The 40th Annual State Convention

**National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**



**RAISING EXPECTATIONS**

Holiday Inn

151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

November 10,11,12,13, 2016

Joseph Ruffalo, President

973-743-0075

nfbnj1@verizon.net

www.nfbnj.org

www.blindchildren.org

**Who We Are & What We Do**

The National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of and for the blind in the US, is made up of blind/ visually impaired people of all ages, and their families and friends. We help newly blind people adjust to vision loss, assist parents and teachers of blind children, and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities. Our activities include:

•    Assisting blind persons in acquiring the skills of independence  
•    Helping blind persons develop confidence in themselves  
•    Teaching blind persons the skills of leadership through active participation in conventions, chapter meetings, and civic activities  
•    Encouraging blind seniors to continue their active and meaningful lifestyles  
•    Preparing blind students for productive, tax-paying careers through training and academic scholarships  
•    Supporting parents, teachers, and friends of blind children with mentoring, role modeling, information, and training  
•    Informing those losing their sight due to diabetes about techniques for dealing with vision loss  
•    Advocating for policies that eliminate discrimination and guarantee equal access to high quality educational and rehabilitation programs  
•    Educating the public through community activities and publications

•    Protecting and promoting the civil rights of blind persons through public education and legislative action at the state and national levels

**Spotlight on NFB of NJ**

Since 1976, the National Federation of the Blind of NJ, an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind has been providing invaluable information and resources to blind/visually impaired people throughout the state. Our members work together for a brighter tomorrow by the raising expectations for blind people everywhere so that blind persons can live the life they want. Our eight chapters meet monthly; our nine divisions hold events at various times through the year. Chapter and division listings are at the end of this agenda. For more affiliate, chapter, and division news and information, visit www.nfbnj.org. Please join us—we would welcome your participation.

**Subscribe to the *Sounding Board***

Get our state newsletter the *Sounding Board* delivered to your email inbox. Send a message to Alice Eaddy at nfbnj.secretary@aol.com with *subscribe Sounding Board* in the subject line. Also available at www.nfbnj.org and Newsline.

**Live the Life You Want**

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back. Together, with love, hope and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

**The National Federation of the Blind Pledge**

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the programs and policies of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.

## The KNFB Reader App

## We proudly sponsor the KNFB Reader app!This revolutionary tool enables you with the touch of a single button, to read virtually any type of printed text, such as mail, receipts, class handouts, and memos. To learn more about, visit www.nfb.org/knfbreader and www.knfbreader.com.

**Funding Our Movement**

The National Federation of the Blind of NJ is a 501c(3). Please consider making a tax-deductible donation or marking a special date in honor of a loved one with a gift to the NFB of NJ.

**Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society**

Help build a future of opportunity for the blind by becoming a member of the Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society. Your legacy gift to the NFB can be made as a will or trust, income-generating gift, or by naming the NFB as a retirement or life insurance policy beneficiary. You can also become a tenBroek Legacy Society member by making a legacy gift to your state affiliate, which benefits both local and national programs as all affiliate bequests are shared with the NFB national treasury. Members receive a special thank you and other benefits. For further information, contact Lou Ann Blake at [lblake@nfb.org](mailto:lblake@nfb.org), or 410-659-9314, X 2221.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

We will be **recording** and **streaming** the Convention live on our Facebook page

and our YouTube channel. The links for both can be found on our website www.nfbnj.org/state-convention. We will be broadcasting at the following:

Thursday, November 10, Technology—2:00 - 6:00 pm   
Friday , November 11, Afternoon Session—1:00 - 5:00 pm   
Saturday, November 12, General Session—8:45 am – noon

Saturday, November 12, Town Hall Meeting—4:00 – 4:50 pm  
Saturday, November 12, Banquet—6:45 pm - Conclusion   
Sunday, November 13—Open Board Meeting—8:30 am – Conclusion

***Hotel Navigation:*** We are pleased to feature **LowViz Guide**, an indoor navigation app for the blind and visually impaired. Developed in 2015 as a free community service by Macular Degeneration Support, the app has been provided at more than a dozen state and national conventions for blind/visually impaired attendees who have access to iPhones or iPads. LowViz Guide gives information on hotel points of interest and meeting room and schedule details. They will provide step-by-step user instructions in large print, audio, and Braille formats and personal support for users during the entire event. For more information about LowVis Guide, visit http://www.mdsupport.org/audioguide.

