



# Our World

## Daniel Jacobs: *Landing on his feet in a tight job market*

Daniel Jacobs didn't miss a beat when he lost his job last year — the victim of a warehouse closing in a tough economy. The 46-year-old with developmental disabilities immediately began job-hunting — and within two months, had landed his current position at Kmart in Clementon, N.J.

"He has a good work attitude and wants to work," says Bancroft employment specialist Kenny Wan, Daniel's job coach. "Employers want that."

Initially hired as a seasonal worker, Daniel was one of just a handful of temporary employees offered permanent positions at the store, out of about 20 temps.

"He's a very hard worker, very self-motivated," says his former boss, Mike Tolen, who worked with Daniel for 12 years at Harcourt until the publishing firm closed its New Jersey sites. "I knew he'd be hired and be a success."

At Kmart, Daniel clearly enjoys his new post. On a recent day, he laughed and kidded with coworkers as he expertly unpacked boxes of clothes, sorted them by department, and hung them on metal racks in the store's loading-dock area.

Although unable to speak, Daniel communicates through deft, mime-like gestures. "He tells us what he does over the weekend," notes his Kmart supervisor, Sharon Deuter. "We like to

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Daniel Jacobs (left) unpacks a shipment of clothes as part of his job at a Kmart store. With him is Bancroft job coach Kenny Wan, who helps train Daniel for new responsibilities and offers other supports as needed.

## Assistive-technology expert to speak at fall lecture

Assistive technology is one of the hottest topics in the disabilities field today — and Bancroft will soon host one of the top authorities on the subject.

Joy Smiley Zabala of the Center for Applied Special Technology in Wakefield, Mass., will speak at Bancroft's Clarence York Lecture on Friday Nov. 12. The former president of the Council for Exceptional Children's Technology and Media Division, Zabala consults and speaks around the globe about assistive technology.

In addition to Zabala's presentation, the York Lecture will feature a panel discussion and vendor fair, both focused on assistive technology — innovations that eliminate barriers and enhance learning and abilities.

Zabala's talk and the panel discussion will take place at the Cherry Hill (N.J.) Public Library from 9 a.m. to noon. The vendor fair will be held at The Bancroft School in Haddonfield, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Both sites are off Kings Highway/ Route 41, about two miles apart.)

For lecture reservations or more information, please contact Sue Crouse at (856) 348-4010 or at [scrouse@bnh.org](mailto:scrouse@bnh.org).

*The Clarence York Lecture Series is made possible by a generous bequest from Charlotte Taylor, the late mother of a man served by Bancroft.*



Joy Zabala

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**Toni Pergolin**



## New challenges — and victories

As we all work together to not only be in our local communities, but to be accepted, respected and welcomed with open arms, I find myself keeping track of all our successes — from small to large...steps that we are taking every single day to make it One World. For Everyone.

Years ago, we were proud that many of the people we serve were living in community settings. But that was only half of the equation. Today, we know it's also the relationships we build and how we participate that make us feel included. Our challenge now is to help people make connections with each other, based on common interests — to focus on our similarities, rather than our differences.

Through the ongoing efforts of our staff, families and persons served, we are working to knock down walls and eliminate barriers to people with disabilities. We don't just mean adding ramps and elevators; we mean overcoming barriers to employment, transportation, communication and, of course, attitudinal barriers.

And yes, attitudes are changing. Just recently, New Jersey passed a law that removes disrespectful terms like "mental retardation" from all state statutes and regulations. The campaign for the law was led by self-advocates here at Bancroft and across the state. Their message was powerful and their voices were heard. More people are starting to "get it." Like N.J. Governor Chris Christie, who reportedly said of the new law: "This is making sure each citizen in our state is treated with the respect they deserve...It's their government, too."

***Indeed — it's our world, too.***

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## Incoming trustees are leaders in various fields

One is a top hospital executive and father of a Bancroft graduate. Another is a human-resources expert from an international corporation. And a third is a physician, professor and medical researcher.

These three local leaders – James Dwyer, D.O., MBA, Tracee Hunt, SPHR, and Howard Weinberg, M.D. – have joined together at Bancroft, as the newest members of our Board of Trustees.

