



# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina State Council

State Secretary Annual Report

Fraternal Year 2024-2025

The State Secretary is responsible for gathering all council membership information and submitting it to our liability insurance carrier in a timely fashion to ensure our liability insurance does not lapse. As the state secretary, I am also responsible for submitting vouchers for each disbursement of all funds from the State Council. Gathering all information for the State Council and submit the annual survey or fraternal activities for the state council to supreme. Duties also include selecting venues for the state meetings.

Serving as the State Secretary this fraternal year 2024-2025 has been both challenging and rewarding, and I would not change anything about it since I find myself growing in faith, patience and humility with each task. One of the challenges for me as State Secretary was the amount of time that is required in negotiating with hotels for our various functions. I have traveled across the fine State of South Carolina from Spartanburg to Myrtle Beach to Rockhill to Beauford for multi-district and state functions to include, district meetings, fraternal benefit nights, state convention planning, and numerous activities across the four corners of my territory. Some of my personal favorites include the state soccer challenge, basketball free throw competition, several CFU exemplifications in both English and Spanish, Fourth degree Exemplification, and other fraternal benefit nights. I finalized the last District Deputy's winter meeting, and the state convention which had its challenges, but rising to these challenges helped me understand the demands of this worthy position.

In addition to the above I have attended

- State council Installation of officers meeting Columbia June 2024
- Installation of Officers Holy Spirit James Island July -2024
- Supreme Convention Quebec Ca. August 2024
- C.U.F. Degree Blessed Sacrament #12472 West Ashley September 2024
- District 3 meeting Myrtle Beach September 2024
- Spanish CUF Exemplification #11991 September 2024
- 96<sup>th</sup> Fourth Degree Exemplification Lake Wylie September 2024
- Attended Social # 13713 and Ace wing award presentation Blythewood October 2024
- Council #11991 Fall Fest. October 2024
- Citadel # 6900 C.U.F. Exemplification November 2024
- Council 6726 C.U.F. Exemplification November 2024
- State Soccer Challenge Columbia November 2024
- Help with # 704 Turkey Run Charleston November 2024
- Feed the troops Lancaster, York, Rockhill and Breakfast with Santa at St. Phillips December 2024
- Pro-life gala and march Columbia January 2025
- Mid-Year Meeting Columbia January 2025
- Permanent Deacon ordination Charleston February 2025
- 97<sup>th</sup> Fourth Degree(2<sup>nd</sup>) Spanish Exemplification Bluffton February 2025
- Saint Clare Home Pink n Blue Gala Greenville February 2025
- Free throw competition Columbia March 2025
- 98<sup>th</sup> Fourth Degree Exemplification Beauford March 2025
- Will be attending the State convention in Greenville May 2025



## **Knights of Columbus**

### **South Carolina State Council**

I am honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to serve as the Secretary for the State Council for the fraternal year 2024-2025 thus far and continue to put faithful effort in this position. Stepping up to these demands I have secured the hotel and procured a contract with the Embassy Suites of Greenville for a 3-year contract for the State Convention 2025, 2026, 2027. Currently working on coordinating Installation of State Officers and our Summer Columbus Hope, DD And GK meeting to be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

Joining the Knights 25 years ago as a Knight it's difficult to put into words the enjoyment of working, praying and serving alongside the most faithful men I know. Being a Knight to me is not only a privilege but an honor no matter which hat I'm wearing at the time. All Knights have a role in our call to Faith, Family, Community and Life (Faith in Action) whether it's as simple as volunteering for a pancake breakfast or representing our state at the Supreme Convention. I have full respect for each and every member of the order and look forward to rolling my sleeves up and giving 100% to serve the State Council.

My hope is and always will be that through my leadership the Knights continue to be leaders in our families, our communities and the Church, and by doing so, attract younger Knights so that our organization can thrive well into the future. My sincere gratitude for the many mentors I've had along the way, its brothers like Jeff, Paul, Daniel and Mike among a few, that have assisted me in become the leader and Knight I've become.

J. Scott Friedman SC. State Secretary

*J. Scott Friedman*



## **Knights of Columbus**

### **South Carolina State Council**

April 19, 2025

Worthy State Deputy and Brother Knights of the South Carolina State Council,

It is the duty of the State Treasurer to be custodian of all the funds and securities of the State Council. Including receiving all monies, keeping a true and accurate account thereof and depositing the same to the credit of the South Carolina State Council, Knights of Columbus, in a bank selected by the State Officers.

