

Top Honors to Two Programs

Two Volunteer Center programs recently received awards of excellence.

Mentoring Moms is recipient of the 2010 Governor's Jefferson Award for Outstanding Volunteer Program in New Jersey. Sponsored by the Governor's Office on Volunteerism, *The Star Ledger*, and the Community Foundation of NJ, the awards honored the dedication and commitment of outstanding individuals and organizations whose selfless gifts of time and talents help to improve the quality of life for residents throughout New Jersey. Awards in 18 categories were presented at NJPAC in Newark.



Accepting the Governor's Jefferson Award (from left): Janet Sharma, VC executive director; Susan Hogge, Moms program asst.; mentor Cathy Andrus; Cindy Andrade, Moms program dir.; and mentors Barbara Moskowitz, Kuniko Minikawa and Jackie Edwards.

Since 1995, the Mentoring Moms program has recruited, trained, screened and supervised nearly 400 mentors who provide guidance in parenting and life skills to overwhelmed mothers.

The **Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council (BVC)** was named *Corporate Volunteer Council of the Year* by the Points of Light Institute and HandsOn Network. The award was presented at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in New York City in June.

The BVC was recognized for promoting volunteerism in the workplace, for organizing activities that mobilize employee volunteers to address important community needs, and for providing a forum for corporate involvement professionals to network, exchange ideas and become more skilled in the practice of managing the corporate social responsibility function.

Since its founding in 2000, the BVC has involved thousands of employee volunteers in generating and distributing over \$1 million in resources to low income families and children. Find out more about the BVC on page 4!



Activity Outpaces Recession

We hear a lot about how our country is in a recession. And, of course, it is. But the Volunteer Center's programs have seen little of this recession. In fact, to date this year, our programmatic efforts are soaring:



Janet Sharma

- Our mentoring programs are overseeing large numbers of one-on-one mentor/mentee matches (page 5):
 - ◊ 118 adult mentors are helping 125 kids see a brighter future, and 100 more are on the waiting list.
 - ◊ 80 adult women are mentoring overwhelmed mothers who need guidance in parenting and life skills.
- 45 volunteers with our Chore Service are performing minor but essential home repairs to keep nearly 1,100 seniors and people with disabilities safe in their homes (page 2).
- We've counted 111,215 searches for volunteer opportunities, plus another 6,333 seeking information about volunteer opportunities specifically for youth (page 2).
- Our roster of trainings to build capacity of nonprofits is fuller than ever (page 6).
- Skilled leaders are in higher demand than ever, and our Bergen LEADS program is helping to prepare them to face the challenges that lie ahead (page 4).
- Our Business Volunteer Council is developing a fabulous series of workshops for corporations throughout

Continued on page 7

Bergen LEADS Addresses Future of Local Government

Governor Tom Kean moderates Community Forum

Members of the Bergen LEADS Class of 2010 marked the end of their 10-month seminar year by hosting the Public Forum on the Future of Local Government. Attended by more than 250 people at Bergen Community College, the forum was moderated by former Governor Tom Kean.

The County's premier civic leadership program, Bergen LEADS focuses on preparing local leaders to tackle the unique challenges and embrace the opportunities in Bergen County. Led by former Bergen County Executive William "Pat" Schuber, participants are immersed in a stimulating curriculum that not only introduces them to topical issues of local importance, but also enables them to explore their leadership styles, enhance their leadership capacity and become meaningfully engaged in shaping the future of Bergen County.

Continued on page 4

All In A Day's Work



Chore volunteers Neil Lyman (left), Ralph Reise, Bill Hrycak

The 45 volunteers with our Chore Service are a unique breed. Every year they help hundreds of seniors and people with disabilities remain living safely in their homes. They do this by performing the minor but essential home repairs that many of our most vulnerable residents can neither do themselves nor find anyone else to do for them. It might be a broken door lock, or a leaky faucet. Or perhaps a window air-conditioner that needs to come out and be replaced by storm windows. Sometimes it's a lightbulb in a hard-to-reach ceiling fixture, or new batteries for a smoke or motion detector. Whatever the task, our crews of Chore volunteers are on the road, ready to help, every work day throughout the year.

