

It's Raining Men!



*Janet Sharma
Executive Director*

Well, not really. But if it were, we'd hope to recruit a bunch of them to help in several of our programs.*

This in no way diminishes the outstanding commitment of many men -- and women -- who are already involved. It just means that more men are needed and welcome!

Why we want men:

At any given time our **Volunteers in Protective Services (VIPS)** program mentors 100 youth. Our current pool of mentors includes 66 women and 34 men, but we have 65 boys on our waiting list for mentors. Many have been referred to us because they need a male role model, and we want to match them with a male mentor.

In case there's any hesitation out there, I want to emphasize that it's easy to be a mentor!

- ◆ We provide comprehensive training and screening,
- ◆ Our outstanding professional staff provides ongoing support and supervision to every mentor.
- ◆ Mentors pick from the kids on the waiting list the one they want to mentor, usually based on background, geographic location and interests – sports, music, outdoor activities, etc.
- ◆ Mentors meet with the youth they are mentoring at mutually agreeable times
- ◆ We offer a variety of activities, such as holiday parties, trips to the Bronx zoo, and tickets to professional baseball, basketball and soccer games

One mentor, writer Tim Harper, says he knows why more men don't want to be a mentor. "I think they think it's hard, or that they will fail." But Harper found it easy and fun. He mentored a young boy for several years, doing fun things like teaching him how to ride a bike or taking him along on hikes with his own family.

Another fellow, the 11-year-old son of a friend, recently provided further insight. I was describing an ambi-

Continued on page 2

Bergen LEADS to Host Debate on Regionalization

Bergen LEADS, the unique program designed to prepare the next generation of leaders, will host a public forum prior to graduation in June.

Monthly seminars led by former County Executive William "Pat" Schuber have been delving deeply into the critical issues that confront leaders in Bergen County. Shared services and regionalization have been themes that resonate in every issue -- whether healthcare, education, economic development, government, public safety or the increasingly broad diversity of our community.

Drawing on knowledge and experiences gleaned throughout the year, Bergen LEADS class members will debate "How can government best provide the appropriate level of needed services to residents in a time of very limited resources?"

Teams will examine the issue from three perspectives:

1. Eliminate County government and let individual municipalities provide services
2. Eliminate municipal government and let County government provide services
3. Continue as is, with both County and municipal governments providing services, but make delivery of services more efficient and cost-effective.

Former Governor Thomas Kean has been asked to moderate the debate, which will be open to the public and will take place on either Tuesday, June 15 or June 22, at Bergen Community College.

For information about Bergen LEADS, see Page 6 and check out www.bergenleads.org

Class of 2010



Bergen LEADS

Applications are Due April 2, 2010

Applications for the next Bergen LEADS class are due on April 2. For information, go to www.bergenleads.org or call Amanda Missey at 201-489-9454, ext. 119. Bergen LEADS annually selects 30 people from diverse backgrounds to participate in a unique community leadership program; monthly seminars are held September-June.

Community Volunteer Services

It's Raining Men *(continued from page 1)*

tious home improvement project my husband was undertaking that I thought was too ambitious. Under his breath the boy commented, "You know us guys -- it's hard for us to give up our pride."

A couple of years ago I saw a great ad produced by the Ad Council. It showed a boy and a young man looking at a huge abstract painting. The boy asked "Do you know what it means?" The young man answered, "No." And then a halo appeared over his head. It so perfectly illustrated how easy it is to be a mentor. Just be yourself!

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which tracks information about volunteering, of the 63-million-plus adults who volunteered in 2009, 58% are women and 42% are men, so that fact that men are in short supply as volunteers is not unique. But we want to do everything we can to reverse this trend and make men as welcome as possible!

For information about being a mentor — or about volunteering in any of our programs (see below), give us a call.

Janet Sharma, Executive Director
jsharma@bergenvolunteers.org
201-489-9454, ext 116

P.S. We need women too!

