

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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[www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org)

For immediate release

November 18, 2013

Repeat as space allows to Dec.13, 2013

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### **Donors Needed to Save Holidays for Less Fortunate Area Residents**

North Jersey-- The Volunteer Center of Bergen County is looking for companies, religious and civic groups, chambers of commerce and other community organizations, as well as individuals and families, to participate in its annual **All Wrapped Up Holiday Giving Program**.

Participation in **All Wrapped Up** will help needy children and families, troubled youth, lonely seniors and disabled adults, who may be passed over this holiday season unless generous donors come forward to offer assistance.

So far, over 3,500 people have requested help from the All Wrapped Up Program—children, seniors, disabled persons—and more than 1600 are still waiting to be matched with generous donors who will make their holiday wishes come true.

Information for potential donors wishing to make contributions can be found at [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org); click on Holiday Programs. Registration is open now; donor-client matching has already begun.

“We are asking groups of all kinds to step up and help those in need. We’ve already received a record number of requests from social service agencies for their clients. Groups can collect gifts or raise funds to help others find some joy in the holiday season,” says Janet Sharma, executive director of the Volunteer Center.

**All Wrapped Up** has two components: **Adopt-a-Family** and **Heart to Heart**.

For **Adopt-a-Family**, the Volunteer Center has already received gift requests for more than 750 families, ranging in size from two to seven people, and that number is expected to grow. Donors will be given a family profile, with specific gift requests that could include clothes, toys or household items. Donors should consider spending about \$50 per family member. Donors may also provide gift certificates to stores or supermarkets.

Donors with limited budgets or those who would like to focus on one needy person may help an individual through the **Heart-to-Heart** program. The Volunteer Center has already received almost 1,000 requests for assistance were submitted for seniors, lonely or disabled adults and children. Donors are asked to provide supermarket gift certificates,

clothing and gifts for the individual they select and should consider spending approximately \$50.

Non-profit agencies are currently submitting profiles of needy individuals and families to the Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Center, in turn, is compiling lists of groups and individuals willing to help. Donors will have no direct contact with individuals or families; all gifts will be delivered to and distributed by the non-profit organization.

To participate in the program, visit the Volunteer Center's website at [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org), click on Programs, the All Wrapped Up to complete an application form. Donors will receive profiles with specific gift requests. For more information, call Debbie Emery at (201) 489-9454 Ext. 118.

**All Wrapped Up** is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. The Volunteer Center strengthens the community by connecting people through service and developing civic leaders. For more information about **All Wrapped Up** or to inquire about other volunteer opportunities, visit the website at [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org), or call (201) 489-9454.

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