Chore receives funding from the B.C. Division of Senior Services and Community Development; Chore clients also contribute generously. For information, to volunteer, or to request a service call, contact Maureen McCormick, Chore Program Director, at 201-489-7790 or email mmccormick@bergenvolunteers.org

Service Learning Conference to Focus on Students with Special Needs

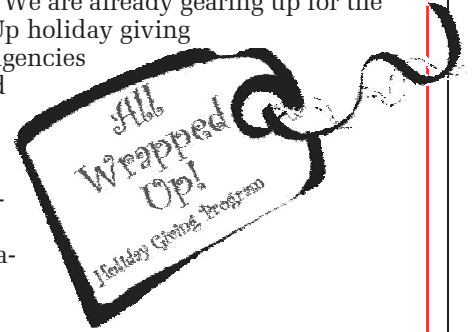
The Volunteer Center will host its 4th Annual Service Learning Mini-Conference on Friday, November 12, from 8:30-noon at Bergen Community College. A panel featuring advisors, teachers and students will focus on service as a tool to engage students with special needs, such as learning or behavioral issues. Administrators, teachers/counselors, students and community organizations working with youth will then meet to share best practices and barriers to engaging special needs students in service.

The conference is sponsored by State Farm Insurance. For information, contact Debbie Emery, 201-489-9454 or demery@bergenvolunteers.org

Rush The Season

As the hottest summer in years winds down, we can't help but ask "can the holiday season be far behind?"

Of course it isn't! We are already gearing up for the annual All Wrapped Up holiday giving program by enlisting agencies to provide profiles and "wish lists" of individuals and families in need. Later in the fall we will enlist willing donors from the community who are eager to fulfill the wish lists.



Check our website for details. Go to www.bergenvolunteers.org and click "Holiday Programs" on the left-side menu.

Further information, contact Debbie Emery, Director of Community Volunteer Services, at 201-489-9454, ext 118, or send an email to demery@bergenvolunteers.org

Celebrate Volunteers!

We seized the opportunity afforded by National Volunteer Month last Spring to honor volunteers across our community as well as in our own programs.



My9NY news anchor Brenda Blackmon was MC for our annual "Celebrate Volunteers" event at Bergen Academies Auditorium. This was the 12th year she has graciously served as our MC; as she says, "I wouldn't miss it!"

Volunteers and staff from The Buckingham at Norwood



Chore Volunteers Joe Popadich and Joe Cutolo enjoyed the RSVP luncheon hosted by Care One at the Cupola in Ridgewood. RSVP engages volunteers age 55+ in meaningful volunteer jobs.

Corporate Volunteering Featured at State Conference

This year's N.J. Governor's Conference on Volunteerism and Service will feature a fully-blown curriculum specifically for corporations. Corporate sessions are being planned by the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council and will feature informative and interactive workshops about corporate volunteering and corporate contributions.

Sponsored by the Governor's Office of Volunteerism, the conference will also feature a broad range of workshops targeted to nonprofit leaders, Board members, volunteer directors and volunteers.

The conference will be held on Wednesday, November 10, at the Downtown Marriott in Trenton, NJ. Early bird registration is \$100 for corporations and \$50 for nonprofit organizations. For information about the conference and to register, visit our home page at www.bergenvolunteers.org

BVC Initiatives Help Kids, Families

The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council provides leadership in corporate volunteering by coordinating strategic initiatives that help low income families and children.

BVC member companies mobilize thousands of employee volunteers annually through strategic initiatives that address hunger, literacy and education. Over the past ten years, the BVC has generated over \$1 million in resources.

"Doing good is good for business," says Ellen Rafferty, BVC co-chair and Project Coordinator/Social Investing at BD. "More and more companies are discovering that being a good neighbor and getting involved with the community is good for the bottom line."



Two recent initiatives posted outstanding results:

- Brown Bag Buddies, a summer drive to collect food for kids who receive subsidized meals during the school year, raised \$12,895 in food and cash contributions for area food pantries.
- Books in a Bag - 9 companies donated and distributed 3,039 books to 558 children.



