignityrun.com>

**For more information, contact: Anita Feiner at: (908) 809-8654
or afeiner@alternativesinc.org**