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# Challenges & Changes

*Real stories of families helped by Intervention Associates*

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## Caring for Children with Special Needs

**C**are Management services are not just for seniors. The families of children who suffer from chronic mental or physical disabilities often need the type of assistance provided by a professional care manager.

Financial advisors, attorneys, and trust officers can assist families in long-term financial and estate planning. Many advisors know that there is a complex series of decisions that need to be made, outside of the financial matters, in order to care for a disabled family member. Some of the questions that advisors must ask are:

**Will your child need to move out of his or her familiar home, and where is the best location for a move?**

**How will your child get the medical attention that his or her condition requires?**

**Are there publicly funded programs that can help?**

When parents or caretakers must address these questions with advisors, often Intervention Associates hears from aging parents who are concerned about who will take care of their disabled child when they are no longer able to. They want to make sure that the child will continue to

have the best quality of life available without becoming a burden to siblings or other family members.

Professional care managers can provide clinical assessment and evaluation of care needs. Since they are so familiar with

resources in the community, they are an invaluable liaison to appropriate housing resources, medical care and information about public benefits.

According to Intervention Associates Special Needs Trust expert Peggy Baraldi, M.Ed., “We can help a family find housing and transportation as well as equipment and supplies.

We’ll help them make and keep appointments with primary care physicians, neurologists, cardiac and orthopedic doctors, etc. We’ll submit insurance claims and help in the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible van. In short, we’ll do almost anything it takes to help special needs children and their families.”

Intervention Associates also works closely with many families caring for children who are the recipients of Special Needs Trusts. We work with many advisors who manage the financial portfolios of children and young adults who have suffered life-altering disabilities and are now drawing on special needs trusts. Often, we have been called on to ensure that the services provided are appropriate, both medically and financially.

The services of a professional care management team can assure a family that their loved one will be looked after competently while relieving the remaining family members of caregiver stress. 🐾



## A Case Study

Helen (*not her real name*) had lived in her Main Line home for over 45 years when her attorney called Intervention Associates. She had raised four children there, and after her husband died eight years ago she vowed that she would never leave her beloved home. Last year, her oldest daughter visited Helen during the holidays and noticed some changes in her mother that concerned her. Her usually spotless kitchen was cluttered, and there was a large pile of unopened mail near the front door. Helen expressed feeling tired and forgetful, as well as having some back pain, and seemed to have “slowed down” in her daughter’s words. Unsure of how to

proceed, Helen’s daughter contacted Helen’s long-time attorney, who called Intervention Associates.

Our initial evaluation indicated that Helen was likely in the beginning stages of dementia. She had forgotten several medical appointments, and had gone to others but not followed through on necessary tests that her doctors had recommended. Once Intervention Associates became involved, Helen was able to get to her appointments and tests. It was discovered that she had a urinary tract infection, which was the cause of her physical complaints. Once this was treated, she reported feeling better and having more energy. Her spirits lifted, and she was more willing to participate in social activities.

Intervention Associates arranged for Helen to have a companion during the week, and together they ensured that her grocery shopping was done, and that she kept all her medical appointments. Her companion also assists her with personal care as needed. Because all of Helen’s children are busy professionals, and three of them live at a distance, Helen’s care manager keeps them informed of her progress with regular written reports and telephone calls.

Helen is firm in her resolve to remain at home. With the supports that Intervention Associates has put in place, she and her family are confident that she will be able to remain at home for as long as she can safely do so. 🙌

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