During the 2024-2025 fraternal year I attended and participated in the following:

- State Council Installation and District Deputy Organizational Meeting, Columbia, SC, June 29, 2024
- Grand Knights Mid-Winter Meeting, Columbia, SC January 25, 2025

As a State Council Officer, I have represented the State Deputy at several events. I serve as Chairman of the Annual State Council Charity Raffle.

As the State Treasurer, I have performed several functions for the State that have needed scrutiny, analyzing situations, and have contacted the Supreme Council when necessary, all to the approval of the State Deputy.

In this role, I have experienced many new and previously unknown challenges. However, through prayer and with the support of my fellow State Officers, I have come through them and am growing into this vital office.

Overall, it has been an extremely rewarding year, the support offered to Karen and I is sincerely appreciated and I look forward to continuing all Treasurer assignments through the end of the fraternal year in June with the State Council. For several years I've enjoyed my time contributing to the State Council and working with great State Deputies and Officers to support the Knights of South Carolina. With regret I will no longer be able to contribute after this fraternal year and wish the new State Officers the best.

Fraternally submitted,

**S. Edward Wilcox**

S. E. Wilcox, State Treasurer



# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina State Council

### STATE ADVOCATE'S ANNUAL REPORT

July 2024 through April 2025

It has been an honor and a privilege to be your State Advocate this fraternal year. Bottom line up front. We have had no legal problems in the State Knights of Columbus this year. We have had problems with a number of men wanting to join our fantastic organization that were unqualified due to past or present criminal convictions due to Sexual Misconduct. The whole organization is keen on not allowing anyone on a sexual offender list to be Knights of Columbus. This year I have many inquires but one questions seemed to be the biggest. The biggest question this year was about liability coverage. My Brothers the Knights of Columbus insurance coverage is exemplary. It covers your Council and its activities as you go out to perform Charity, Fraternity and Unity for our communities. When considering an activity or an issue always think what the headline in the New York Times would look like in order to protect your Council and the Order. Always remember that if you sell anything to parishioners you must take sales tax into consideration. If you decide to only ask for a suggested donation then sales tax is not a consideration. The State Deputy has been very clear we only ask for donations. If you determine to do Alcohol you must follow all the rules of South Carolina on licenses and sales. This has caused some Councils trouble.

When you have a question about Knights of Columbus position on an issue always first go to KofC.org and search. If you can't find an answer don't hesitate to ask your District Deputy, as they can always answer 90% of your questions. Always remember your actions and programs are always on stage. Every action however small is observed and our order judged by the behavior of our Knights of Columbus family. Evangelization is our mission and the example of our lives is what converts our world. *"They will know we are Christians by our Love"! Jesus new commandment "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

What I did this last year as your State Advocate was to be a member of a great State Leadership Team. As your State Advocate, I have filled my responsibilities as the representative of the Supreme Knight and the State Deputy to Councils within South Carolina. I have provided legal advice to the State Council and subordinate Councils, provided advice regarding conduct of meetings, managed the Safe Environment program for the state, promoted the Safe Environment program to the District Deputies and Grand Knights, Composed resolutions for the State Convention and Supreme Convention, assisted the State Warden with room setup for State Council meetings and workshops, assisted the State Deputy and State Secretary in all other tasks and duties assigned. As a State Officer presented training events at GK workshop and advanced the COR program for State.

Humbly Submitted  
Richard W. Swain, Ph.D.  
State Advocate



## **Knights of Columbus**

### **South Carolina State Council**

#### **State Warden/Program Director Annual Report FY24-25**

As the State Warden, I am responsible for storing and maintaining all equipment belonging to the State Council. Additionally, the State Warden is responsible for transporting the equipment to the various venues for meetings, workshops, and conferences. I am also responsible for positioning the various chambers for the respective activities, whether they be a meeting or Mass in conjunction with a convention or workshop.

With the District Deputies and host Grand Knights, I work to ensure the success of each activity. The Warden is also responsible for ensuring protocol procedures are followed concerning seating and the display of flags and banners. Additionally, the State Warden assists in recruiting volunteers to serve in various ministries and activities during the State Convention.

My additional responsibilities include serving as the State Program Director. Responsibilities for this role include:

- Promoting and communicating directives and goals of the state deputy concerning state program initiatives and Supreme Council programs.
- Seek support from Supreme Council program Directors when clarification/guidance is needed.
- Provide direction, coaching and support to the FIA state team, district deputies and councils.
- Promote the use of Supreme websites, resources, and training.
- Provide necessary accountability for program guidelines, initiatives, goals, and deadlines.
- Submits State Forms for required Programs.