***Breakfast Coupons:*** NFB attendees staying at the hotel on Wednesday and/or Thursday nights will receive coupons for breakfast at the hotel restaurant on Thursday and Friday mornings. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts will be served in the Main Ballroom. Register for the Convention in order to receive breakfast coupons and our special hotel rate.

***Banquet Ticket Exchange:*** To ensure a smooth seating process, we have initiated a Banquet Ticket Exchange. After you purchase your banquet ticket, bring it to the ticket exchange, where you will trade it in for a ticket with a table number. If you would like to sit with friends, gather tickets and exchange them together. Ten people can be seated at each table. Exchange will be open Friday, 8 – 8:30 pm, and Saturday, 12 – 12:30 pm and 5 – 5:15 pm. If you do not exchange your ticket, you will be seated where there is space available.

***Vendors*** will be available in the Exhibit Hall—Ballroom D at the following times: Thursday, 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Friday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

***Guide Dog Relief Area:*** The guide dog relief area will be in one location only. There will be both a grassy area and a cement area. Directions from the hotel lobby: Step out of the elevator, make a right, and walk straight to a set of double doors. Go through the doors and walk about 8-9 feet then make a left and walk about 50 feet. Go out the rear doors and turn left, walk about 4 steps and turn left again. The grassy area is right there the cement area is a step down off the curb. Please note, the cement is an area where there may be service deliveries, so please listen and be careful. It is rather quiet on weekends. A lined trash can will be on the grassy area. If there are any questions, please contact Dan Facchini at 201-906-8655 or Jerilyn Higgins at 973-900-4844.

***Contact information*** for speakers appears on the last page of this agenda.

## *Thanks to Our Sponsors*

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**THURSDAY, NOV. 10, 2016**

**2:00 to 6:00 pm—Technology Seminar: Live the Life You Want—Ballroom B**

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division   
  
2:00 pm—Welcome and Introductions  
Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

Jane will welcome everyone and discuss several important websites such as knfbreader.org and applevis.com, useful listservs, and essential telephone numbers like Microsoft Support and Apple Accessibility hotlines  
  
2:15 pm—Announcements  
Joe Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ  
Joe will make several important announcements including the opening of preregistration upon the conclusion of the seminar, the exhibitors’ drawing, and the banquet exchange.  
  
2:20 PM—How to Use LowViz Guide  Navigation System  
Dan Roberts, Director of MDsupport.org  
Dan will explain how the system works and provide information needed to navigate the hotel.  
  
2:45 pm—Update on Commission Technology Services

Mac Biggers, Technology Service Specialist, NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired   
  
3:05 pm—Tech Tips with our National Representative  
Everette Bacon, President, NFB of UT; Field Service Coordinator, Utah Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Everette will share his favorites with us.  
  
3:35 pm—iOS 10  
Tony Santiago, Board Member, Technology Division   
Tony will share how he uses iOS 10 on his iPhone 7 and explain the new voices in iOS, a new magnifier feature for low vision in the accessibility app, the difference between the control and notification center, and how to move apps into folders.  
  
4:05 pm—Getting Serious about SIRI  
Rick Fox, Board Member, Technology Division   
Rick will demonstrate commands for creating and reading email, voicemail, and text messages, and show how to create and read reminders, learn about good restaurants and movies nearby, and more.  
  