"Coming from different backgrounds, Jim, Tracee and Howard

will strengthen the organization's leadership by bringing fresh, diverse perspectives," says Bancroft President Toni Pergolin. "Their addition is part of a board-development effort we started last year, to help prepare Bancroft for the future."

Dwyer is executive vice president and chief medical officer of Virtua, South Jersey's largest hospital system. A practicing rheumatologist, he is responsible for Virtua's medical affairs, continuing medical education and quality improvement, among other

duties.

Hunt is vice president of human resources for The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company. She also has human-resources experience in the hospital, retail and manufacturing industries. Hunt has served on the boards of First Tee, an international youth-development charity, and Impact Services, a large Philadelphia community-development corporation.

Weinberg is a cardiologist and principal investigator for research activities at the South Jersey Heart Group. He is board-certified in internal medicine and nuclear medicine, as well as cardiology. Weinberg serves on the Medical Executive Committee of Kennedy University Hospital in Washington Township, and is an instructor for Tenet Health System and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.



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From left to right: James Dwyer, D.O., Tracee Hunt, and Howard Weinberg, M.D.

# Work ethic and skills help in tight job market

(continued from cover)



Daniel Jacobs

Bancroft also has played a key role in Daniel's job success.

"His reading and writing are limited, so we've found suitable positions for him and helped him with the applications," says Wan. "We do a lot of interview prep. I have to be able to convey to the employer what Dan is saying."

Wan and other Bancroft staffers assist with Daniel's on-the-job training. Wan also helps him manage his work schedule, request time off, and ask for new responsibilities.

joke around, keep things light."

But the Voorhees, N.J., man – whose smile is nearly constant as he works – is also "efficient" on the job, reports Deuter.

"He has a great work ethic," adds Anita Garcia, Bancroft's program manager for supported employment. "He knows what's expected and does what he needs to do."

"We advocate for Dan at work," says the vocational staffer.

Daniel does a variety of tasks at Kmart, from unloading delivery trucks and sorting boxes onto their correct pallets, to removing packing materials from shoes and replacing them in their boxes, to sweeping floors in the loading area to maintain a neat, safe workspace.

"We'll show him something and he'll catch right on," says Kmart's Deuter.

When asked what he likes best about his job, Daniel rubs his thumb and forefinger together – giving the universal gesture for "money." He then indicates a favorite type of purchase, by mimicking playing a video game.

Work helps Daniel in deeper ways, too, says his mother, Alice Jacobs. "He gets satisfaction out of accomplishing things every day," explains Jacobs – who recalls her son as angry and frustrated before he enrolled at Bancroft at age 21.

"Bancroft did so much to develop him. They gave Danny a life," says the grateful mom. "He's not just existing; he has purpose. He feels normal... I can't thank them enough!"

## Spotlight on: parent Bill Wills



*Bill Wills and his son, David, who is served on Bancroft's Mullica Hill Campus. Bill is a strong advocate for David and others.*

**It would be tough to find a more dedicated dad than Bill Wills.** He frequently visits and advocates for his son David, who lives on Bancroft's Mullica Hill campus. But what really sets Bill apart is his commitment to others, outside his family.

"Bill is strongly focused on supporting our mission to make it one world for everyone," says Bancroft executive Dan Keating. A key example: Bill testifies before the New Jersey Legislature annually, to help secure funding for disability services.

"He's very compelling," says Keating. "Bill's testimony has helped avoid drastic funding cuts for services like Bancroft's."

Legislator Lou Greenwald notes Bill's impact, too. "His testimony gives the Legislature a better understanding of the needs of people with disabilities," says the assemblyman. "Such input from families is critical in our decision-making."

An active member of Bancroft's Family Council, Bill also chairs the Mullica Hill program advisory committee.

"It's [about] more than just David," says Bill, who spends about 10 vacation days a year helping Bancroft in various ways. "Other individuals have no one, so I feel a need to speak for them."

Bill's efforts run the gamut – from making fund-raising phone calls to serving burgers at campus barbecues. "You have to give your time, not just money," says the Gloucester City, N.J., dad. "I like to be there to help..."