During the 2024-2025 fraternal year I attended, participated, and/or chaired the following:

- District Deputy and State Officer Installations Columbia June 2024
- Chairman for Pilgrim Icon & Silver Rose Program 2024-2025
- Pilgrimage National Eucharistic Congress - Indianapolis, IN July 2024
- Pilgrimage to Notre Dame Basilica/Grotto, South Bend IN, July 2024
- Warrior To Lourdes Chairman and Fundraising Director '24 - '25
- Officer Installation Fort Mill, SC – Bishop Denis J. O’Connell Council #12366 – July 2024
- Supreme Convention, Quebec Canada, August 2024
- District #3 Meeting, Myrtle Beach, August 2024
- 40 Days for Life Kickoff Campaign Event, Columbia, September 2024
- 96th Exemplification, Lake Wylie Oct 2024 – St. Michael the Archangel #3696
- Missing Man Table Chairman '24 - '25
- State Soccer Challenge, Columbia, October 2024
- Coats for Kids Program Chairman 2024-2025
- Served Holiday Meals to Armory Troops & Family in Lancaster/Rock Hill, November 2024
- Christmas Poster Contest Chairman 2024-2025
- Proudly Pro-Life March & Rally, Columbia, January 2025
- Essay Contest Chairman 2024 - 2025
- Grand Knights’ mid-winter meeting and charity ball, January 2025
- 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Exemplification in New York City, February 2025

- Rosary Chairman implementing multiple virtual rosaries, 2024-2025
- State Free Throw Contest, Columbia, March 2025
- 98<sup>th</sup> Exemplification, Beaufort SC, Rev. Albert A. Faase, Assembly #1447 March 2025
- State Convention Committee
- Columbus Hope Board Member
- Regional Marshall – Region 5

In addition to the above activities, my wife Dinah and I have participated in World Hunger Drive Meal Packing, Fish Fry events, and The Italian Festival at my council at Saint Phillip Neri, Fort Mill.

As a State Officer and Chairman for Coats to Kids, I managed an expanded program with a record number of councils participating in the program. We exceeded the previous State goal by purchasing over 6,000 coats for the “Coats For Kids” initiative by incorporating a BOGO promotion offered by Supreme. I was also blessed to run a fundraising campaign for the Warrior to Lourdes Program, creating and implementing a deeply discounted sale of smokers/grills which raised \$6,000. This money was used to send a wounded warrior to the program this year, and one for next year. My passion for reciting a daily rosary led me to the implementation of a series of Virtual Rosary Recitals using the Go To Meeting Account shared by the State and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. We have held over 5 virtual rosaries, including a Patriotic Rosary, with over 300 participants. More virtual rosaries are planned.

I am blessed to have so many fellow Knights, including priests and deacons, to help and guide me along my KOC journey. So many brothers have served as my guide and mentor, and many more have become my personal friends. All are my brothers! I am thankful for all the comradery and brotherhood that we have shared. As SC continues to shine throughout our Order for all we have done and accomplished, there is still so much more that can be achieved in honor of our founder Father Michael McGivney, for the Glory of our God, and for the needs of his people here on earth. Together, as one, we can make anything happen, and achieve any goal, no matter how far off it may seem.

I hope to continue to serve my Brother Knights of South Carolina in a role as a State Officer. I thank all my brothers, including my fellow State Officers, for the opportunity to serve and for having so much confidence in me and my abilities.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

Vivat Jesus Brothers!

