

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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### Student Spreads Holiday Cheer in Bergen County

Bergen County: For her volunteer service to the Volunteer Center of Bergen County in Hackensack, Jade He, a student at Schuyler Colfax Middle School in Wayne NJ, has been named a Joy Maker Ambassador by generationOn, a global youth service organization that inspires kids to make their mark on the world.

Jade, age 12, has been supporting two of the Volunteer Center's programs—All Wrapped Up, an annual gift -giving program for needy families and individuals, and the Center's Mentoring Moms, volunteers who support mothers and their families who are facing ongoing challenges.

Jade helped promote the All Wrapped Up Program by distributing flyers, helping to keep records of donations and recipients and encouraging her classmates and their families to get involved by "adopting" a family or individual and purchasing gifts that will make their holidays a little brighter.

Jade organized a "Kid's Craft Center" at the recent Mentoring Moms Holiday Party, an annual event where the mentors, moms and their families celebrate the holidays, and get a respite from emotional or financial worries that they experience every day. At the Craft Center, the children were able to create hand-made gifts for their moms during the party. Jade acquired the supplies, set up the table and recruited other volunteers to help. generationOn awarded Jade a grant to purchase supplies for this craft table at the Mentoring Moms event, and Hasbro, Inc. donated 100 toys that were distributed to families participating in the All Wrapped Up Giving Program.

"I tried to imagine what it would be like to have no presents during the holidays, and wanted to do something for the kids and moms who really need our help," says Jade." It was fun

to help the kids make gifts for their moms. We decorated mugs, wrote out cards, stuffed them with items like nail polish, lotions and potions and loom bracelets. It made me feel good to help out.”

“Jade is a true ‘joy maker’, says Janet Sharma, executive director of the Volunteer Center. “She provided a lot of help for two of the Volunteer Center’s programs, had a good time doing it, and made a real difference in the process.”

generationOn is the global youth service movement igniting the power of kids to make their mark on the world. As Points of Light’s youth service enterprise, generationOn inspires, equips and mobilizes youth to take action through clubs, schools, youth organizations, campaigns and youth leadership initiatives. For four years, generationOn and Hasbro Inc. have partnered on the Joy Maker campaign, inspiring more than 100,000 acts of service by kids and teens each holiday season.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens the community by connecting people through service and developing civic leaders. Its award winning Mentoring Moms program matches caring women with mothers overwhelmed by the responsibilities of children and life—these mentors strengthen the entire family by providing emotional and practical support. For the past 10 years, the All Wrapped Up program has distributed more than \$2 million in gifts to families and individuals most in need of assistance during the holidays.

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CAPTION Picture #019

Jade He ( R) helps James make a loom bracelet for his mother during the Volunteer Center of Bergen County's Mentoring Moms holiday party held in Hackensack. Mentoring Moms are women who provide friendship and support to mothers overwhelmed by the responsibilities of children and life. As part of generationOn, a youth service movement, Jade set up a crafts center during this annual event, for the children to create hand- made gifts for their moms. For more information about Mentoring Moms, call 201-489-9454 or visit [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org)