## Making it One World. For Everyone.

## School programs change lives

### A continuum of education options:

- **The Bancroft School**, serving 230 students ages 5 – 21, in Haddonfield, N.J.
- **The Bancroft Early Education Program** for children on the autism spectrum, ages 3 – 9, in Cherry Hill, N.J.
- **The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility**, serving students who are medically fragile, ages 3 – 21, in Voorhees, N.J.
- **One-to-one education** for young children with autism, provided in the home, school, daycare center or at Bancroft
- **Social skills groups** for children with autism, ages 5 – 18
- **Consultation and training** for teachers, schools and districts

**For more information, visit [bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org) or call 1-800-774-5516.**

Founder Margaret Bancroft started her school with one pupil in 1883. Today, Bancroft Educational Programs serve more than 300 students annually at three South Jersey locations — and in children’s homes, public schools, daycare centers and other community sites.

But these programs still feature many of the qualities Margaret Bancroft pioneered, including an individualized approach, low student-to-staff ratios, and the goal of maximizing each person’s abilities.

Such longstanding principles — combined with today’s best practices — result in outstanding success for Bancroft students.

Just ask Priscilla Ocasio-Jimenez, whose 17-year-old son Jesus Jimenez has attended The Bancroft School since 2003.

“I literally thought he’d be with me forever and totally incapable of doing anything,” says Ocasio-Jimenez, herself a middle-school principal.

Today, Jesus does “just about everything,” says his mom — from working at jobs in the community, to cleaning and doing laundry at home, to going out to shops and restaurants.

“Bancroft is a perfect school for a child with autism,” says Ocasio-Jimenez. “Jesus has really blossomed [there].”

Such accomplishments can also be traced to Bancroft’s team approach, says Jeff Reuter, executive director of Bancroft Educational Programs.

“Staff from multiple disciplines evaluate each student’s abilities, then work with the school district and family to create an individualized education plan,” he explains. “We tap a lot of different expertise to help each student in numerous ways.”

Six-year-old Nicky Lippi gained so many skills at Bancroft that he transitioned to his local public school in September.

“I didn’t know if he would ever be able to talk,” says mom Sharon Lippi, recalling Nicky at age 3, when he enrolled in Bancroft’s Early Education Program. “It took about a year to have multiple words; then conversation [began] a few months after.”

Bancroft staffers also gave Nicky behavioral therapy to improve his attention span. They strengthened his motor skills, and taught him a variety of self-help skills, such as dressing and communicating his needs.

“He’s made such progress in every area,” says Lippi. “Without Bancroft, I don’t think he would have met this potential.”

In other cases, students’ medical conditions prevent them from going out to school — so Bancroft education programs come to them. For instance, students who attend The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility are often dependent on ventilators, IVs and other equipment due to their complex conditions. Yet they get the benefits of going to school, right where they live.

Indeed, if not for Bancroft, Nicholas O’Keeffe’s education would be limited to tutoring in his room at Voorhees Pediatric. But through Bancroft’s on-site school, Nicky and his classmates even take occasional field trips.

“It’s very important for a child to be among other kids,” notes Nicky’s grandmother, Theresa O’Keeffe. The Bancroft School “gets them out and gives them something to look forward to. I can tell by his reaction — he seems to love it.”



Jesus working in the school cafeteria.

## Jesus Jimenez

### *Working toward independence*

**Jesus Jimenez** wants “a job in a kitchen” when he grows up. That’s a distinct possibility, say Bancroft educators.

“He’s learned a lot of skills,” reports teacher Dave Checchio, noting that Jesus works in several jobs through The Bancroft School’s vocational program – from helping in the cafeteria to cleaning a nearby theater.

In fact, Checchio recently created a “cleaning supervisor” position for Jesus – a first at the school – to further broaden the young man’s abilities.

“I think he could work as a cleaner,” says Checchio. “I hope he can be a supervisor. I think the potential is there.”

## Nicky Lippi

### *Graduating to public school*

Since coming to the Bancroft Early Education Program, **Nicky Lippi** “has blossomed tremendously in every area,” says his mom, Sharon Lippi.