Patrick J. Noone  
State Warden/Program Director



## **Knights of Columbus**

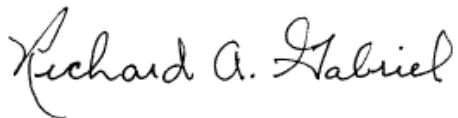
### **South Carolina State Council**

#### **Convention Rules by the Committee on Laws and Resolutions**

1. The State Deputy, prior to opening the convention shall appoint a Board of Tellers (anyone of whom shall be eligible to serve as Election Commissioner). They shall serve as tellers on all division votes; roll call votes; and shall count, examine a record all ballots cast for election of state officers and delegates or alternates to the Supreme Convention.
2. All Knighthood members in good standing entitled to be admittance to secession, but only as spectators.
3. When a member of the State Council desires to obtain the floor he shall rise, if the floor has been yielded, address the presiding officer by his official title, and upon catching the latter's attention the member shall give his name and his capacity in the State Council.
4. A motion regularly moved and seconded must be stated by the chair before a vote is taken.
5. A motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor, before the vote, without objection.
6. Members may not speak more than once on any question and not more than three (3) minutes; nor may they yield unused time to other members.
7. The chair must state every question clearly and, before putting same to a vote, shall say "Are you ready for the Question?"
8. Unless a demand is made by a delegate, the "whereas" clause of all resolutions and amendments shall not be read.
9. If no objection is made to a resolution or committee recommendation, it is declared adopted unanimously; saying "no objection? Agreed to."
10. All resolutions shall have been submitted in conformity with article III, Section 8. All amendments to or affecting the State By-Laws shall be handled in conformity with Article VII.
11. When a proposed resolution or amendment to the By-Laws has been disapproved by the committee, a delegate sponsoring the same shall be allowed on the floor, if requested.

12. When the PERMANENT ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES (Article III, Section 4) is initiated, the doors of the chamber will be closed. No one will be allowed to leave or enter and only the votes of delegates present in the chamber shall be counted. The State Warden shall assure that only qualified delegates are in the delegate seating area. The doors shall remain closed until voting of State Officers, Supreme Delegates and Alternates, Resolutions and State Council Budget is completed.
13. The nomination of State Officers, Delegates and Alternates to the Supreme Convention shall take place during the convention. Nominating speeches will be allowed if the position is contested. When nominating speeches are allowed they shall be limited to one speech of three (3) minute duration per candidate. Nominations shall not be seconded, nor shall motions closing nominations be entertained. When only one candidate for any office is presented, the chair shall instruct the State Secretary to cast one unanimous ballot of the State Council for such candidate and declaring him duly elected.
14. Robert's Rules of Order, as revised, shall govern all matters and or procedures that are not provided in the foregoing rules or the By-Laws of the Knight of Columbus South Carolina State Council or the Charter Constitution Laws of the Knights of Columbus.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard A. Gabriel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard A. Gabriel, PSD  
2025 State Convention Parliamentarian





## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

January 25, 2025

Worthy State Deputy,

The nominating committee met last evening and respectfully put forth the following slate of officers for the 2025-2026 fraternal year:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
State Deputy	J. Scott Friedman
State Secretary	Patrick J. Noone
State Treasurer	Joseph G. Nesbitt
State Advocate	Christopher J. Beumel
State Warden	Herman R. King

For the position of delegates to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention scheduled for August 4-7 in Washington DC, each jurisdiction has two automatic delegates, the State Deputy and the Immediate Past State Deputy. The South Carolina jurisdiction is also authorized two (2) additional "Insurance" Delegates and four (4) additional "Associate" Delegates.

The following Brother Knights have been nominated for these remaining six delegate positions along with alternates.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Insurance Delegate	Patrick J. Noone
Insurance Delegate	Christopher J. Beumel
Associate Delegate	Joseph G. Nesbitt
Associate Delegate	Herman R. King
Associate Delegate	Deacon Robert L. Cox III
Associate Delegate	Brandon J. Chambers
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate	Daniel E. Barton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate	Paul V. Burchell
3 <sup>rd</sup> Alternate	William E. Weiss Jr.
4 <sup>th</sup> Alternate	Richard W. Swain

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to chair this most worthy group of Catholic gentlemen and thank all the candidates who applied for State Officer and delegate positions.

I want to especially pay gratitude to the following members of the Nominating Committee for their time and attention in putting together the slate of officers and delegates for the 2025-2026 fraternal year:

Jeffrey M. Crouch, SD  
Thomas M. Monahan, PSD, FVSM, FDM  
Deacon Robert L. Cox

Daniel E. Barton, PSD, VSM, FDM  
Michael A. Allen, PSD, FDM  
Brandon Chambers, Ast General Agent

Respectfully submitted,

Paul V. Burchell, IPSD  
Chairman



## Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

April 24, 2025

Worthy State Deputy,

The Budget and Finance Committee has thoroughly reviewed the proposed budget for the next fraternal year, which has a Per Capita rate of \$7.50 per billable member (minus Inactive, Disabled, and Honorary Life).

The State Officers are to be commended for preparing the budget, considering the impact of recent Council mergers and reactivation efforts, the projected loss of billable membership due to the Affiliate Membership Program, and the increased cost of doing business in our current economy.

Therefore, after carefully reviewing the Proposed Budget for the Fraternal Year 2025-2026, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends its adoption.