BVC representatives accepting the award as "Corporate Volunteer Council of the Year" at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in NYC in June. From left, Ellen Rafferty, BD; Amanda Missey, BVC manager; Sonja Clark, United Water; Lynda Wolfe, HR consultant; Tess Tomasi, BVC Coordinator; Adrienne Zuendt, Hudson City Saving Bank.

BVC Members 2010



Amper, Politziner & Mattia, P.C.
BD

Bergen County's United Way
BMW of North America, LLC
Care One at Valley

Classic Residence in Teaneck
a Vi Community

Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, P.A.

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KPMG LLP

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Quest Diagnostics

Reader's Digest Association

Rockland Electric Company

Sealed Air

Spectra Laboratories

State Farm Insurance

TD Bank

United Water

UHY Employee Benefits Consulting, Inc.

UPS Information Services

The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. For information, contact Tess Tomasi at 201-489-9454, ext 114, or email ttomasi@bergenvolunteers.org.

Coming October 29 Night @ Races Meadowlands

Join employees, friends and family of BVC member companies at the Meadowlands Racetrack! Cheer on the trotters; enjoy good old hamburgers, hot dogs and beer; and lavish attention on our fabulously fun silent auction of supremely unique items! Proceeds benefit BVC initiatives. Tickets are just \$50 and can be ordered online through our home page: www.bergenvolunteers.org



Forum on Local Government (continued from page 1)

A recurrent theme in all monthly seminars is home rule, but “the current economic situation is forcing all levels of government to look for ways to cut expenses and end duplication of services,” said Mr. Schuber in introducing the forum and Governor Kean. To help clarify alternative solutions, the Bergen LEADS Class of 2010 divided into teams to explore government structures and recommend how services can be delivered effectively and sustainably over the long term.

One team researched eliminating County government and shifting services to municipalities or the State. The second team proposed keeping the status quo: both county and municipalities provide services, but become more efficient. The third team recommended consolidation and regionalization of Bergen County’s 70 municipalities and 56 school districts while retaining the individuality of each town.

Governor Kean moderated a lively but civil discussion with the audience, which included many elected officials. At the conclusion, the Governor summarized by saying, “The time has come to consolidate services to really lower taxes...But don’t expect everyone to act at once.”

“Bergen County’s future depends on what we do now to prepare for it,” said Mr. Schuber at the graduation ceremony following the Forum. “Bergen LEADS is readying leaders – in the public, private and non-profit sector - to face the challenges that the future holds.

Applications for Bergen LEADS are accepted January-March. For further information, contact Amanda Missey, Bergen LEADS director at the Volunteer Center: 201-489-9454 or email amissey@bergenvolunteers.org.



Former Governor Tom Kean and former County Executive William "Pat" Schuber, who is director of the Bergen LEADS monthly seminars.

Why Bergen LEADS?

There's no doubt about it—Bergen LEADS requires active participation and a significant commitment of time. However, the rewards are many.

Below is a portion of a letter sent by Daniel Rothner, Bergen LEADS Class of 2010, to the Russell Berrie Foundation, which underwrote his tuition scholarship; Daniel is executive director of Areyvut, a nonprofit organization serving Jewish youth

As a result of Bergen LEADS I have formed personal and professional relationships that will last a lifetime. I emerged from Bergen LEADS with a new focus on leadership and how it impacts my work. I have already implemented many of the lessons that I learned in dealing with our staff, summer interns, board and challenges that Areyvut is facing and often refer back to some of the discussions, exercises and readings.

Through the monthly meeting, site visits and group project I learned a tremendous amount about Bergen County, and I have tried to bring that new perspective to my family and community...Learning from people from different towns, backgrounds and religions has helped me learn more about myself and has impacted my work at Areyvut and in the community.

Daniel Rothner, Bergen LEADS Class of 2010, with program director Amanda Missey and leadership consultant Lynne Algrant.



Former governor Tom Kean asks for a show of hands of those favoring consolidation of municipal services..



Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire (left) and Freeholder Bernadette McPherson among many elected officials who attended the Forum

Recent graduates of Bergen LEADS Class of 2010: Joe Thomas (left) and Bishop Charles Singletary.



Mentors Matter

How One Mentor Matters

Our Mentoring Moms program matches trained and caring adult women with overwhelmed mothers who need guidance in facing life's challenges.