So much so, that Nicky was ready to start at his neighborhood elementary school this fall, where he’s now in first grade.

“I’m excited he has the opportunity to go to a school where he has exposure to all kinds of kids,” says Lippi, whose son has autism and ADHD. “Bancroft totally prepared him for school.”



Nicky and teacher Gena Price.



Nicky with teacher Erin O’Brien.

## Nicholas O’Keeffe

### *Opportunities for learning, fun*

**Nicky O’Keeffe** is gaining skills and enjoying life. The 18-year-old is a student at The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatric Facility, a residence for youngsters with complex health needs.

Nicky has developmental disabilities and cerebral palsy, is unable to walk and requires tube feeding. But those challenges don’t stop him from learning. In fact, school comes to Nicky, through Bancroft’s modern classrooms inside the medical center where he lives.

“Nicky has come a long way since attending [Bancroft],” says his grandmother, Theresa O’Keeffe. “He’s more alert. He talks more. He does things that amaze us.”



**Fun committee:** Organizers of the Bancroft Butterfly Ball pose before a cardboard likeness of this year's dinner chair, ESPN analyst and former Eagles player Ron Jaworski.

## Butterfly Ball: Big names to gather for celebration

TV sports personality Ron Jaworski will help host this year's Butterfly Ball. But the former Eagles quarterback won't be the only local hero at the Oct. 22 event — Bancroft's major annual fundraiser. Indeed, a prominent physician and a leading design firm will be honored at the black-tie gathering at a Mount Laurel, N.J., hotel.

Neurologist Steven Bromley, M.D., will receive the Margaret Bancroft Award, while construction-design firm KDA Architects will accept Bancroft's Corporate and Community Leadership Award. Both honors recognize those who've greatly enhanced the quality of life for children and adults with neurological challenges.

"Both Dr. Bromley and KDA have been outstanding supporters of Bancroft's mission," says Barbara Berkman, chair of the Butterfly Ball Committee. "We're very pleased to give them this much-deserved recognition, and to celebrate their contributions at the Ball."

Bromley provides neurology and/or psychiatry services to 15 people served by Bancroft Brain Injury Services, and is a strong supporter of the organization. The founder of the neurology clinic at the Cooper Neurological Institute in Camden, N.J., Bromley recently helped establish the deep brain stimulation surgical program for Parkinson's disease at Cooper University Hospital.

KDA, which designed our innovative Judith B. Flicker Residences in Voorhees, N.J., has donated its services on multiple Bancroft projects. The firm also is assisting with a major redesign of our Mullica Hill Campus, which will improve the quality of life for people who are served there.

The Butterfly Ball will be held at The Westin Mount Laurel, and features a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing to live music, and more.

For tickets or more information, call Bancroft's Advancement Office at (856) 348-1145, or visit [www.bancroft.org](http://www.bancroft.org).

## Win a trip to Jamaica!

Bancroft will raffle off a seven-night trip for two to Jamaica at the Butterfly Ball on Oct. 22. Raffle tickets will be sold in advance and at the Ball, for just \$20 each. For more information, call (856) 348-1145.

## Something BIG is on the way!

As we plan for Bancroft's future, we recognize the need for major investments in our facilities and technology, in order to continue providing highly effective services.

We are therefore preparing for a campaign unlike any other at Bancroft, to strengthen our entire continuum of services.

"We see this effort as building a platform for Bancroft's future," says President Toni Pergolin. "It has the power to transform our organization, increasing our base of supporters, attracting new volunteer leaders, and raising awareness about Bancroft in the community. It is very exciting!"

As we get ready for the campaign, we still rely on the continued support of all our friends and families. Your ongoing contributions to The Bancroft Fund are truly vital in making this campaign — and the futures of the children and adults we serve — successful.

One of the projects identified as a priority for the campaign is the renovation of our Mullica Hill Campus. Due to the facility's age and changes to the population we serve there, it has become imperative to rebuild the campus — a key facet of our continuum. Many people we serve transition into and out of this program, as their needs change.

"The children and adults Bancroft serves deserve modern facilities in which to learn, live and grow," says Raymond Welsh, chairman of Bancroft's Development Committee. "I encourage everyone to give 110-percent to Bancroft, as we begin to transform the organization for a strong and secure future."