4:25  pm—Introduction to the Android  
Lydia Keller, Treasurer, Technology Division   
Lydia will explain the use of the camera, the speech module which is equivalent to Voiceover on the iPhone, the settings, alerts, and more  
  
4:45  pm—Victor Reader Stream  
Annemarie Cooke and Brian Mackey, Board Members, Technology Division  
Annemarie will explain why the need or desire to own both Victor Stream and the iPhone, including the feature where books and magazines can be downloaded. Brian will discuss the basic features of the Stream including how to navigate the bookshelves, connect to WiFi, download a book from BARD, and listen to publications on NEWSLINE.  
  
5:15 pm—Demonstration of the IP Relay app and the BeSpecular 2 app  
Alice Eaddy, Vice President, Technology Division   
Alice will explain how the BeSpecular and IP Relay apps can help deaf-blind persons live the lives they want.  Users must have iOS 6 for BeSpecular and iOS 9 for the IP Relay.  
  
5:35 pm—Apps and More Apps  
Mary Jo Partyka, Recording Secretary, Technology Division   
Misty Hagan, Corresponding Secretary, Technology Division   
Mary Jo will explain the Calendar and the Weight Watchers app. Misty will share her favorite app the Bard mobile

**3:00 to 9:00 pm—Exhibit Hall open—Ballroom D**

Special Drawing—Visit every Exhibit Hall table, listen to what is available there, and collect a table number card at each one. Hand in your cards at the designated area (TBA) and your name will be entered into a drawing for a prize worth approximately $100. Drawing will be held at the Banquet. You do not need to be present to win.

**5:30 – 6:30 pm—Registration open—Ballroom D**

**FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 2016**

*Friday breakfast is provided free of charge in the hotel restaurant for those registered with the hotel for Thursday evening. You must bring your coupon. Please remember to leave a tip for your server.*

**8:30 am–12:00 pm—Registration Open—Ballroom D**

Convention registration: $25

Banquet tickets: $40

Box lunch can be purchased in the Registration Area: $15

Diabetic lunches available

**8:00 am–1:00 pm—Exhibit Hall Open—Ballroom D**

**9:00 am–12:00 pm—Division Meetings—Ballroom B**

9:00 – 9:40 am—Senior Division Meeting

Jane Degenshein, President

9:45 – 10:40 am—Technology Division Meeting

Jane Degenshein, President

10:45 – 11:20 am—Diabetic Division Meeting

Rebecca Bryant, President

11:25 – 12:00 pm—Braille Division Meeting

Mary Jo Partyka, President

**11:30 am–12:30 pm—Lunch—Room A**

**1:30–5:00 pm—PROGRAM—Main Ballroom A/C**

**1:30 pm—Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ; National Board Member, NFB

Everette Bacon, President, NFB of UT, National Board Member, NFB

**1:40 pm—Introducing the New NFB of NJ Website**

Brian Mackey, Webmaster

**1:50 pm—What’s New at the Library**

Adam Szczepaniak, Director, NJ Talking Book & Braille Center

**2:05 pm—iCanConnect/NJ & Support Service Providers of NJ (SSPNJ)**

Carly Fredericks, Family Specialist/ICC Outreach Specialist;

Kathleen Spata, Statewide Program Coordinator

**2:20 pm—Auction Prize**

**2:30 pm—Getting into the Game**

Linda Melendez, Annemarie Cooke, Laura Etori, Amo Musharraf, Trish Ebel, Brian Mackey

**3:00 pm—Auction Prize**

**3:10 pm—EDGE—Employment, Development, Guidance, Engagement**

Pat McKenna, EDGE Employment Manager, Connor Mullin, EDGE Employment Coordinator

**3:30 pm—Confidence Challenge, &Change: What It Takes To Live the Life**

**You Want!**

Julie Dedan, Director, Colorado Center for the Blind

**3:50 pm—Auction Prize**

**4:00 pm—Self-Starter, Self-Employed**

Rosa Santiago, Business Owner

**4:15 pm—Opportunities in Americorps**

Annemarie Cooke, Americorps Volunteer

**4:30 pm—Why Am I a Federationist**

Linda Melendez, Vee Gaspa, Mary Fernandez, Carol Castellano, Members

**5:00 pm—Adjourn**

**5:15 pm—Dinner on your own—**Hotel restaurant is open.

**NFB of NJ Dinner—**Those who preregistered and prepaid for the NFB of NJ dinner, please proceed to **Ballroom B**.

**7:00 pm—Resolutions Committee Meeting—Ballroom B**

Ryan Stevens, Chair

All are welcome.