A mentor recently sent in the following note regarding the woman (and family) that she is mentoring:

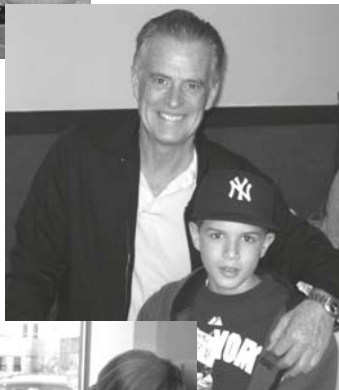
When you get a family like J and her 5 children, you watch them work hard and try to stay positive yet struggle with their past and today's pressures. Then you realize the reward, for all of us, is being able to see them slowly but surely climb out of their abyss, knowing that you helped give them the strength and confidence to do it.

(Mentoring Moms) offers them hope and gives them a strong support system. Their lives are changed forever because they know someone cares and believes in them... Looking forward to a long and successful partnership.

Sincerely, Kathy H (mentor)



Mentor Susan Blumenrantz enjoying our Moms Celebration with two mentees. Special thanks to The Iron Horse in Westwood for hosting a fabulous brunch!



Mentor Roger Monaco and the boy he mentors.



Parisian Beauty Academy, in Hackensack, donated haircuts, manicures and other salon services to kids and moms in our program. For many it was their first professional haircut.

Be a Mentor

Being a mentor can be rewarding, interesting, challenging -- and fun. Join the nearly 200 adults who are currently mentors in Volunteer Center programs.

Volunteers in Protective Services are adult men and women who serve as mentors to children who have experienced abuse, neglect or isolation.

Mentoring Moms are adult women who serve as role models to overwhelmed mothers in need of guidance in parenting and life skills as well as in moving from welfare to work.

A six-week training program is offered for each program in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Trainings are held in the evening at the Volunteer Center in Hackensack. For further information, send an email to mentors@bergenvolunteers.org or call 201-489-9454.

Wanted: Heros

Nearly 100 children, referred to us mostly by the N.J. Division of Youth and Family Services, are looking for a hero, for someone to care.

Our **Volunteers in Protective Services** program screens, trains and supports adult volunteers who serve as positive role models and dedicated mentors to children who have experienced abuse, neglect and/or social isolation. At any given time we are mentoring around 100 kids, but we have another 100 on the waiting list. Some of these are older children, and by far the majority are boys who desperately need a male role model in their lives.

We also would love to have more bi-lingual Spanish-speaking mentors—both men and women!

You can make a huge difference in the life of a child. Give us a call at 201-489-9454 or email mentors@bergenvolunteers.org



Graduating eighth-graders at Allendale's Brookside Middle School hosted the third annual picnic for the youth being mentoring through the VIPS and Mentoring Moms programs. The tug-of-war was a big hit!

Mission: The Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating direct service volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

The Volunteer Center was founded by the Junior League of Bergen County in 1966 and is an affiliate of HandsOn Network.



Fall 2010 Training Calendar

Volunteer Manager's Roundtable: Best Practices

Lunchtime discussion of best practices in volunteer management. Bring your lunch, share challenges and ideas, network with other volunteer managers.

Date/Time: Tuesday, Sept. 21, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Course Leader: VC Staff

Registration Fee: \$10, **Free for member agencies**

Course Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Strategic Planning for Non-Profits

Everything you need to know about strategic planning for your organization: what, why, processes, timeframes, budgets, and implementation. Your plan before the plan!

Date/Time: Wednesday, Sept. 29, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Course Leader: Marion Conway

Registration Fee: \$45

Course Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Effective Program Evaluation

To stay competitive you have to show results. Find out how to develop and use evaluation tools and how to regularly monitor your program's activities and effectiveness.

Date/Time: Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Course Leader: Elizabeth Levine, ECQ Group

Registration Fee: \$35, **\$25 for member agencies**

Course Level: Intermediate

Fundamental Financial Management

For board members and professional staff with little or no accounting experience; covers basics of sound financial management. Learn how to plan for your agency's financial needs, interpret financial statements, and understand your audit.

