

# NEWS

## **VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 15, 2015

#### **Volunteer Center Receives Grant From TJX Foundation**

Bergen County: The TJX Foundation recently awarded a grant to the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. Funds will support the Volunteer Center's **Mentoring Youth** program. Mentoring Youth recruits, screens, trains and provides ongoing supervision to caring adult mentors matched in one-on-one relationships with children in Bergen County ages 5-18. Youth participating in the Mentoring Youth program include those confronted with social, emotional and/or behavioral challenges due to child maltreatment, social isolation or family dynamics. Mentors provide friendship, guidance and support to help youth see and take steps toward a brighter future. At any given time, the Mentoring Youth program is supervising approximately 85 mentoring relationships. Since 1978, we have linked more than 3,700 children with mentors.

The funds from the TJX Foundation will be used to recruit, screen, train and supervise mentors, including recruitment of mentors who speak languages other than English and male mentors, for which there is a continual need. The grant will also support workshops and activities that promote family strengthening and parenting skills, as well events like the Big Book Giveaway, a free book fair for children being mentored in the program to select and keep new books for their own.

More volunteers are needed to become mentors—there is an especially great need for male mentors and/or mentors who speak Spanish or other languages.

To find out how to become a mentor, or to pledge a donation to support the Mentoring Youth program, call (201) 489-9454 or visit [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org) and click on mentoring programs.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens the community by connecting people through service and developing civic leaders.

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