**8:00 pm—Merchants Division Meeting—Location TBA**

Contact Dan Facchini, President, at 201-906-8655

**8:00—8:30 pm—Banquet Exchange Open—Main Ballroom A/C**

See Linda Melendez

**8:00–11:00 pm—RAISING EXPECTATIONS, RAISING THE ROOF—**

**Main Ballroom A/C**

Hosted by the NJ Assoc. of Blind Students—NJABS

Vee Gaspa, President

NJ Assoc. of the Deaf-Blind

Alice Eaddy, President

Music and Dancing

Dance Lesson—Krystle Allen, Eyes Like Mine, Dancing with the Blind

Game Show

Deaf-Blind Division Raffle—please support!

Snacks for Sale by Student Division—please support!

Cash Bar

**NOTE:** Breakfast will be served from 7:00 – 8:30 am on Saturday morning in **Ballroom B** for those registered in the hotel.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 12, 2016**

**7:00–8:30 am—Breakfast for those registered in the hotel—Ballroom B**

**7:00–8:30 am—NJ Assoc. of Guide Dog Users Division Breakfast Meeting— Ballroom A;** Dan Facchini, President

**7:00–8:30 am—Student Social Breakfast—Back of Ballroom B**

Vee Gaspa, President

**8:00–8:45 am—Registration Open—Outside Main Ballroom A/C**

**9:00 am—Welcome, Call to Order—Main Ballroom A/C**

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ

Vee Gaspa, NJ Association of Blind Students

**9:05 am—Invocation**

Jane Degenshein, President, Tech & Senior Divisions

**9:10 am—Opening Ceremonies**

Jane Degenshein, President, Tech & Senior Divisions

**9:25 am—Introduction of Scholarship Class of 2016**

Jerilyn Higgins, Chair

**9:35 am—Presidential Report**

Joseph Ruffalo, President, NFB of NJ

**10:00 am—The NFB—Raising Expectations for the Blind**

Everette Bacon, President, NFB of UT, NFB National Board Member

**10:30 am—NJCBVI—Working Together to Make a Difference**

Daniel Frye, Executive Director, NJ Commission for the Blind & VI

**10:50 am—Advancing Opportunities in Technology for the Blind**

Vanessa Lombardo, Advancing Opportunities for the Blind

**11:10 am—Funding Our Movement—It Must Be Done**

Brian Mackey, Chair, PAC Plan

**11:15 am—Braille: Keys to Success in School and in Your Career**.

Julie Dedan, Director, Colorado Center for the Blind

**11:25 am—The BELL Ringers—Braille Enrichment Learning & Literacy**

Mary Jo Partyka and Holly Miller, BELL Program Coordinators; Barbara Shalit, Braille Instructor; Jerilyn Higgins, ADL Instructor; Parents and Students

**11:50 pm—Announcements**

**12:00 pm—Adjourn**

**12:00–12:30 pm—Banquet Ticket Exchange—Registration Area**

See Linda Melendez

**12:00–1:15 pm—Lunch—Pick up box lunch in Ballroom B**

Reminder: You must have a lunch ticket.

Diabetic lunches available.

