



Joe Barbato



The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information and support to all Rhode Islanders.

The Peer Assisted Health Initiative (PAHI) is one of eighteen programs within RIPIN. PAHI assists adults with special healthcare needs in accessing services including independent living, education and vocational resources.

RIPIN's mission is to inform, educate, support, and empower people to be equal partners in advocacy for education, health, and their socioeconomic well being.

Each year RIPIN serves more than 65,000 Rhode Islanders.

Joe Barbato is the RIPIN Peer Resource Specialist at Northwest Community Health Care.

As a Peer Resource Specialist, Joe uses his first hand knowledge to help patients at Northwest Community Health Care find the resources they need to overcome the obstacles of every day life.

*Whatever it may be, Joe will do all he can to assist you!*

Contact Joe at  
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The Rhode Island Parent Information Network  
1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920  
401.270.0101 800.464.3399  
www.ripin.org



## Peer Resource Specialist Services

to support people with **disabilities** **chronic conditions** and **special needs**

available at  
Northwest Community Health Care

36 Bridgeway  
Pascoag, RI 02859

401.568.7661 x179



## Who are Peer Resource Specialists?

Peer Resource Specialists are adults who have had obstacles in their own lives and now offer support to others with challenges such as chronic illness, disability and special healthcare needs.

Peer Resource Specialist are trained to support patients with special healthcare needs successfully transition from pediatric care to adult medical practices as well as assist adults with special needs in accessing community, independent living, education, and vocational resources.

A Peer Resource Specialist can make a difference in your life!



## We can help you!

### Support and Understanding

We are friendly listeners who have experience living with a chronic illness or disability. We can share our own story, and also offer mentoring and support.

### Knowledge

As consumers of many statewide supports, we have gained valuable knowledge about programs that can help you. We have received comprehensive training about resources in Rhode Island.

### Health Information

We provide information about wellness, smoking cessation, healthy weight, prescription assistance, medical equipment, mental health, and insurance.

### Community Resources

You can look to us for information about housing, transportation, independent living, utility assistance, recreation, support groups, employment, education, and more.



## Rhode Island's Peer Assisted Health Initiative



This program was created to assist primary and specialty care medical sites in meeting the needs of youth and adults with special healthcare needs.

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network is a partner in the program. RIPIN employs ten Peer Resource Specialists on-site in medical and specialty practices. The RI Department of Health, Office of Special Healthcare Needs, administers the program.

Other partners include the RI Dept. of Human Services (Office of Rehabilitation Services), Rhodes to Independence, Southern Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Dept. of Mental Health and Retardation, Dept. of Corrections, Governor's Commission on Disabilities, RIPTA, Housing Resource Commission, Independent Living Centers, Dept. of Education (including the Transition Council), Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Minority Health Promotion Centers, Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, NAMI, CranstonArc, United Cerebral Palsy of RI, netWORKri, Disability Law Center, and other disability organizations.

For an appointment with Northwest Community Health Care Peer Resource Specialist

Joe Barbato call 401.568.7661 x179