

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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For immediate release
February 13, 2012

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End date: March 25, 2012

Wells Fargo to sponsor Fifth Friday Networking Events Series Hosted by Bergen LEADS

North Jersey--Wells Fargo has signed on as the 2012 lead sponsor for Bergen LEADS Fifth Friday, a powerful networking and learning event that attracts leaders from every sector in Bergen County.

Fifth Friday luncheons will take place this year on March 30, June 29 and November 30 at the Stony Hill Inn in Hackensack - the perfect venue for stimulating conversation, a delicious lunch and high profile speakers. Fifth Friday is hosted by Bergen LEADS, the area's premier civic leadership program, which is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Bergen County.

"Fifth Friday is an excellent fit with our stated purpose of developing networks and exploring current issues," says Amanda Missey, director of Bergen LEADS. "Response to the event has been overwhelming, and we're very excited to have the support of Wells Fargo for the series."

"Wells Fargo is extremely proud to be the lead sponsor of the Bergen LEADS Fifth Friday series. For many years, Fifth Friday has been the premier networking event in Bergen County attracting people from all sectors of the community. As such, it makes a lot of business sense for us to support this initiative and it aligns with our business objectives to gain market share and raise brand awareness in this strategic space in Northern New Jersey," says Michael Reynolds, wealth advisor, Wells Fargo Private Bank in Paramus. "It also means we will be supporting the important mission of the Bergen LEADS program, which was designed to provide leadership development skills for emerging leaders in our home market. The Wells Fargo Private Bank, Community Bank and Mortgage Division look forward to a mutually rewarding experience."

With all eyes on economic development, the March 30 program will focus on *A New Course of Action for Making New Jersey a Home for Business Growth*. Speakers will be Tracey McDaniel, President and CEO of Choose New Jersey; Linda Kellner, Acting Executive Director, NJ Business Action Center; and Caren Franzini, CEO, NJ Economic Development Authority. The three agencies comprise the NJ Partnership for Action, a three-pronged public-private approach to economic development.

The cost for the luncheon is \$35.00. Seating is limited, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Register online at www.bergenleads.org or call 201-489-9454 x119.

Bergen LEADS is accepting applications for its next class, which begins in September 2012. The online application form for the Class of 2013 can be accessed at www.bergenleads.org and is due by April 13. Each candidate must complete a simple individual profile form and provide essay answers to specific questions. Tuition for Bergen LEADS is \$2,000 per person; scholarship assistance is available for those with financial need.

For more information about the Fifth Friday events, or about Bergen LEADS, call 201-489-9454 Ext. 119.

About Wells Fargo

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