

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Family Resource Network

Independence powered by community

autism family SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY

caregivers OF NEW JERSEY

epilepsy SERVICES NEW JERSEY

What's Next Starts Here

At Family Resource Network, our work begins with a simple promise: when an individual or family reaches out, we listen, help them understand their options, and move forward together. That promise guided us throughout 2025.



This report shows that commitment in action. Ariana found work she enjoys and took a step toward greater independence. For Deborah and her family, an accessible vehicle made appointments, activities, and everyday experiences more accessible.

Across all 21 counties, FRN supports individuals and families throughout the lifespan through a unified network of three affiliates — Epilepsy Services of New Jersey, Autism Family Services of New Jersey, and Caregivers of New Jersey — bringing specialized programs and expertise together under one shared mission. Through support programs, support coordination, employment services, and public health initiatives, we help people navigate complex systems, access resources, build independence, and live fuller lives.



This work is possible because of staff who care deeply, a Board committed to our mission, partners who open doors, donors who invest in possibility, volunteers who give their time, and families who trust us to walk beside them.

As we look ahead, FRN will remain a trusted source of information, advocacy, and services for individuals with disabilities, chronic conditions, and the people who care for them. We will keep meeting people where they are, strengthening communities, and helping families build the futures they envision.

Thank you for being part of this work and for believing, as we do, in what is possible.

Liza Gundell
Chief Executive Officer

Peter Donnelly
Board President

This Year's Impact

Across FRN, support begins by listening to what someone needs today and understanding where they hope to go next.

In 2025, that approach connected individuals and families with employment opportunities, accessible equipment, family support, health coverage, community resources, and guidance through complex systems.

Each number represents an action taken and a person or family with new possibilities ahead.

30,000+ Individuals reached each year!

92,299

Respite Care Hours

45,397

Individuals Trained in Seizure Recognition and Response

236

Assistive Technology and Home & Vehicle Modification Projects Completed

1,595

Direct Service Individuals

Serving all 21 Counties in New Jersey

Turning Questions into a Plan

Navigating disability services can feel overwhelming, especially during major transitions or when a family has already encountered years of unanswered questions.

FRN's Support Coordination team helps individuals and families understand their options, make informed choices, and create plans based on their goals. Support continues as needs, services, and priorities evolve.

Support Coordination

846
Individuals Served

72
New referrals

The team delivered **14** presentations and connected with **459** attendees through outreach and educational activities.





Education & Training

89
Educational Webinars

2,600
Webinar Attendees

Throughout the year, the team reached **54,673** consumers through education, enrollment, and outreach activities.



236

Projects Like Deborah's Completed in 2025

More Places within Reach

Meet Deborah

For Deborah and her family, accessible transportation was an urgent need.

When the family's vehicle could not be modified to accommodate a wheelchair-accessible system, FTMobility donated a van. With funding from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), FRN coordinated the installation of a motorized wheelchair ramp and adaptive equipment.

The completed vehicle made it easier for the family to attend appointments, enjoy outings and activities, and participate more fully in their community, removing a significant transportation barrier.



79
Employers Engaged

77
Internships

15
Employment Placements

Building Bright Futures

This is Ariana

Ariana explored her interest in retail and sales through FRN's EmployAbility, gaining valuable workplace experience and receiving support from the FRN team as she prepared for employment.

She accepted a position as a retail associate at Ross Dress for Less. This new role provides her with income, boosts her confidence, offers valuable experience, and gives her greater control over the future she is building.

Meeting Families Where They Are



Support for Every Stage of Life

As life changes, so do the needs of individuals with disabilities and the families who care for them. Having the right support can make all the difference in how they navigate those changes.

FRN's Support Services help individuals build routines, participate in their communities, and enjoy greater independence, while giving family caregivers the assistance and respite they need. Together, these services help make everyday life more manageable and create more opportunities for individuals and families to engage in life to the fullest.

623

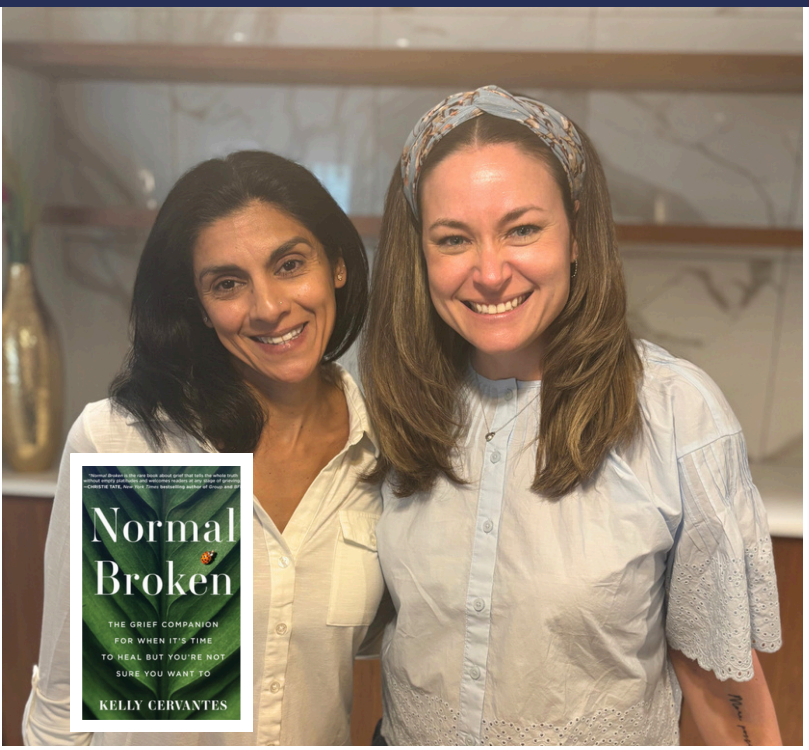
Participants served in Support Services

68,779

Self-Hired Respite hours

FRN has been part of our lives for the last 20 years or so. You consistently stay focused on making the lives of those with developmental disabilities and epilepsy better. Thank you for always being there through most of Sarah's life.

