

CAREGIVER STATISTICS:

- In New Jersey alone, nearly 1.1 million unpaid caregivers support a family member often from birth through adulthood.
- 30,000 NJ children are primary caregivers for parents, grandparents or siblings.
- Caregivers tend to die 12-15 years before non-caregivers.
- The value of the services family caregivers provide for "free" is estimated to be almost \$300 billion a year.

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Paid Family Leave Act Update!

After a disappointing lame duck session a few weeks ago, things are looking up for the Paid Family Leave Act. On Monday, January 28th, the Act was voted out of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and is clear for a floor vote. While the companion bill has yet to be posted for a hearing, it is anticipated to be posted in the Assembly Labor Committee and/or the Assembly Appropriations

Committee meetings within the next few weeks. Even with the voiced support from key policy makers such as Governor Corzine, Senate President Richard Codey, and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts, business lobbyists remain unconvinced for fear that it will negatively affect small businesses.

The Time to Care Coalition, a group of almost 100 organizations and individuals dedicated

to helping the Act get passed into law is currently looking for business owners and individuals with personal stories in support of the legislation who would be willing and able to testify at Committee meetings in the State House in Trenton. Please contact Karen White at kswwhite@rci.rutgers.edu.

Caregiver Connection will keep you up-to-date as this legislation moves through the State House.



Bob and Lee Woodruff after the accident in Iraq.

Lee Woodruff to be Keynote for Nat'l Caregivers Conference

Lee Woodruff, coauthor of *In an Instant: A Family's Journey of Love and Healing*, will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2008 National Caregivers Conference. After her husband, ABC News Anchor Bob Woodruff was critically wounded in Iraq from a roadside bomb attack near Taji, she and her children took to caring for his many injuries, including wounds to his upper body, several broken ribs and brain injury.

She established the Bob Woodruff Family Fund to assist members of the military suffering from brain injuries. Lee said, "I have to choose to laugh and keep smiling, we have to hope that there's something better around the corner to make the choice to be resilient... to bounce back..."

For more information about the National Caregivers Conference, please contact Jacqui Moskowitz at 800-FSC-NJ10.

Support CNJ's Caregiver Agenda!

Last June, Caregivers of New Jersey hosted the first ever Caregiver Summit which brought together representatives from across the caregiving spectrum, including the aging community, developmental and physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, and mental health. The purpose of the Summit was to allow professionals and caregivers from across the state to connect and set a caregiver agenda for New Jersey.

A document detailing six key caregiving themes was produced from the summit. With many organizations already in support of these themes, CNJ is asking for **your** support. Attached to this email please find and endorse the Key Themes and Ideas document. You can also find it on our website at www.njcaregivers.org.

New Jersey's Second Caregiver Summit

SAVE THE DATE!
June 30, 2008

New Jersey Law Center,
New Brunswick, NJ

Join us as CNJ and hundreds of caregivers and professionals meet again to discuss the progress we've made so far and to develop the next steps!

NJ Residents Support Statewide Caregiving Taskforce

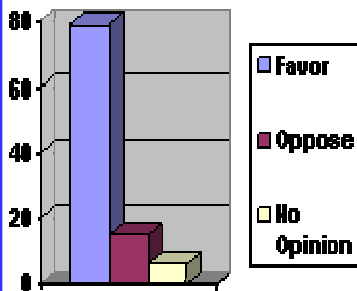
In late September, Caregivers of New Jersey teamed up with Monmouth University Polling Institute to conduct a survey in order to determine where New Jersey residents stand on caregivers and caregiving issues. It was because of this survey that we were first able to accurately give a number to more than 1.06 million caregivers living in New Jersey, and finally give them a voice.

A representative 801 New Jersey residents over the age of 18 participated in a telephone survey that asked questions regarding caregiving issues such as more available resources, supports, training, and assistance with their own personal health.

A major question, however, had to do with their support of developing a statewide taskforce to combine trainings which at this point are specific to individual disabilities or illnesses. CNJ asked these participants if they favored or opposed creating a statewide task force to coordinate support and training services

for all caregivers, regardless of the type of illness or disability and an overwhelming 80% of them agreed that they would support this initiative.

Caregivers of New Jersey continues to press for the establishment of such a taskforce in New Jersey.



Are you a male who is caring for a loved one?

We have support for you.

For: Male Caregivers
 Date: 1st Thurs. Every Month
 Time: 7:00PM - 9:00PM
 Place: 95 Madison Ave.,
 Ste. B-06, Morristown

For more info contact Peter J. Fogarty
 at 908-655-1613

2008 Conference for Caregivers *Building a Mosaic of Care*

March 8, 2008, 8:30am-1:30pm
 The Frelinghuysen Arboretum
 53 East Hanover Ave, Whippany, NJ

Workshops, Question/Answers, Free
 Breakfast and lunch and more!

This event is FREE but space is limited.
 To register call Lori Rubin at 973-993-1160x139
 or register online at www.uwmorris.org.

To learn more about CNJ contact
 Dana Goldberg

732-262-8020
dgoldberg@familyresourcenetwork.org
www.njcaregivers.org

Spotlight On... *Lasting Lifestyles*

Lasting Lifestyles is a comprehensive web portal that creates an online virtual community that unites consumers, informal caregivers and a local professionals. **Lasting Lifestyles** is community oriented and has a local identity that is trusted, safe and secure.

Through this web-based virtual community, users share information and work together online to better manage chronic diseases and enhance daily living. Professionals are able to more easily reach and assist their clientele using a variety of communication, monitoring and teaching tools.

Lasting Lifestyles is not just a website. We create educational

content that can be accessed through our website and through local public access television as well.

The goals and purpose of **Lasting Lifestyles** are three-fold. The first is to enhance the self-care capacities of persons with chronic diseases or disabilities. The second is to help informal caregivers shoulder their caregiving responsibilities and the third is to help organizations and professionals providing services and supports to someone with chronic conditions or disabilities to become more effective.

Lasting Lifestyles is designed for sponsorship by organizations interested in finding new and innovative ways to reach and support disabled or chronically ill individuals.

As a service, **Lasting Lifestyles** is ideally suited for collaboration and joint sponsorship by multiple community or national organizations. Multiple agencies can share **Lasting Lifestyles** and use it to assist those they already serve. Other organizations can contribute educational content or expertise. **Lasting Lifestyles** can also be configured to support local or national advertising and corporations can offer it as a benefit to their employees, especially working caregivers.

For more information, please contact Janet Corbally, Director, at 732-761-3597 or by email at jcorbally@lastinglifestyles.net.