

— September 2026 —

Circle of Strength Newsletter



WELCOME TO OUR FALL NEWSLETTER EDITION. WE HAVE EXCITING THINGS COMING UP. SO CONTINUE READING TO GET UPDATES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING!

WHAT'S NEW!

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Visit our website for more information

www.njcircleofstrength.com

To reach us by phone contact us at
908-290-0227

Follow us on Social Media for any updates!



EVENTS

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EVENTS

We're always active in the IDD community, and one of the ways we do so is by participating in community events. Serving the community is our priority, and attending transition fairs, resource fairs, and other events allows us to raise awareness about our services and how we can support individuals and their families.

As a direct support agency that offers support statewide, we travel throughout the state to connect with individuals, families, and organizations that share our mission. We also connect with people who need support or know someone who does, to ensure they have access to the resources they need.

While we primarily serve individuals ages 21 and older, we begin working with individuals as early as age 18 by helping them navigate while transitioning into adulthood and understanding the DDD (Division of Developmental Disabilities) process.

CIRCLE OF STRENGTH WEBINARS

Our webinars are for parents, caregivers, DSPs, and anyone who has a loved one with a disability. These hour-long sessions are provided to educate, share resources, promote inclusion, give community organizations a platform, and, most importantly, connect families with statewide services and support.

You will also be updated on community events and have an opportunity to ask questions no one else has answered. We're here to keep individuals and families informed about what's happening in the IDD community is our mission.

Make sure you give us a follow on social media, so you will be notified of a date and time!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Unity Ball
September 12th

Resource Day at Rider
University
September 23rd

Safety Season Webinar
October 22nd



UNITY BALL



CIRCLE OF STRENGTH FAMILY'S 2ND ANNUAL UNITY BALL

This year is Circle of Strength Family's 2nd Annual Unity Ball! Last year was a success and truly an unforgettable event. Thank you to everyone who made the Unity Ball so special, and to our honorees, who continue to make an impact on our community.

Our families and community are at the heart of what we do, so being able to create a special moment to celebrate together makes this event even more meaningful.

If you want to learn more about the Unity Ball and how you can join us, here are some helpful links. Don't worry if you can't attend this year, there are still ways you can be a part of it!

HOW TO JOIN US!

[UNITY BALL 2026 WEBSITE](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[DIGITAL AD JOURNAL](#)

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

[TICKET FAQ](#)

[AUCTION FAQ](#)

[SPONSOR 2026 UNITY BALL](#)

SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US FOR
CIRCLE OF STRENGTH FAMILY

Unity Ball

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY. HONORING IMPACT. UNITING HEARTS.



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

 **PINES MANOR
EDISON, NEW JERSEY**

*An afternoon of celebration,
recognition, connection,
and community.*

**TICKETS ARE
ON SALE!**

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VISIT OUR EVENT SITE
& GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

SCAN ME!



-  BUY TICKETS
-  SPONSOR
-  SILENT AUCTION
-  DIGITAL JOURNAL
-  MAKE A DIFFERENCE

 **CIRCLE OF
STRENGTH
FAMILY**

*Together, we strengthen families
AND BUILD A MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITY.*

DSP & FAMILIES

SEPTEMBER IS DSP APPRECIATION MONTH!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our Direct Support Professionals. Your compassion, resilience, and dedication are the backbone of Circle of Strength. We celebrate your commitment this month and every month! At Circle of Strength, we're always striving to improve our DSP placement and sourcing efforts. We welcome feedback, stories, and testimonials from our COS family and staff. Your experiences help us grow and shape a brighter future for everyone.



PARTNERING FOR EXCELLENCE: TRAINING & SOURCING

Our collaborations with local colleges, including Ramapo, Rider, and Rutgers, continue to strengthen our DSP training and sourcing programs. These partnerships ensure our team is equipped with the latest skills and resources to provide exceptional support to the IDD community.



TRANSITION TO DDD: GUIDANCE FOR FAMILIES

Navigating the transition to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can be overwhelming. One of our knowledgeable staff members will be speaking at our upcoming webinar to provide guidance and answer your questions about accessing services, eligibility, and planning the next steps for your loved ones.

For more updates, follow us on social media or contact us directly with your thoughts and stories. Together, we are stronger!

Wishing you a wonderful fall season!



WORKING TOGETHER

HIRING & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As we step into the fall, Circle of Strength is thrilled to announce ongoing hiring opportunities for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Our mission to empower and support the IDD community grows stronger with every dedicated DSP who joins our team. We are always seeking passionate individuals to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR
HR TEAM & RECRUITMENT TEAM:**

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HELPING FAMILIES PREPARE FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON

As the back-to-school season approaches, Circle of Strength continues to support families through its Backpack Donation Initiative. From school supplies to new routines and schedules, there can be a lot to manage as families prepare their loved ones for the transition back to school.



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Through this initiative, our team is providing over 250 backpacks, including essential school supplies to help families feel a little more prepared and supported. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Family Support Organizations across the state to distribute these resources and help ease some of the pressures that can come with the start of a new school year.

Supporting Community partners, FSO, CMO, FSC and local charities!

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT

PREPARING CAREGIVERS AND DSPS THROUGH CRISIS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

It has been a busy summer as we continue working to prepare caregivers and individuals interested in working within the IDD community. One important part of this effort has been offering free Crisis Management Training. We believe caregivers and direct support professionals should have practical tools and strategies to recognize, prevent, and respond to both verbal and nonverbal signs of a developing crisis.