Finding Connection





Healing Hearts Collective

ESNJ's Healing Hearts Collective gathered for the first time in Montclair, bringing together parents who have lost a child to epilepsy or seizures. Made possible through generous sponsor support, the retreat was offered at no cost to participating families. Guided by author and advocate Kelly Cervantes, whose book Normal Broken has resonated with countless families navigating grief, and licensed clinical social worker Urmi Vaidya-Mathur, LCSW, parents found space to honor their children, share their stories, and build meaningful connections with others who understood their journey.

It gave us a sense of connection and community with other people who are going through the same thing we are.

Navigating Us

The first Navigating Us: Connecting Through the Epilepsy Journey retreat welcomed couples to The Peacock Inn in Princeton. When one partner lives with epilepsy, roles, routines, and relationships can shift. The weekend gave couples space to talk openly, strengthen their connection, and build a shared vision for the future.

Guided by Alison Kukla and Preston Reilly, whose own marriage has been shaped by epilepsy, couples gained practical tools and connected with others who understood their experience. Sponsor support allowed couples to attend at no cost and will help ESNJ expand the retreat in 2026 and beyond.

Special Events

A Community That Makes the Work Possible

FRN's work grows through the people who choose to be part of it. Donors, employees, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners provide the resources and relationships that allow programs to respond when individuals and families reach out.

Their support helps turn a question into guidance, an unmet need into action, and an opportunity into a new direction for someone's life.

Paint the Pony Purple

A crowd of 425 filled The Stone Pony for a day of music and epilepsy awareness for ESNJ's Paint the Pony Purple. The Black Ties won the Battle of the Bands following performances by the Mike Montrey Band and the Bovine Bandits.

The 14th Annual takeover of the iconic Stone Pony stage exceeded the event goal by $12,000, marking the event's highest fundraising total and largest turnout in more than five years.



425+ ATTENDEES | $50K+ RAISED



49th Annual Golf Classic

The 49th Annual Epilepsy Services of New Jersey Golf Classic welcomed more than 180 golfers and raised nearly $225,000 to benefit Camp NOVA and other programs supporting individuals living with epilepsy and their families throughout New Jersey.

$225K+ RAISED | 180 GOLFERS

Special Events



Seize the Wave

The fifth annual Seize the Wave brought families to 37th Street Beach in Sea Isle City for adaptive surfing, music by Tony Mac, food, and time together.

Created in partnership with ESNJ and Paul's Purple Warriors, the event offered participants an opportunity to experience the ocean in a safe, encouraging environment.

Day at the Beach

Day at the Beach offered families served by ESNJ a carefree day at Island Beach State Park, complete with a beachside BBQ. Thanks to the support of sponsors, volunteers, and community partners, families could simply relax and enjoy time together. Assemblyman Paul Kanitra, whose personal connection to epilepsy has inspired his longstanding advocacy efforts, also joined in the fun.



Autism Beach Bash

Despite the rain, more than 1,000 people gathered in Belmar for the 21st Annual AFSNJ Autism Beach Bash, a day where families could celebrate freely and experience the joy of belonging. Surfers Healing helped participants build confidence on the waves, DJs on the spectrum brought music to the beach, and families connected with valuable resources and support.



It gives us a chance to spend time with people who understand us, who get us, and who aren't going to stare or think twice about a meltdown. To feel so welcomed and accepted, while also getting the chance to experience something we may only do once in a lifetime, is just incredible

Special Events



Walk for the ONE

More than 323 participants and 29 teams came together in honor of the ONE who inspires them. Whether celebrating a loved one, remembering someone lost, or walking for themselves, participants helped raise epilepsy awareness and nearly $50,000 to support individuals and families living with epilepsy.

323+ ATTENDEES | 29 TEAMS | NEARLY $50K RAISED

The Numbers

How Funds Came In



How Funds Were Used





The Family Resource Network is a statewide nonprofit agency that powers a unified network of 501(c)(3) organizations: Autism Family Services of New Jersey, Caregivers of New Jersey, and Epilepsy Services of New Jersey, bringing specialized support and expertise to individuals with disabilities, chronic conditions, and their families at every stage of life.

For more than five decades, FRN has helped people and families across New Jersey navigate complex systems, access resources, build independence, and engage more fully in life. Today, 30,000 people benefit each year from more than 30 programs and services spanning support coordination, community-based services, employment and transition supports, education, advocacy, and family-centered programming.

Our Mission

To provide a personalized, humancentric approach to helping families with disabilities find the right resources and support for every step of their journey

autism family SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY

caregivers OF NEW JERSEY

epilepsy SERVICES NEW JERSEY

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