



Build Jake's Place

Playgrounds for Everybody.™

To Our Dedicated Supporters,

August 1, 2025

A dream remains a dream, until it is shared. Once shared, it becomes a reality. (Brazilian Proverb)

Our grandson, Jake, would have been 20 this past July 9th. Jake's parents, our daughter Kate and husband, Joseph Nasto dreamed of building an all-inclusive playground to honor Jake. They shared that dream with us; we shared that dream with you and Jake's Place Cherry Hill opened on October 15, 2011.

We thought we fulfilled our mission. Then we met families traveling miles in every direction to come to Jake's Place and realized one all-inclusive playground was not enough. So, we built another, in Delran. Each took 4 years of fundraising. We would never live long enough to build many more! Build Jake's Place Board and other friends and supporters helped us pursue and succeed in getting Jake's Law passed in 2018. It provides Green Acres funding to counties, towns and municipalities who meet the law's criteria. There are nearly 100 all-inclusive playgrounds being built throughout New Jersey; many called Jake's Place. **Now, we have fulfilled our mission!!**

What is left to do? I turned 80 this June and Lynn is not far behind me. We have been talking about succession planning with our board, executive director and many of our funders for more than a year. We do not need to fundraise to build playgrounds but Build Jake's Place (BJP) also manages a baseball Miracle League. We also provide buses and lunch to bring thousands of students for Play Days every spring and fall. We consult with schools and businesses where new playgrounds are being built. These programs **MUST** continue.

With gratitude and great hope for the future, BJP will now be called Our View, with the same 501 © 3 nonprofit status. Lynn and I are passing our leadership to our Executive Director, Arthur Aston who has served as BJP Executive Director since 2013 and also created Our View as an advocacy program prior to that. He will continue all programs of Build Jake's Place along with the advocacy work he is so passionate about. Art has called forth an impressive Board for Our View and Lynn and I, Kate and Joe and all the current BJP Board Members will be their Advisory Board.

To celebrate this transition of dreams fulfilled and still in the making, we hope you will join us at Luciens Manor on October 19, 2025 (Invitation enclosed). There are no keys to pass to Art, but we hope you will be there as we pass him Jake's Legacy, bless him and thank **YOU** for continuing the mission of both these organizations.

Our View's mission is to educate, raise awareness, and change the tone of conversation about how society views disabled people, and how disabled people view themselves. Our vision is to aid in improving individual and collective relationships with those in the disability community and others who love, serve, play and work with them.

We hope you agree!

Board Chairman, Build Jake's Place