Our trainings create a supportive space where caregivers and direct support professionals can connect, exchange helpful strategies, and learn ways to respond safely and calmly if a verbal or physical behavioral crisis occurs. By increasing knowledge and preparation, we hope to help caregivers and professionals feel more confident while continuing to provide compassionate person-centered support.



CIRCLE OF STRENGTH FAMILY

WHAT'S NEW WITH CIRCLE OF STRENGTH FAMILY

Circle of Strength Family continues to build meaningful connections and expand its reach through strategic partnerships, community engagement, and ongoing development efforts. There is so much to look forward to at Circle of Strength Family, and we're excited to share a few updates as we continue growing our impact throughout New Jersey!

OUR CURRENT HIGHLIGHTS & INITIATIVES:

A Special Thank You to the Amboy Foundation

We are honored and grateful to announce that Circle of Strength Family has been awarded a grant from the Amboy Foundation! This generous investment in our mission will help us continue expanding opportunities, resources, advocacy, and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We sincerely thank the Amboy Foundation for believing in our vision and helping us strengthen families and communities across New Jersey.

Unity Ball 2026 – September 12

Planning is well underway for this year's Unity Ball, and we couldn't be more excited! Our annual celebration recognizes the incredible individuals, families, Direct Support Professionals, and community partners who strengthen our mission every day. From inspiring award presentations to community fellowship and fundraising, this year's event promises to be our best yet. We look forward to celebrating with all of you on September 12th! Get your tickets before they're gone! Visit UB26.givesmart.com or Text UB26 to 76278.

Building Our Board of Directors

One of the most exciting developments at Circle of Strength Family has been the continued formation of our Board of Directors. We have been fortunate to welcome an incredible group of leaders who are passionate about strengthening families, serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and helping shape the future of our organization.

As we continue finalizing our Board, we are thrilled to officially introduce our inaugural Board of Directors at this year's Unity Ball. We can't wait to celebrate the dedicated individuals who have committed their time, expertise, and leadership to advancing our mission and helping Circle of Strength Family continue to grow.

Rider University Resource Day – September 23

We're also preparing for our Resource Day at Rider University on September 23, where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their families, and community members will have the opportunity to connect with valuable organizations, services, and resources. We're thrilled to collaborate with Rider University and their incredible students to make this event a meaningful experience for everyone involved. Vendors interested in participating can submit a registration inquiry [here](#).

Something Exciting is on the Horizon...

We have another special initiative in the works for later this season! While we're not quite ready to share all the details, we can promise it's something we're incredibly excited about and can't wait to unveil. Stay tuned, more information will be coming soon!

Thank you to our supporters, volunteers, donors, community partners, and families for continuing to believe in our mission. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community...and we're just getting started!

Stay Connected:

Follow along, get involved, and learn more about our work:

Website: circleofstrengthfamily.org

Instagram: @njcircleofstrength_family

Facebook Page: NJ Circle of Strength Family

LinkedIn: Circle of Strength Family

Two Organizations. One Purpose. Empowering Families.

Through our ongoing efforts, Circle of Strength Family continues to enhance the work of Circle of Strength—creating new opportunities, increasing access to resources, and building a stronger, more connected community for the families we serve.





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

STRONGER FAMILIES • STRONGER COMMUNITIES

As Founder and CEO of Circle of Strength Family, I am proud to reflect on the progress we have made this quarter and even more excited about the opportunities ahead. Every new partnership, event, resource, and connection brings us closer to our mission of empowering families, building partnerships, creating opportunities, and strengthening communities.

One of our major goals this quarter is to expand the reach and impact of our Unity Ball. This special celebration is about much more than an event—it is an opportunity to bring our community together, recognize those who serve, celebrate individuals and families, and raise greater awareness of the needs and strengths of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) community. This year, we have set a fundraising goal of more than \$15,000, with the hope of expanding our community outreach and creating even more opportunities to support the families we serve.

We are also incredibly grateful to celebrate the receipt of a new grant for Circle of Strength Family. This support represents another important step in strengthening our programs, expanding our community presence, and continuing the work of educating, advocating, and connecting families with meaningful resources.

Another exciting milestone is our work to bring together a diverse group of community vendors and partners for our first Resource Day at Rider University. Our vision is to create an inclusive environment where individuals with IDD, caregivers, families, professionals, and community organizations can come together to learn, connect, and access valuable information and resources. Through education and advocacy, we want families to better understand the services, opportunities, and supports available to them.

As a Direct Support Provider, Circle of Strength will continue to stand strong alongside our families. We remain committed to assisting transitioning adults as they enter the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) system and helping families navigate services with greater confidence and support.

We are equally committed to expanding our Hispanic community outreach, increasing access to culturally responsive information and assistance, and strengthening relationships with organizations serving Spanish-speaking individuals and families. Every family deserves the opportunity to be informed, heard, supported, and included.

As we move forward, we invite our community partners, vendors, families, supporters, and advocates to continue building with us. Together, we can increase awareness, strengthen family supports, create meaningful partnerships, and ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have opportunities to thrive within their communities.

Thank you to our families, Direct Support Professionals, staff, community partners, supporters, and friends who continue to believe in the mission of Circle of Strength Family. Your commitment allows us to keep growing, serving, educating, advocating, and making an impact.

We are stronger when we stand together.
With gratitude and commitment.



ELISE COUNTS
CEO



Let us know how we can help!



[Circle Of Strength Website](http://www.njcircleofstrength.com)

Visit our website for more information

www.njcircleofstrength.com

To reach us by phone contact us at
908-290-0227

Follow us on Social Media for any updates!