**12:00–1:30 pm—Deaf-Blind Division—Room TBA**

Contact Alice Eaddy, President, for room number—856-285-4747

Pick up lunch in Ballroom B & proceed to meeting room

**12:00–1:30 pm—NJ Association of Blind Students—Ballroom D**

Vee Gaspa, President

Pick up lunch in Ballroom B & proceed to meeting room

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**1:30 – 3:45 pm—Tech Talk & Tips—Main Ballroom A/C**

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

1:30 pm—Welcome, Introductions

Jane Degenshein, President, Technology Division

1:40 pm—Getting Acquainted with Twitter and Facebook

Vee Gaspa, President, Student Division

2:00 pm—iDevice for the Beginning User  
Rosa Santiago, Member, Technology Division

2:50 pm—KNFB Reader Demonstration  
Rick Fox and Annemarie Cooke, Board Members, Technology Division

3:20 pm—Newsline Overview and Information

Jane Degenshein

3:30 pm—Q&A

**3:00 – 3:55 pm—Confidence and Competence: Planning for Your Child’s**

**Future—Parents Mini-Seminar—Ballroom D**

Carol Castellano, Moderator

What does your child need for an independent future? How hard should you push? Where can he or she get the skills and training needed? Guest speakers Julie Dedan and Carina Orozco, CO Center for the Blind, Dan Frye, NJ Commission for the Blind. Join us for information and inspiration!

**3:00 – 3:55 pm—Student Power!—Ballroom B**

Vee Gaspa, President

The importance of advocacy and life on a college campus.

**4:00—4:50 pm—Town Hall Meeting—Main Ballroom A/C**

Dan Frye, Executive Director, CBVI; Nick Gacos, President, NFB Merchants Division, Member, Business Enterprise NJ

**5:00—5:15 pm—Banquet Ticket Exchange Open—Back of Ballroom A/C**

See Linda Melendez

**6:45 pm—Banquet—Main Ballroom A/C**

**Master of Ceremonies**—Nicky Gacos

**Invocation**—Rick Fox

**Banquet** **Address**–Everette Bacon, NFB National Representative

**Awards**

**Agnes Allen Distinguished Service Award**

Honoree—

NJ State LibraryTalking Book & Braille Center,

Adam Szczepaniak, Director

**Special Awards**

Honorees—

Tom and Gail Ferry Memorial Award

Tara Carty Memorial Award

Holiday Inn Manahawkin

Surprise Award

**NFB of NJ Scholarship Awards**—Jerilyn Higgins, Scholarship Chair

Klaus & Michelle Zechner Scholarship

Louise and Peter Facchini Memorial Scholarship

Tara Carty Memorial Scholarship

Gail & Tom Ferry Memorial Scholarship

Edwin Lewinson Memorial Scholarship

**Auction**

We thank our members, chapters, and divisions for their generous donations of auction items. Please bid high and bid often, as all proceeds will assist in growing the affiliate and making a difference!

**Special Drawing**

Those in attendance are eligible for a prize valued to $1000 toward attendance at the 2017 NFB National Convention or at the NFB of NJ State Convention for two years.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 13, 2016**

Morning Devotions will be held from 7**–**7:30 am on Sunday in Ballroom B.

Rebecca Bryant, Misty Hagen

**Please Note:** Checkout time is 11:00 am. Bring your luggage to the meeting with you or bring it to the hotel desk for storage before the meeting.

**7:45 am—Breakfast—Main Ballroom A/C**

**8:45 –11:30 am—Program and Business Meeting—Main Ballroom A/C**

**Invocation—**Rebecca Bryant

**Roll Call of Chapters and Divisions**

**Raising Expectations to Live the Life We Want—**Everette Bacon

**Legislative Report—**Ryan Stevens, Chair, Legislative Committee

**Resolutions—**Ryan Stevens, Chair, Resolutions Committee

**Chapter, Division,** **Committee Reports**

**Elections**

Thank you to the NJ Talking Book and Braille Center for Brailling this agenda.**National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**