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 14, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Course Leader: Sally Glick, Sobel & Co.

Registration Fee: \$35

Course Level: Intermediate

Create and Maintain a Web Presence

In this hands-on class, you'll learn how to design simple web-sites, how YouTube and Facebook can help you market your organization, and how to use email and other web tools to move your organization forward.

Date/Time: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Course Leader: Allen Broadman

Registration Fee: \$35, **\$25 for member agencies**

Course Level: All

Build a Better Board

Your Board can be your organization's most valuable resource, so make sure it's operating at its best! Review Board roles and responsibilities, discuss ways to strengthen the interaction between board and staff, and learn how to do a targeted board recruitment campaign.

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 21, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Course Leader: Amanda Missey, Volunteer Center

Registration Fee: \$35

Course Level: Advanced

*All classes are held at the Volunteer Center,
64 Passaic Street, Hackensack, NJ
Register online at www.bergenvolunteers.org
Call 201-489-9454, ext 114, for information*

Recruit Right: Find the Best Volunteers for the Job

Need more volunteers? Need special skills? Don't know where to start? Whatever your recruitment issues, this session will help. Develop compelling descriptions, find prospects, and learn how to attract them to your agency.

Date/Time: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Course Leader: VC Staff

Registration Fee: \$35, **\$25 for member agencies**

Course Level: Introductory, Intermediate

Advanced Grant Writing

We'll take you through the challenges of foundation grant writing: describing impact, trends in funder expectations, how to make your application stand out. Participants must have some grant writing experience.

Date/Time: Tuesday Nov. 16, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Course Leader: Elizabeth Levine, ECQ Group

Registration Fee: \$35

Course Level: Intermediate

Volunteer Manager's Roundtable: Resolve to Make 2011 a Great Year for Your Volunteer Program

Lunchtime discussion on volunteer management. Share ideas about our "resolutions" to effectively engage volunteers to solve our community problems. We'll also have time to network with other volunteer managers and to share our challenges and ideas. BYO lunch!

Date/Time: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Course Leader: VC Staff

Registration Fee: \$10, **Free for member agencies**

Course Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Neighbor Academy

The **Neighbor Academy** is a series of introductory courses covering the basics of non-profit administration. Ideal for representatives of these groups:

- Newly incorporated or yet-to-be incorporated non-profit organizations
- Neighborhood Associations, faith-based groups, small or start-up grassroots organizations
- All classes are offered free of charge to small and start-up organizations.

Non-Profit Basics

The very basics of the non-profit organization including developing a mission statement, identifying and recruiting stakeholders, and getting the resources you need for your cause.

Date: Monday, September 20, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Course Leader: VC Staff

Fee: Free for small/start-up non-profit organizations

Course Level: Introductory

Finding Funding for Your Cause

Find out how to raise money for your group including information on grants, donations, fundraising events, and other ways to develop income for your cause.

Date: Monday, September 27, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Course Leader: VC Staff

Fee: Free for small/start-up non-profit organizations

Course Level: Introductory

Bergen County Golf Classic



Nearly 150 golfers at the Bergen County Golf Classic in July had the good fortune to preview the Ridgewood Country Club course that challenged Phil Mickelsen and Tiger Woods at the Barclay's later in the summer. Our golfers also enjoyed great weather and a less crowded field.

Special thanks to presenting sponsor PSE&G, and major sponsors Hertz (golf carts); United Water (water hazards); Emblem Health, DiClemente Contractors; Care One at Valley; Park Ave. BMW and Apex Partners.

Corporate sponsors include Aging Friends of Don Eisen, Architectural Window Mfg.; Buck, Siefert & Jost; Burns & McDonnell; The Clearing House; Columbia Bank; Eii, Inc.; The Ferolie Group; GE Energy; Henkels & McCoy; Kemsco Construction & Equipment; Lantier Construction; O'Connor Davies Munns Dobbins LLP; SM Electric Co. and UPS. All proceeds benefit the Volunteer Center and Bergen County's United Way. Save the date for next year:

Monday, July 11, 2011 (lucky 7/11!)



Above: VC Board member Richard Garcia (Lakeland Bank) and Golf Classic co-chair Lee Miller (Cushman & Wakefield). Right: Mike Gaffney (PSE&G) and his son, John.

