



# LADACIN VIRTUAL Plunge 2021

## Be Silly While Getting Chilly

in support of the J. Michael Hartnett Memorial



Dear Family and Friends,

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual LADACIN Plunge to benefit LADACIN Network is going Virtual this year. It will begin on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and run through Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. This has been a most difficult year and we will miss seeing many of you in person as we have done in all prior years and we look forward to returning to normal in 2022. Instead of the traditional Plunge, it is a year to get creative with your own cold weather challenges wherever you choose. Costumes are encouraged as well as buckets of ice water and any other chilly provisions you want to include to make your 2021 Plunge stand out! Join the fun, get creative, put your team together and start your fundraising page. With your help we can Plunge into a better 2021. Please send pictures and videos to LADACIN Network so that we can organize and share them with all plunge supporters.

On behalf of the Plunge Committee, LADACIN Network and the thousands of families who depend on its services each year, we cannot thank all of you enough for your continued donations, participation and sponsorships. Since the Inaugural Plunge 12 years ago, we have reached a milestone by raising over one million dollars. The monies raised from this event have been used to meet the Agency's greatest needs. Over the past several years the proceeds have helped fund adult programs; occupational, physical and speech therapies; and critical repairs and improvements in our residences.

LADACIN Network is a non-profit Agency that provides lifetime assistance inclusive of education, therapeutic, social, vocational, residential and support services to over 3,500 infants, children and adults with complex physical and developmental disabilities or delays. LADACIN Network has been greatly impacted by COVID-19. The Agency has experienced decreases in funding and increased expenses. In addition to funding cuts, several special events/fundraisers have already been cancelled. Funding is crucial to sustain the vital programs and services LADACIN provides for people with disabilities. We recognize the majority of our supporters have been financially impacted by this pandemic so it goes without saying that we understand those who are unable to make a financial contribution this year. For the individuals and businesses that can make a contribution we are forever grateful. Your support will make a positive impact on our most vulnerable citizens during this difficult time.

My involvement with LADACIN developed through the love and admiration that I have for my cousin Elizabeth Hartnett ("Liz"). The services that Liz receives from LADACIN have helped her to develop the skills needed to move into LADACIN's independent living complex, seek out employment and remain employed in the community for many years. She is currently employed by Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune. Prior, she has worked at Ft. Monmouth for 22 years.

Liz is a truly inspiring, beautiful and brilliant woman who continues to amaze all who are fortunate enough to be in her presence. She continues to be my personal hero and the LADACIN Plunge is my family's way of thanking LADACIN for providing Liz with its life changing services for over forty years. Liz's father and my uncle, J. Michael Hartnett, was a long-time Agency Board member and advocate for people with disabilities.

**To sponsor the event, make a donation online or create your own fundraising page, visit the Plunge event page at [LADACIN.org](http://LADACIN.org).**

Thank you for your contributions to LADACIN's 2021 Plunge. Please join me in making it a continued success for years to come.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Russell, Jr.  
Event Coordinator