2010 Guide to Volunteering Is Now Available

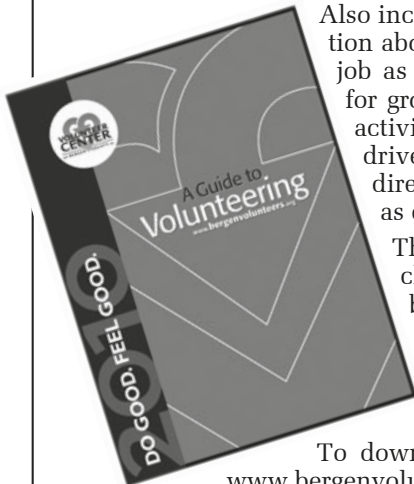
The 2010 edition of the popular *Guide to Volunteering* is now available. The guide contains listings of nearly 1,100 volunteer positions at more than 380 agencies, all of which are cross referenced by location and area of interest as well as by whether the job is suitable for students, families or at-home volunteer work.

Also included is a wealth of information about how to select a volunteer job as well as tips and "how to's" for group projects, student service activities, sponsoring a collection drive and managing or re-directing donated goods, such as cars and furniture.

The Guide is being sent free of charge to all schools and libraries in Bergen County. The 144-page book is downloadable free of charge, or it may be purchased for \$5.

To download or to purchase, go to www.bergenvolunteers.org.

For further information, call 201-489-9454 or email info@bergenvolunteers.org.



Volunteer Center Programs that welcome men (and women)

Volunteers in Protective Services – our well regarded program that matches volunteer mentors with children who are victims of abuse or neglect or who are otherwise troubled.

Chore Service - volunteer "handy" people provide minor home repairs that keep the elderly and disabled safe in their homes. Install grab bars, fix broken locks, install smoke detectors, put in/take out air conditioners and storm/screen windows, etc.

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) – volunteers age 55+ are linked with volunteer positions at agencies where their time and talent have impact.

Bergen LEADS – a year-long series of monthly seminars designed to engage and inspire the next generation of leaders. (Bergen LEADS is tuition-based)

Volunteer Referrals – hundreds of local agencies need volunteers to help with a multitude of tasks. Look for volunteer opportunities on our website www.bergenvolunteers.org or order the popular Guide to Volunteering.

Mentoring Moms - this one is for women only. Women help overwhelmed mothers who need guidance in parenting and life skills.

For further information, call 201-489-9454,
email info@bergenvolunteers.org,
or check our website at www.bergenvolunteers.org

3,298 Thank You's

Our **All Wrapped Up** holiday giving program generated an abundance of gifts and gift cards for individuals, mostly seniors living alone, and families – a total of 3,298 people!

The Volunteer Center vetted requests from 42 nonprofit agencies which provided profiles of individuals and families in need in Bergen County and nearby Passaic County. To answer the call, more than 700 donors stepped up, generously fulfilling "wish lists" and providing gift cards so the recipients could purchase needed items at grocery and discount stores. Altogether, All Wrapped Up generated more than \$318,000 in resources to help those in need.

Thank you very much for the microwave gift...Since I am a totally blind senior citizen who lives alone, the microwave can be an indispensable aid in preparing my meals more quickly, more easily and more safely. I'm so grateful for having received this gift. It really is a great "security blanket."

Ed -- Fairfield, NJ



Message to Boomers

Remember when you thought you could change the world? You still can! All the wonderful things that you thought you would do are still waiting to be done.

The environment still needs help, kids need mentors, and schools need tutors. People still need help in learning to read and write, patients in nursing homes and hospitals still need visitors. Veterans of all ages and families of those serving in the military have lots of needs. The homeless still need to be fed, clothed and housed, and all underserved people still need advocates.

And nonprofit organizations, schools and religious organizations need help with planning, fundraising, marketing, and human resource management.

Your wealth of knowledge, life skills, wisdom, and experience is priceless to those whose lives you have the opportunity to touch.

If we can provide you with direction, give us a call: 201-489-9454 or email info@bergenvolunteers.org



Mature Abbey Roaders — Photo courtesy of Microsoft ClipArt

Doing Good -- and Feeling Good!