Please watch for more details on the campaign in the coming months. To learn more, please call our Development Office at (856) 348-1145.



## Sizzling summer: a look at recent celebrations and successes

Clockwise from top left:

- **Phillies fun:** More than 100 kids and adults served by Bancroft, their staff and family members went to a Phillies game in July, courtesy of the Phillies and player Greg Dobbs (in center wearing cap) — who became a Bancroft board member this year. We cheered as the Phillies won — and our “One World – For Everyone” video played on the giant scoreboard!
- **Media moment:** Bancroft School student Dalton Stilts is interviewed by Dawn Timmeny of Philadelphia’s NBC10 TV as he prepares for the Special Olympics National Games this summer. Dalton — who was also featured on CNN — represented New Jersey on the state’s flag-football team.
- **Clay creations:** A herd of whimsical creatures rests on a table along with other small sculptures, at The Bancroft School Arts Festival. Arranging the display is student D’Asia English. In addition to artwork, the festival included students’ poetry and dance performances.
- **Shore thing:** Adrienne Beattie and Ryland Danley socialize

during the annual “Beach Day” held by the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey. Scores of people served by Bancroft took part in the outing to Ocean City, N.J., where they enjoyed the sand and surf, boardwalk and a picnic lunch.

- **Workin’ it:** Bancroft honors Whole Foods Market in Marlton, N.J., for its longtime commitment to employing people with neurological challenges. Douglas Soddy (far right), a man served by Bancroft, has worked at the store for six years. With Soddy are his Whole Foods supervisors Ivy Flora and Jason Navilliat (both seated), Bancroft’s Stephen Bruce (from left) and Anita Garcia, Bancroft supporter Mike Tolen, and Bancroft’s Victoria Sweeney and Tim Marshall.
- **Healthy cookers:** Bancroft Food Service staffers show off a new oven that enables fat-free cooking. Bancroft obtained the \$28,000 Convi Oven through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From left are Regina Parker, Roman Jones, Marie Gaylert, and Dennis Duffy.



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*Coming up:*

## Free workshop series

Sept.- April • in Haddonfield

## Bancroft Day

Oct. 16 • near Haddonfield

## Butterfly Ball

Oct. 22 • The Westin Mount Laurel

Visit [bancroft.org](http://bancroft.org) for details!

### Our World

Our World is published quarterly by Bancroft, a private, nonprofit organization.

### Our Mission

Bancroft's mission is to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment.

We do this by altering perceptions, and by supporting those with intellectual and developmental challenges and acquired brain injuries in achieving their life goals as valued and respected members of our world.

### To contact us, call: 1-800-774-5516

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### On 10-10-10...catch the power!

Imagine what would happen if you – and every Bancroft supporter – got ten friends to each give \$10 to the organization... Such small gifts multiplied by thousands would add up to giant benefits for the people we serve!

We call that the **Power of 10** – and beginning on 10-10-10, we hope you'll join us in this effort.

Simply visit the website [www.firstgiving.com/bancroft](http://www.firstgiving.com/bancroft), and select Power of 10 to create your personal Power of 10 webpage. Then send links to friends and family via email or social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Tools on the website make it easy!

Please create your webpage now, so you can send out links by 10-10-10 – our Power of 10 kick-off date. Questions? Email Michael McLaughlin at [mmclaughlin@bnh.org](mailto:mmclaughlin@bnh.org) or call him at (856) 348-1171.

### New site, walk for Bancroft Day

Bancroft Day, the organization's annual festival, will be held at a different site this year and will feature a new activity.

Scheduled for Saturday Oct. 16 at Challenge Grove Park in Cherry Hill, N.J., the event will include a one-mile "fun walk" around the park.

Walkers are asked to raise \$10 each for Bancroft. A special "Power of Ten" challenge seeks teams of ten walkers who each donate \$10. To register, call Jeanne Bozicek at (856) 428-0685 or email [jbozicek@bnh.org](mailto:jbozicek@bnh.org).

For more information, visit [www.bancroft.org](http://www.bancroft.org). Rain date: Oct. 17.