I want to thank the following members of the Budget Committee for their time and diligence:

David Perez, DD #7

Bruce C. Hutchinson, DD #10

Respectfully Submitted,

*Daniel E. Barton*

Daniel E. Barton, PSD  
Vice Supreme Master, DeSoto Province  
Knights of Columbus



## **Knights of Columbus**

### **South Carolina State Council**

Worthy State Deputy, State Officer's, District Deputies, Grand Knights and my brothers all

It has been an absolute privilege to have been your membership director this past year for the state of South Carolina. As in previous years, business is booming and then some. As of this writing 15 councils have reached their goal for the year with 3 having obtained over 200% of their goal (councils 1668, 6726, and 6891). Lastly 11 councils are within 2 of their annual goal. 8 districts have reached their goals for the year the rest are within reach. The state is nearing 500 new members for the year making our membership goal for the year almost a foregone conclusion. Reaching the pinnacle goal for the year for a third year in a row appears to be just the same. Over 12 Hispanic outreaches have been performed in the past year bringing in over 200 new brother knights into the order with a prospect of another 200 men as well that could be interested in joining. That same process has been used by two councils in the state for the English community and both councils received interested from 46 and 35 men as well. In March we officially surpassed over 11,000 members for the first time in our states history and future growth appears strong with Catholic men in our state are looking for an opportunity to grow in their Faith, support the church, and help their fellow man. All in all everything is booming for the Knights of Columbus in the state of South Carolina.

Yours in Christ

Brandon chambers (Assistant General Agent, and State Membership Chairman)

God Bless



Michael A. Allen, PSD  
South Carolina District Master

# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina District

### De Soto Province

#### Fourth Degree

Phone: Cell (803) 397-7803  
E-mail: [scdistrictmaster@gmail.com](mailto:scdistrictmaster@gmail.com)

## Master's Report May 3, 2025

### Greenville, SC

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882. They took hold and they were growing, but the more they grew, and the more they had success, the more they faced anti-Catholic attacks. In the United States there was this idea that you couldn't be a good American and a good Catholic; that somehow, they were incompatible. It was at the turn of the century, during this time of anti-Catholic sentiment, that the Knights of Columbus formed the Patriotic Fourth Degree and validated that they can be both good Catholic men **and** patriotic American citizens.

On Thursday, February 22, 1900, in honor of George Washington's birthday, the Knights of Columbus celebrated the first Exemplification of Patriotism. The ceremony was held in the Lennox Lyceum in New York City with 1,383 candidates in attendance.

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the Knights of Columbus returned to New York City to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree within the historic walls of America's parish church - Saint Patrick's Cathedral. We invite all South Carolina Assemblies to hold their own anniversary events to commemorate this exciting and historic time.

Being a Catholic patriot is not so easy these days either. Everywhere you look, the Catholic Church takes the position of Christian morality and gets attacked for it. So, now, more than ever, it is important to demonstrate that we love our faith, but we also love our country. We are not trying to destroy our country; we're trying to make it better.

In the United States, we deal all the time with a great misunderstanding about the establishment clause of the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." It's almost to the point where you can't say anything religious, or else some people will claim you're violating the separation of Church and State. Nowadays, people want to shut down everything that has to do with religion.



Michael A. Allen, PSD  
South Carolina District Master

# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina District

### De Soto Province

#### Fourth Degree

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They want to say you can't have prayer in school or in a public sector; you can't support a military program if you're a church organization, because that violates the establishment clause. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Through the patriotic arm of the Order, Knights can gain a better understanding of their country and their government. They are equipped to teach others about the truth of their country's history and demonstrate their patriotism by being Catholics who truly love their country and are actively living out a love of their homeland. This can do a lot for the transformation of culture.

There was a time in our country where you and I might have disagreed about our political views, but I wouldn't think you were any less of a patriot. Today, the problem we face is that there are so many people who are quick to believe that their perspective is the only correct one, and they are willing to attack somebody else's patriotism just because they think differently about how to fight a war, or whom to support in a conflict.

I hope that through the Knights of Columbus and the Fourth Degree, we can understand that, regardless of people's differences, the most important thing is to love your country and to love your neighbor. That means you don't stop loving your brothers and your sisters in Christ just because they don't necessarily agree that everything you think is the correct patriotic point of view. I would love for the Fourth Degree to be a place where we encourage discussion again, where we may agree to disagree, but we don't diminish each other when we don't see eye to eye. We must be very careful to always maintain respect and love for one another even if we disagree.