Jesse Mautner

Jesse Mautner is not your average high school student. While he's a sophomore at Pascack Hills High School, is a member of the Italian Club and of the school's baseball team, what sets Jesse apart is his dedication to helping others – and the steps he is taking to make a difference.

Every week he volunteers with The Bouncers, a local basketball team made up of special needs athletes who participate in the Special Olympics. He also volunteers with the Bergen County Charity Classic, a baseball tournament that annually raises funds for charities and foundations of families associated with youth sports who have faced tragedy or illness.

Using his increasingly competent editorial skills, every month he researches, writes, designs and publishes a newsletter expressly for kids being mentored through the Volunteer Center of Bergen County's Volunteers in Protective Services (VIPS) program. VIPS helps kids who have suffered abuse, neglect or isolation, see and take steps to achieve a brighter future. Jesse selects topics and provides news, factoids, graphics, and fun notes to help pique interest and spark conversation between the mentors and the kids: sports, politics, movies, coming events, and – as a concession to the girls – even an article about the American Girl Doll.

“Writing the newsletter each month gives me a chance to use my skills to help improve the lives of other people,” says Jesse. “I like the fact that what I am doing can make a difference. When you do these things you become a better person and leave an impact on others. With the basketball, I am able to teach other people the skills that I have. I love to see how happy they are when they learn a new skill and are actually able to use it.”

P.E.A.L. Helps Shut-Ins

Phoning Elderly and Lonely (PEAL) is an initiative of our Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) that links volunteers who are eager to provide friendly phone calls with others who are isolated in their homes.

“Usually those who are being called are shut-ins and are unable to get out because of illness or disability,” says Barbara Wiederecht, RSVP Program Director. “But sometimes the caller is also a shut-in and is glad to make calls to others who are isolated and lonely. PEAL benefits people on both sides.”

PEAL is currently seeking both volunteers to make calls and people who would like to receive a regular phone call. For information, call Barbara at 201-489-9333.

Dorothy, a PEAL client in Elmwood Park, recently sent us an email about her caller, Pat:

Whenever she calls it is a gift from God. She is the most wonderful listener and has such grace that I know Pat was chosen to be here for me. She is the most delightful and sincere person ever – she makes my life so lovely.



Pat Marshall, of Paramus, is one of many dedicated volunteers who help in the Volunteer Center's offices. Pat helps to coordinate the schedule of callers and clients for PEAL (Phoning Elderly and Lonely), which is part of our Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. To be a caller or to receive a regularly scheduled call, contact RSVP at 201-489-9333.

TEN AND COUNTING

This winter the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council (BVC) celebrated ten successful years of providing leadership in employee volunteering. Since its launch in January of 2000, employee volunteers at more than 60 member companies have worked on behalf of low-income children and families, generating and distributing over \$1 million in resources.

- More than 4,000 foster children have been provided with backpacks filled with personal care items, socks, underwear and gifts.
- Approximately 13,000 pre-school children have received 65,000 new books to encourage love of reading and to foster literacy.
- The yearly "Tools for School" campaign has distributed nearly \$325,000 worth of school gear to youth-serving non-profit organizations and schools.
- An annual summer food drive has netted \$223,000 in food and grocery gift certificates distributed to low-income families who do not receive subsidized meals when school is not in session.

"Being successful in business is about more than doing well," says Sonja Clark, of United Water, who is current chair of the BVC. "It's also about doing good."

Members and friends of the BVC celebrated at the Hilton Woodcliff Lake, which outdid itself in providing a fabulous party. The BVC welcomes new members and encourages interested companies to e-mail amissey@bergenvolunteers.org or visit www.nnjbvc.org.



Current BVC leaders at the anniversary party. From left, Sonja Clark, United Water; Ellen Rafferty, BD; Adrienne Zeundt, Hudson City Savings Bank; Lynne Bennett; Amanda Missey, BVC manager at the Volunteer Center; Lynda Wolfe, Kelly Healthcare Resources.