**Officers**

President – Joseph Ruffalo

1st Vice President – Jerilyn Higgins

2nd Vice President – Mary Jo Partyka

Secretary – Alice Eaddy

Treasurer – Brian Mackey

**Board Members**

Rebecca Bryant

Linda DeBerardinis

Jane Degenshein

Dan Facchini

Mary Fernandez

Anthony Lanzilotti

**Chapters and Divisions**

At Large Chapter Joe Ruffalo 973-743-0075

Capitol Chapter Mary Jo Partyka 609-888-5459

Central Chapter Jerilyn Higgins 973-239-8874

Garden State Chapter Ryan Stevens 856-240-1497

Glasstown Chapter Lydia Keller 856-696-3518

South Jersey Shore Chapter Anthony Lanzilotti 267-414-4010

Northeast Chapter Dan Facchini 201-906-8655

Northern Chapter Rebecca Bryant 973-732-6559

Deaf-Blind Division Alice Eaddy 856-765-0601

Diabetes Division Rebecca Bryant  973-732-6559

Merchants Division Dan Facchini 201-906-8655

NJ Assoc. of Blind Students Vee Gaspa 434-989-1868

NJ Assoc. of Guide Dog Users Dan Facchini 201-906-8655

NJ Assoc. to Promote the Use of Braille Mary Jo Partyka 609-888-5459

NJ Assoc. of Senior Blind Jane Degenshein 973-736-5785

Parents of Blind Children-NJ Carol Castellano 973-377-0976

Technology Division Jane Degenshein 973-736-5785

**NFB National Divisions**

For a list of national divisions and committees, please visit www.nfb.org.

Blindness can be reduced to a physical nuisance once the blind person

learns and uses the proper techniques and skills of blindness.

We thank Carol Castellano, Jane Degenshein, and Jerilyn Higgins

for their help on this agenda. Thanks to all our members for

your continuing support as we change what it means to be blind.

**Exhibitors**

**3D PhotoWorks**

John Olson, Co-Founder

124 Hudson Ave.

Chatham, NY 12037

518-392-8161

john@3dphotoworks.com

www.3dphotoworks.com

**Activocal**

Danny Harel, President

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info@activocal.com

www.Activocal.com

**C TECH**

Chuck Cohen, President

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Pearl River, NY 10965

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chuck@magnifyit.com

http://CTECHlowvision.com

**E.A.S.Y., LLC**

Mike Rosen, Vice President

VCET

210 Colchester Ave.

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802 233 8767

mrosen@easytactilegraphics.com

www.easytactilegraphics.com

**Educational Testing Service (ETS)**

Morgan Murray, Disability Policy Cons.

660 Rosedale Rd.

Princeton, NJ 08541

609-734-5292

mmurray001@ets.org

www.ets.org

**Eye Assist, LLC**

Paul Hansen, President/Owner

6 Smith Avenue

Park Ridge, NJ 07656

845-570-0017

eyeassist3@gmail.com

www.eyeassistllc.com

**Family Resource Network**

Pat McKenna, EDGE Employment Mngr.

Trisha Ebel, EDGE Employment Coord.

Connor Mullin, EDGE Employment Coord.

Joseph Kohn Training Center (JKTC)

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New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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**iCanConnect/NJ**

Carly Fredericks, Family Specialist/

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The College of New Jersey

School of Education

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**JW.org**

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**NJ  Dept. of Humans Services**

**Commission for the Blind & VI**

Pamela Gaston, Public Info. Specialist

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Newark, NJ 07102

877-685-8878

askcbvi@dhs.state.nj.us

www.cbvi.nj.gov

**NJ State Library**

**Talking Book & Braille Center**

Adam Szczepaniak, Director

2300 Stuyvesant Ave.

Trenton, NJ 08618

800-792-8322 ext. 801

aszczepaniak@njstatelib.org

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**Social Security Administration**

Simone Herndon, Public Affairs Specialist

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**Support Service Providers of New Jersey (SSPNJ)**

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**SW Unlimited, LLC**

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