I think you must look at it twofold. First, look at it from the patriotic point of view. As a patriot, you should love and support your country. You should be willing to die defending it if necessary. Yet I think you should also look at it in a broader sense. My country is the United States. I've got brothers in other countries. But we're all members of the Universal Church as well. We're all called to love and to defend the faith. We all have that in common as Catholic patriots.



Michael A. Allen, PSD  
South Carolina District Master

# Knights of Columbus

## South Carolina District

### De Soto Province

#### Fourth Degree

Phone: Cell (803) 397-7803  
E-mail: [scdistrictmaster@gmail.com](mailto:scdistrictmaster@gmail.com)

It would be wonderful for us to find ways to increase the dialogue between lay members of the Knights and their parish priests and bishops, so that we can have a greater understanding of our civic duties as Catholic citizens. Maybe we can facilitate having seminars, where Fourth Degree faithful friars can help Catholics to understand political issues and why they're important. Our priests can also help Knights understand other ways that we, as Catholic patriots, can be engaged in our community by carrying out corporal works of mercy for veterans who are struggling with homelessness, addiction or incarceration. Because everywhere you look, those numbers are on the increase. By working with our priests, I think the Fourth Degree can get a better sense of where Christ is needed right now, and how we, as patriotic members of the Order, can address those needs.

In that regard, I have asked Chris Hilditch, who has been a tremendous asset as District Secretary, to accept the new position of District Program Director, with the intention of developing a Program Manual that will rival the Supreme "Faith in Action" programs book. This will be an action plan for Navigators and their Assemblies to get and stay active for the next 125 years.

I would be remis if I didn't add that we will be looking forward to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of this great nation. Look for events, programs and new ideas in the upcoming South Carolina Program manual.

*Vivat Jesus*  
*Michael A. Allen, PSD*  
District Master South Carolina



Columbus H.O.P.E. Foundation  
Helping Other People Everyday

# Presidents Report

## 2025

# Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: Family Care and Support

Exploring Long-term Care Dynamics

## Introduction

Research into families has traditionally focused more on families with children, neglecting the dynamics involved in caring for adults with intellectual disabilities. However, the maintenance of family care well into the middle age of the intellectually disabled adult has stimulated increasing interest in this area. As adults with intellectual disabilities age, their needs and the role their families play in their support undergo significant changes.

## Transition to Adulthood

Studies have shown that the nature and frequency of accommodation activities change as individuals transition from childhood to adulthood. Two complementary themes emerge during this transition:

### Stable Routines

As children with intellectual disabilities grow older, stable routines develop within the family. The number of new accommodations decreases as other children in the family leave home and become independent. This stability can provide a sense of predictability and security for the disabled adult.

### Diminished Caregiver Ability

As caregivers age, their ability to provide care may be affected by their own declining health. Siblings often share in the support of their parents and siblings with disabilities, either practically or emotionally. This shared responsibility can help mitigate the challenges faced by aging caregivers but also introduces new dynamics in family relationships.



## Family Life-cycle Changes

The changes in the family life cycle can vary significantly in terms of timing and the types of transitions needed. Each family's experience is unique, influenced by factors such as the level of disability, family structure, and available resources. The complexity and variability of family life require flexible and adaptive support systems.

## Implications for Practice and Support

The focus of interventions has shifted from addressing a family's pathological reaction to the birth of a child with a disability to supporting and augmenting the adaptive functioning of family care. The research increasingly reflects the complexity and variability of family life, moving away from former pathological models of family functioning.

## Community and Organizational Support

Many of the social, physical, and emotional advances of the last half of the 20th century and the first quarter of the 21st century can be attributed directly to the support of groups like the Knights of Columbus' Columbus HOPE Foundation. These organizations play a crucial role in supporting disability-focused nonprofits, raising funds, and providing resources that make it easier for families to maintain care for intellectually disabled individuals.

## Empowering Families

By supporting the nonprofits focused on intellectual disabilities, we empower families to provide better care and support the emotional and social dynamics within the family. This holistic approach ensures that the needs of the intellectually disabled person are met while also addressing the well-being of the entire family.

## Conclusion

The emphasis is now on interventions that support the adaptive functioning of family care rather than focusing on pathological reactions. This approach acknowledges the complexity and variability of family life and aims to provide the necessary support to help families thrive. Thanks to the efforts of community groups and nonprofits, families are better equipped to care for their intellectually disabled members, ensuring a higher quality of life for everyone involved.

Michael A. Allen,  
President and Chairman of the Board  
Columbus HOPE Foundation