BVC Members - 2010



Amper, Politziner & Mattia, P.C.
BD
Benjamin Moore & Company
Bergen County's United Way
BMW Group Financial Services
BMW of North America, LLC
The Buckingham at Norwood
Care One at Valley
Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, P.A.
Compensation Solutions
Hilton Woodcliff Lake
Hudson City Savings Bank
Hunter Douglas
IKEA
JD Communications
Kelly Healthcare Resources
KPMG LLP
MWW Group
Patton Boggs, LLP
Pearson Education
PSEG Services Corporation
Quest Diagnostics
Reader's Digest Association
Rockland Electric Company
Sealed Air
Sigma Group
Spectra Laboratories
Tantum Environmental
TD Bank
Tiffany & Co.
UHY Employee Benefits Consulting Services, Inc.
United Water
UHY Employee Benefits Consulting, Inc.
UPS Information Services - HR

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.

BVC Volunteers Read Across America

Read Across America Day, March 2, saw 54 volunteers from BVC member companies spending time reading to children at six pre-schools across Bergen County. The day kicked off the BVC's "Books in a Bag" initiative, during which employees of participating companies collect new children's books which are then distributed to Head Start sites and other pre-schools. The purpose is to encourage literacy among low-income families.

Dana Singleton (left) and Joanna Wagner, of Sigma ad agency in Oradell, enjoyed reading to pre-school children at the YMCA of Greater Bergen County in Hackensack.

Sharing Lives, Changing Lives One Step at a Time

Our **Mentoring Moms** program matches trained and caring women volunteers as mentors to mothers who are overwhelmed by life's circumstances.

Feline wrote recently about her mentor, Lisa:

I think the most important thing is to feel like I have someone who doesn't judge my mistakes and I can talk to about anything. I love my mother very much, but Lisa gives me so much credit and support, my mom tries but it just doesn't seem to be as important than from Lisa. I also went into are (sp) relationship thinking she was perfect (perfect home, husband, kids, life). It felt REALLY good to see that other people struggle and don't have a perfect life. She was real with me and that made our relationship very strong. THANK YOU!

And this thrilling note from mentor Kim.

The past 6 months have been so hectic with T and her and the kids...doctors appointments, filing for financial aid, school, emergency room visits, therapy sessions. However, with all that said, 2010 has begun on a positive note for her...SHE PASSED HER GED!!!! I am just so proud of her. She is now preparing to go for financial aid to begin Bergen Community College.

(Note: T couldn't have progressed without Kim's support!)

Our **Volunteers in Protective Services** program matches adult volunteers as mentors with children who have experienced abuse or neglect, helping them see and take steps to achieve a brighter future. At any given time we are overseeing 100 mentor-youth relationships. Following is just one VIPS vignette

CE is a 12 year-old boy who was abused and neglected by his substance-abusing parents for several years. He



Students at area schools helped provide games and crafts at our mentoring programs' holiday parties.

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 the HandsOn Network.



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.

Training for both programs is held in the evening and will be offered this spring. For information, email mentors@bergenvolunteers.org or call 201-489-9454.

had been diagnosed with a learning disability and suffered abandonment issues when he was referred to VIPS', it took us a while to find a suitable male mentor. Bob has now been CE's mentor for more than 4 years, and their relationship couldn't be better. CE has Bob's support in every way, especially as a role model. Bob's commitment is unwavering. He researched CE's learning disability, joined the national organization affiliated with the disorder, and now serves as an advocate for CE at school and in life. They enjoy each other's company and have a great time.

"The children in the VIPS program rely on their mentors to believe in them, encourage them to laugh and to succeed," says VIPS program director Faith Samples-Smart. "We consider time spent with mentors as 'free' time—free of the challenges that have been hard for them to face daily in their environment."

Houlihan's Salutes Mentors

Houlihan's on Route 17 South saluted some of our VIPS mentors in January, which is National Mentoring Month, by treating 25 children and their mentors to a bounteous catered lunch. Special thanks to Houlihan's general manager, Ken Linhoff, for this welcome respite!



From left, waiter Ryan Michalski, mentor Joe Sherman, VIPS Program Director Faith Samples-Smart, VIPS Program Assistant Eva Tobias, Houlihan's Assistant Manager Dough DeMatteo, Assistant Manager Dawn Geraci, and Kitchen Manager Jason Cecala.

