

# WELCOME TO *The Community!*

## WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

OUR PROGRAMS PROVIDE CONNECTION, GUIDANCE,  
AND CRITICAL RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US AND DONATE  
TODAY [ISTRIVECOMMUNITY.ORG](http://ISTRIVECOMMUNITY.ORG)



**BUILDING A FUTURE  
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**



## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

**Friendship. Confidence. Connection.** The start of 2026 has already been defined by meaningful progress, shared experiences, and continued growth across our community:

- **January:** Educational webinar on ABLE accounts and special needs trusts, helping families protect benefits and plan for long-term care.
- **February:** Friendship Club karaoke night at Harbor School Gym, creating a welcoming space for connection and confidence.
  - **Advocacy:** Paul Aronson featured on New Jersey 101.5, elevating statewide conversations around disability support.
  - **Monthly Caregiver Support Meetings:** In February, the group welcomed a guest speaker, with guidance from Jennifer Boyle of GoodLife Consulting using Charting the LifeCourse tools, along with discussion led by Dr. Kelly Wilder-Willis.
- **March:** Estate planning webinar with Matus Law Group covering guardianship, power of attorney, and related tools.

**These moments reflect a growing community grounded in support and shared progress, made possible by your support.**

## BELONGING. CONNECTION. SUPPORT.

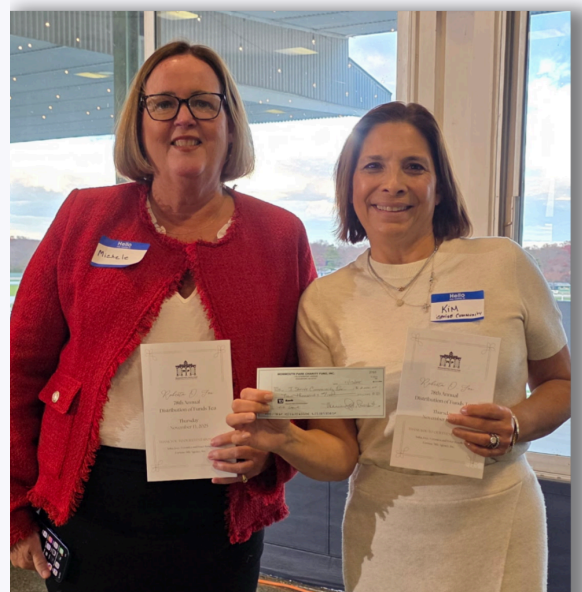
At iStrive Community, we believe individuals with special needs deserve the same opportunities for friendship, purpose, and independence as anyone else. Caregivers often navigate complex systems while planning for a loved one's future.

**With more than one million individuals in New Jersey living with a disability, inclusive communities and accessible resources are essential.**

Thanks to supporters like you, families across our region are finding connection, guidance, and renewed hope.

With appreciation,

**Kim Jarck & Michele Kersten**  
Co-Founders



# AWARENESS & Resources

## WHY ADVOCACY MATTERS

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities represent a significant and often underserved population. In New Jersey alone, more than one million people live with a disability, highlighting the need for inclusive communities and accessible resources. Many families continue to navigate housing, employment, and long-term care with limited guidance and few clear pathways forward.

**iStrive Community addresses these gaps through:**

- Advocacy and education
- Caregiver support programs
- Social connection opportunities
- Planning tools for long-term independence



**Awareness leads to action. Action builds community. Community creates lasting change.**

*Source: Friedman, © 2019. There's No Place Like Home:  
A National Study of How People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families Choose Where to Live.*

## ADVOCACY & IMPACT EFFORTS CONTINUE

As we celebrate four years of impact, this work continues because of your support.

Your involvement sustains:

- Caregiver support groups
- Educational programming
- Inclusive social opportunities

With continued partnership, we can expand resources, strengthen advocacy, and create more opportunities for belonging.

Ways to support:

- Make a donation
- Become a monthly supporter
- Explore employer matching gifts



**DONATE TODAY**



**UnFOURgettable**  
CELEBRATING FOUR YEARS

of connection, advocacy,  
and meaningful impact  
for individuals with special needs

[istrivecommunity.org](http://istrivecommunity.org)

## LOOKING Ahead

As we move into the summer and fall, iStrive Community will continue expanding programs, strengthening advocacy efforts, and increasing access to resources.

With your continued support, we can ensure individuals with special needs have the opportunity to live with connection, dignity, and purpose.

## STAY CONNECTED & VOLUNTEER

Website: [istrivecommunity.org](http://istrivecommunity.org)  
Email: [info@istrivecommunity.org](mailto:info@istrivecommunity.org)  
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