Bergen Bike Tour Sun., Sept. 26



Registration is open for the 15th Annual Bergen Bike Tour, at Darlington Park on Sunday, Sept. 26. Rides of 50-, 25-, and 10- miles head out at 8 AM, 9 AM and 10:30 AM, and a "kids ride" for little ones is scheduled for 10:45 AM in the parking lot.

The event will wind up with a family-fun picnic featuring home-cooked barbeque, games, music, clowns and massage therapists to soothe adults' aching muscles.

Top sponsors of the event are TD Bank, Amper, Politziner & Matia, Apex Partners, Eisai, Joel Tanis & Sons, Lakeland Bank, Oritani Charitable Foundation and PNC Bank. All proceeds benefit the Volunteer Center and Tomorrows Children's Fund at Hackensack University Medical Center. For information and registration, go to www.bergenbiketour.org

Activity Outpaces Recession—continued from page 1.

the state, as part of the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism on Nov. 10 in Trenton. (page 3).

- Our fundraising events raise funds and friends (this page) and we are receiving generous support from corporations and foundations (page 8).

While this record of productivity is exceptional, we admit that our financial picture could be better.

As you peruse this newsletter, we hope you will be inspired – not only to give your time and talents to help others, but also to support our work with your financial contribution.

Janet Sharma, Executive Director

Fabulously Festive Derby Day!



White Beeches Country Club, in Haworth, was the place, and our guests definitely stole the show at our Derby Day party in May. Hats were *de rigeur* for the ladies, and men sported outlandish ties as we cheered the running of the Kentucky Derby.

Clockwise from left: Arlene Lester (left) and her family came dressed to the 9s; contestants in the "outrageous tie contest Tom Nastos, Anthony Barbara (the winner!), Peter Mercer, president of Ramapo College, with Haworth Mayor John DeRienzo (rear); Make way for VC Board member Susan Russ and her hat; Joyce Weir wearing her "pot head" hat.



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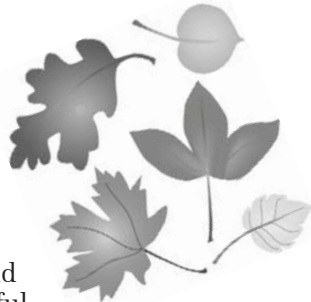
Heads Up!

Fall Frolic!

Fall foliage, fabulous food and tons of fun await guests at our Fall Frolic, on Thursday, October 21. Hosted by United Water, all proceeds will benefit the programs and services of the Volunteer Center.

Mark your calendar!

Fall Frolic
Thursday
October 21
6-9 PM



The party will be held at **United Water's** beautiful corporate headquarters, located on the shore of the Oradell Reservoir on Old Hook Road in Harrington Park, New Jersey.

Tickets are \$50 per person; Corporate Sponsorships are \$250 and include 6 tickets. Order tickets online by clicking "Fall Frolic" on the Volunteer Center's home page at www.bergenvolunteers.org

Good News Grants

Several of our programs are recent (and proud!) recipients of grants and contributions:

- Chore Service: Provident Bank, Hackensack Rotary Club
- VIPS and Mentoring Moms jointly: New York Giants Foundation, TD Bank Charitable Foundation
- Mentoring Moms: PNC Foundation, St. Elizabeth Church (Wyckoff), Zonta of Bergenfield
- Volunteers in Protective Services: TJX Foundation
- Bergen LEADS: BD, Bergen Community College, Bergen County's United Way, Englewood Area Community Foundation, Hudson City Savings Charitable Foundation, PSEG Foundation, Russell Berrie Foundation, United Water Foundation
- Community Volunteer Services: State Farm Insurance, Palisades Educational Foundation
- General Operating Support: Community Chest of Englewood, Englewood Rotary Club, Kreisler Manufacturing, Leonia Community Chest, Munch-Bilheimer Foundation, and Sony Electronics.

Each of these donations is being put to good use in fulfilling our mission. And we welcome additional support! The Volunteer Center must raise over \$500,000 every year from corporations, foundations and individuals to keep our outstanding programs in operation.

Please help!