Are You Ready To LEAD?

Bergen LEADS is a series of monthly seminars featuring a stimulating curriculum that not only immerses participants in topical issues of local importance, but also enables them to explore their leadership style, enhance their leadership capability and become meaningfully engaged in helping to solve some of Bergen County's unique challenges.



Seminar leader is former County Executive William "Pat" Schuber, who brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the program. Leaders directly involved in critical issues are guest speakers, with monthly seminars covering such topics as government, healthcare, education, economic development, the environment, law and public safety, and the rich diversity of our community.

Applications for the class of 2010-2011 are due April 2. For information and testimonials about the program, check out www.bergenleads.org or email Amanda Missey, Bergen LEADS Director, at amissey@bergenvolunteers.org

Agency Membership

Beginning in January the Volunteer Center inaugurated a new Agency Membership Program. Agencies pay a \$50 fee and receive the following benefits:

- Agency contact information and mission posted to our website and in the *Guide to Volunteering*
- Unlimited number of volunteer positions listed on the website and in the Guide
- Unlimited updates of volunteer position listings throughout the year
- Listing on our "HOT JOBS" web-board and blog as well as email notification to our volunteer pool regarding your current and immediate volunteer projects
- Discount on select trainings
- Free attendance at the quarterly Volunteer Manager's Roundtable, a premier networking opportunity
- Listing as an Agency Member in the Volunteer Center's Annual Report

If an agency does not wish to become an Agency Member, you will still receive without charge a listing of your agency without information about your mission and volunteer positions. There will be a charge for trainings and for attending the quarterly Volunteer Managers Roundtables.

Spring Training Calendar

Download registration form at www.bergenvolunteers.org
For information call Tess Tomasi, 201-489-9454, ext. 114
or email ttomasi@bergenvolunteers.org

Friday, April 9, 12:00 – 3:00 PM

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch/Networking/Registration

Kick Yourself in the Brand:

The Shameless Art of Promoting Your Cause

\$35 (\$25 for member agencies)

Presenter: Susan Young.

Popular public relations consultant whose nonprofit workshops have been sell-outs in the past two years.

Location: CareOne at the Cupola, Ridgewood

Tuesday, April 27, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (brown bag)

Volunteer Managers Roundtable

Making the Most of Corporate Volunteer Groups

\$10 (Free for member agencies)

Panel of experts, including corporate representatives, with ample time for networking and discussion

Location: Volunteer Center of Bergen County

Monday, May 3, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Monday, May 10, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

(awaiting confirmation of date)

Social Media for Non-Profits

\$35

Presenter: Becky Livingston

Learn how to maintain an effective presence on the Web: Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Location: Volunteer Center of Bergen County

Plan Ahead ... Make A Lasting Gift

It's never too early to plan ahead, and this applies to planning bequests and wills as well as to all facets of life.

The Volunteer Center encourages every adult, of every age, to have a will so that their plans can be carried out as they wish. And we encourage those who value the work of the Volunteer Center to remember us in your will.

"When I was younger, I was very intimidated by the thought of growing old and making a will," says Janet Sharma, VC executive director. "However, now that I'm in my 60s, the thought of planning a gift to the Volunteer Center — which will be my legacy — is very positive and not at all intimidating."

If you'd like assistance in developing language or setting up an instrument for a planned gift, please call Mrs. Sharma, at 201-489-9454, ext. 116, or email jsharma@bergenvolunteers.org

Friends . . . Funds . . . FUN!

Go Bananas

Banana's Comedy Club in Hasbrouck Heights was the place and a cold, rough winter was the time when friends of the Volunteer Center gathered to get in from the cold and have some fun.

JJ Ramirez was the headliner, poking good natured jabs at our guests who were among the several hundred of comedy-club-goers in attendance. It was lots of laughs, and we'll do it again. Watch for announcements next fall!

Tom & Pat Basilo and family at our recent Comedy Night FUNdraiser at Banana's Comedy Club.



