



Special Needs

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

When he took his antipsychotic medication for schizophrenia, 31-year-old Craig could live independently. Every few months, though, he grew scared the drugs were harming him and refused to take them. Then the hallucinations and delusions would recur. He would stop eating or bathing, and even end up homeless for short times or in jail. After their parents died, Craig's siblings became responsible for caring for their brother. They were both married with young children and couldn't take him. They didn't know what to do until someone they knew told them about JF&CS. They called JF&CS and were connected with a special needs resource coordinator.

Solution

Special needs case coordinators met with Craig and his siblings to help him set realistic goals for daily living and taught them to monitor and respond to early warning signs of relapse. They referred him to a psychiatrist who specialized in treating schizophrenia, as well as a rehabilitation program for vocational counseling. They gave his family an arsenal of coping strategies and problem-solving skills to manage their brother's mental illness effectively—and connected them with a support group for caregivers of people with schizophrenia.

Outcome

Craig is back to living on his own and holding down a retail job. He takes his medication regularly and attends his doctor's appointments. Scheduled visits from special needs resource coordinators and his siblings help keep him on track. He still suffers from occasional delusions, but he is on his way toward leading a rewarding and meaningful life.