

March is recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities and to celebrate their unique abilities and contributions. This observance, first introduced in 1987, aims to educate the public, promote inclusion, and foster greater understanding of the lives of people with conditions such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, and other developmental disorders.

The purpose of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is to highlight the importance of creating a more inclusive society where individuals of all abilities are respected, supported, and given equal opportunities. It is a call for communities to come together to reduce stigma, offer resources, and advocate for policies that promote access to education, employment, healthcare, and social participation for people with developmental disabilities.

Throughout the month, various events, awareness campaigns, and educational activities are held to spread the message of inclusion and equality. These efforts help challenge misconceptions, encourage acceptance, and inspire action to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is a reminder that everyone, regardless of their abilities, has the potential to lead fulfilling, meaningful lives. By fostering understanding and inclusion, we can build a society that recognizes and embraces the talents and contributions of all its members.







## DIAL RECREATION CORNER

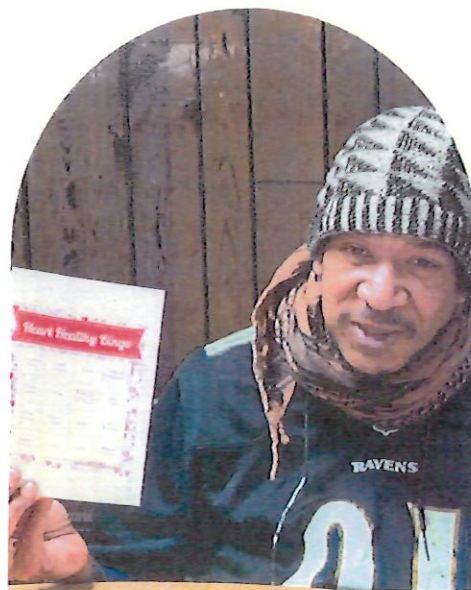
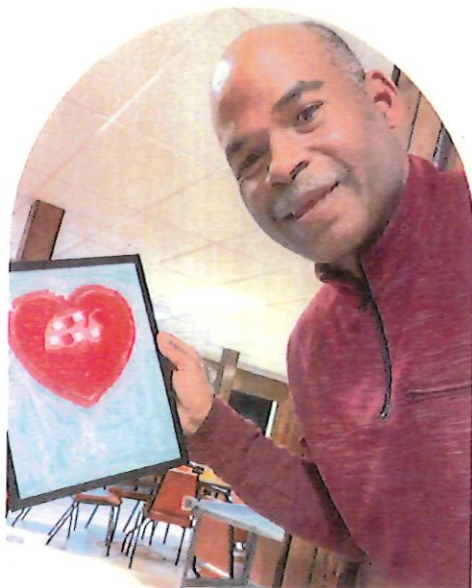


A little birdie in a tree told me that during the month of February consumers at the DIAL Recreation program made a snowbird pictures that captured the spirit of winter. Consumers used sponges and brushes to create beautiful pictures of snowbirds on branches in a winter wonderland.

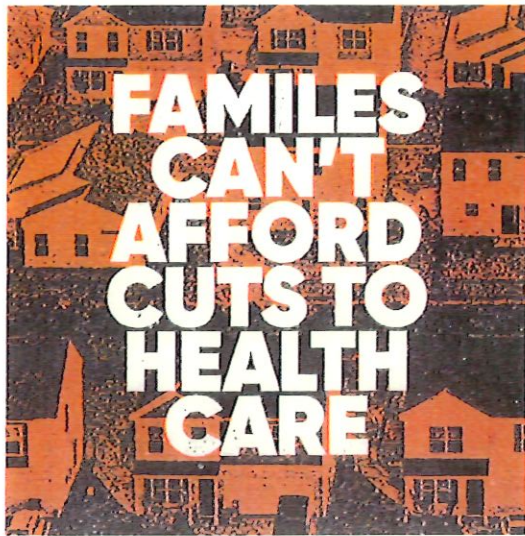
Love was also in the air at DIAL Recreation program this month as February Valentine's Day Month. Consumers created beautiful heart pictures using various materials. Consumers then got put their works of art onto frame their artwork give it to that special someone for Valentine's Day or hang in their homes.

In addition, during the month of February learned about heart healthy living from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. They even test their knowledge by playing Heart Healthy Bingo. Consumers had to use clues that were given to them to see if they had the answer on their Bingo Cards. If consumers were lucky enough to win at Bingo, they got to take home a cutlery set.

If you are interested in joining the DIAL Recreation Program and are a resident of Passaic County, please contact Susan Kramer at 973-470-8090 ext 306.







# TELL CONGRESS: NO CUTS TO MEDICAID.

Congressional leaders have signaled plans to slash Medicaid to offset tax cuts for the rich – and they're moving quickly.

These cuts would devastate over 80 million people, including 17 million older adults and individuals with disabilities, who rely on Medicaid for healthcare and essential home and community-based services.

Medicaid cuts would weaken the service system for people with disabilities, as millions of caregivers and home-based service providers are paid through Medicaid. Family caregivers, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet, would face greater hardship.

These ideas come under many different names, per capita caps, block granting, work requirements, roll backs of administrative gains. No matter the name, they are all cuts to Medicaid and should be opposed. There is no room for compromise—any cuts to Medicaid will cause harm, disproportionately impacting children, older adults, and people with disabilities.

We must act now. Dial the number below to call your members of Congress to demand they protect Medicaid and the vital services it provides!

Call them at 866-426-2631.

## #SLAMTHESCAM

Help us **#SlamTheScam** and stop government imposters in their tracks.

Protect yourself from fraud and know what to do if your Social Security information is compromised.



National “Slam the Scam” Day is designated by Social Security’s Office of the Inspector General to raise awareness of government imposter scams, which continue to spread across the United States.

Slam the Scam Day is Thursday, March 6, 2025, as part of National Consumer Protection Week, which takes place this year from March 2-8.

Help get the word out about government imposter scams on March 6.

Visit [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam) for more information.





# DIAL - 2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



It is that time of year again for the annual DIAL Membership Drive. We want to ask everyone to become a paid DIAL member.

Some of the benefits for being a member are:

- Voting in DIAL's elections
- Eligibility to be a candidate for the Advisory Council
- Discounts on social events such as the Annual Picnic
- You will be supporting the Center's Programs and Independent Living Philosophy!

Please join us in making this the best drive ever! A flyer and the Membership Form are included in this mailer.



## BE PREPARED FOR TAX SEASON

Tax season has arrived, and it is important that you file your taxes on time. The deadline for the 2024 tax return year is on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. If you need assistance with filing your state and federal taxes, there are two programs that offer free tax preparation services:

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) helps file federal and State Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). Individuals with disabilities, low-to moderate incomes, and are non- English speaking taxpayers are eligible to apply. For a VITA site near you, please contact the IRS at 1-800-906-9887.
- Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs is an AARP Tax-Aide Program for individuals 60 years of age or older. For an AARP-TCE site near you, please call the National AARP office at 1-888-227-7669.

Source:

[https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/vita\\_tce/freeservices.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/vita_tce/freeservices.shtml)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DIAL - Center for Independent Living

2 Prospect Village Plaza  
Floor 1

Clifton, New Jersey 07013

(973) 470-8090—Phone

(973) 556- 0226—Video  
Phone

(973) 470- 2521—TTY

MAR

6

Passaic County Peer Group

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Clifton Main Library

292 Piaget Ave, Clifton, NJ 07011

MAR

12

Essex County (HELD VIA ZOOM)

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

MAR

25

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Clifton Senior Barn

900 Clifton Ave. Clifton, New Jersey  
07013

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