Bike Tour Bounty

If one word could describe the Bergen Bike Tour last fall, it would be *rain!* But -- we got indoors at beautiful Darlington Park for our picnic, everyone had a great time, and we raised nearly \$80,000 for the Volunteer Center and Tomorrow's Children's Fund. Thanks to all who came out and gave their support! **Next year: Sun., Sept. 26!**



Clockwise from top: top fundraisers from Team Rubenstein; IDS team; Mitch Steinhart and daughters; Pedal Power Team from Ridgewood High School; Team PNC.



THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY'S 18th ANNUAL DERBY DAY PARTY

Saturday, May 1, 2010

White Beeches Country Club, Haworth, NJ

GREAT FOOD - GREAT MUSIC

WINNERS' CIRCLE - BLUE RIBBON AUCTION

WINE TASTING - VALET PARKING

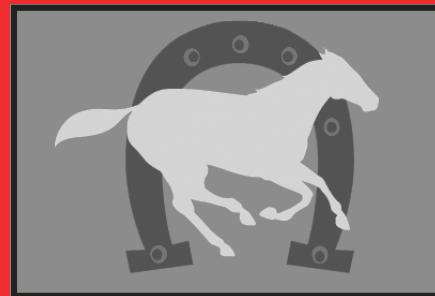
\$100 per person

Sponsorships available: \$1,000, \$2,500 & \$5,000

Buy tickets at www.bergenvolunteers.org

For information, call Jane He

201-489-9454 ext 125 or email jhe@bergenvolunteers.org



Bergen County Golf Classic

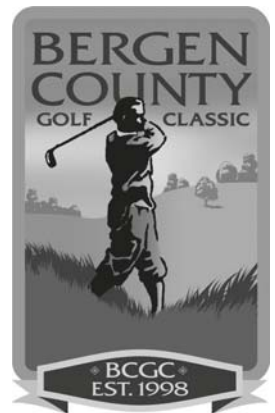
Monday, July 12

Ridgewood Country Club

Excitement is running high for the 2010 Bergen County Golf Classic. PSE&G is returning as our presenting sponsor, and we are quickly signing additional sponsors. Many sponsorships include a foursome and other perks.

Part of the excitement is that The Ridgewood Country Club, in Paramus, will once again host The Barclay's, a major PGA event, in August, so the course promises to be even more challenging than usual.

For information about sponsorships, please visit www.bergengolfclassic.org, call Amanda Missey at 201-489-9454, ext. 119, or email her at missey@bergenvolunteers.org.



Celebrate Volunteers - April 13



Brenda Blackmon

Our festive salute to volunteers will be held on Tues., April 13 at the Grieco Auditorium at Bergen Academies in Hackensack.

Beginning with a dessert reception at 6:30 PM, the event will feature entertainment and an inspiring program, featuring popular MY9-TV news anchor Brenda Blackmon.

Public and private non-profit organizations, hospitals, libraries, religious organizations and schools in Bergen County are invited to bring up to 15 people, including volunteers and staff. All volunteers will personally recognized and presented with and certificates of appreciation from the Volunteer Center and from elected officials. The cost is just \$10 per person.

"This event is a great way for organizations to honor their volunteers," explains Janet Sharma, the Volunteer Center's executive director. "It's not a competition, and everyone is a winner!"

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, and are due by April 2. Sponsorships are also available. For information about reservations and/or sponsorships, call 201-489-9454 or email info@bergenvolunteers.org.

Thanks to our Funders!

The important services that the Volunteer Center provides are simply not possible without the generous support of donors from our North Jersey community. While government provides approximately 35% of our funding, the remainder must come from private sources: individuals, corporations and foundations.

Despite our name, "volunteering" is not free. What makes our programs and others that effectively engage volunteers so successful is the staffing and infrastructure behind them, as costs are attached to these services.

"The Volunteer Center leverages so much good for our community," as one donor put it. "That's why I support it generously." We encourage you to support us generously, too!



A new van for our Chore Service was purchased through a grant from TD Bank. From left, Ed Morandi, Chore volunteer; Tom Hewitt, TD Bank; Janet Sharma, Volunteer Center; Joe Popadich, Chore volunteer; Joanne Westphal, TD Bank; and Joe Cutolo, Chore volunteer.



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