State of New Jersey



## Dear Stakeholder:

November is National Caregivers' Month, an opportunity for us to recognize the hard work and dedication of thousands of caregivers throughout the state. There are many kinds of caregivers: family members caring at home for a loved one with medical issues, psychiatric or developmental disabilities; direct care workers, who do the same but in facilities or community residential settings; health care workers in many different venues; personal care assistants; home health aides, and respite workers. Their dedication, skill and compassionate care is essential.

Over the past several months, in the midst of hurricanes, flooding, and an October nor'easter - they were working. On weekends and during holidays - they are working.

What they do every day helps so many maintain a quality of life they wouldn't otherwise have. They are a lifeline, protector, communicator, advocate, companion and, in many cases, surrogate-family.

On behalf of the Department of Human Services and who we serve, please let the caregivers in your organization know that their work is appreciated.

Regards,

Jennifer Velez Commissioner