

# Summit NJ Times

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Issue 5 • February 2016

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NETWORKING  
BREAKFAST**

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8:00-9:30am

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## SUMMIT MAYOR RADEST KICKS OFF MEALS ON WHEELS 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

On Thursday, January 7, newly-elected Summit Mayor Nora G. Radest kicked off the local Meals on Wheels 50th Anniversary Community Partners program at SAGE Eldercare in Summit, NJ. She joined Carol Graham, a SAGE board member and Summit resident, in delivering meals to local older adults.

“We invited local clergy, business owners, corporations, other non-profits, first responders, and elected officials to become a Community Partner in celebration of our 50th Anniversary,” noted Marianne Kranz, Director of Meals on Wheels for SAGE Eldercare. “It would give these partners an opportunity to meet some of the older adults who helped build our communities while delivering a meal and spreading awareness on the importance of this service.”

SAGE Eldercare began its Meals on Wheels in 1966 with funding received from the Summit Junior League. Volunteers were recruited from various organizations such as the College Club, United Church Women, P.E.O., Red Cross, Women Pioneers of Bell Laboratories, and the Junior Fortnightly Club.

In the early days of this program, the meals were cooked in the kitchen at SAGE Eldercare, which was staffed by a part-time administrator and a cook. Six volunteer drivers delivered meals to approximately 27 clients per day. Today, nearly 30 volunteers deliver meals to 120 adults each weekday. Over the course of a year, 300 volunteers deliver more than 44,000 meals to 250 people in Union County (Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, New Providence, Springfield and Summit), Essex County (Millburn and Short Hills), and Morris County (Chatham and Madison).

“More than a meal, this program provides a wellness check and a brief visit to residents over the age of 60 who are often isolated from the very community that they helped to establish,” stated Ms. Kranz. Meals are presently provided by the Linden Meals on Wheels facility and Overlook Medical Center and are delivered between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm to residents in nine regional communities via 14 routes.

In addition to the Community Partner program, SAGE also hosted a “Soup”er Cook-off on Wednesday, January 27. SAGE staff and volunteers made their favorite soups and the public was invited to come and vote for their favorite entry. Attendees were asked to bring a can of soup to donate to SAGE’s Portable Pantry, which helps to supplement the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about both programs from Ms. Kranz.

To become a Community Partner or attend a different charitable event, please call 908.273.5554 or email



*(above) Summit Mayor Nora G. Radest signed the 50th Anniversary Meals on Wheels card of volunteers at SAGE Eldercare on Thursday, January 7 and then delivered meals to local residents with Carol Graham, a SAGE board member and Summit resident.*

[mkranz@sageeldercare.org](mailto:mkranz@sageeldercare.org).

Since 1954, SAGE Eldercare has been helping make the communities it serves amazing places to age. The organization provides a wide array of information, support, and services designed to help individuals lead the most independent and active lives possible. From helping with errands, to exercise classes, community programs, care planning, and home health care, SAGE’s expertise helps older adults remain independent in their own homes. SAGE is committed to being the leading provider of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers throughout Union, Essex, Morris, and Somerset Counties. For more information, please call 908.273.5550 or visit <http://www.sageeldercare.org/>.



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## PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

*Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.*

**Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email Lori Theiss at [lori@rennamedia.com](mailto:lori@rennamedia.com)**




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**3rd Annual 2016 White Castle**


**Munsee District Boy Scout Chess Tournament**

**Saturday, February 27, 2016**  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Sign-in/setup starts at 9:00 am

**Cranford Community Center**  
220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283


Open to all registered Boy Scouts/Venturers/Explorers.  
Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess. Registration is \$6  
Use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at [ppbsa.doubleknot.com](http://ppbsa.doubleknot.com)  
Email Jim Parlapiano [jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com](mailto:jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com) for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.  
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Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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## SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS: MARY POPPINS - MARCH 2-6, 2016 TICKETS GO ON SALE JANUARY 23!!

Mary Poppins will fly onto the SHS stage March 2-6 bringing a magical "Roof-Raising, Toe-Tapping, High-Flying Extravaganza!" Performances run Wednesday and Thursday, March 2 & 3 at 6:00pm; Friday and Saturday, March 4 & 5 at 7:30 pm; and Sunday, March 6 at 2 pm. Show tickets are \$13 for students and seniors and \$16 for adults and can be purchased online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). There will be a Character Meet & Greet before the show on Thursday, March 3 (no charge). Tickets are also available for a Jolly Holiday Character Tea with the cast on March 6 at 12:30 pm. Tickets for the Tea are \$10 per child - no charge for adult chaperones and show tickets are sold separately. To pay with cash or check, visit Summit High School on Saturday, February 27, from 10 am - 2 pm, or at the show each night one hour before curtain time. All ticket sales are final.

**OPENING NIGHT DISCOUNT:** All seats for March 2 are \$11 until February 17th.

**THURSDAY NIGHT STUDENT GROUPS:** Tickets for student groups of 10+ and their chaperones are \$11. Regular pricing applies to all other attendees.

Featuring an irresistible story and unforgettable songs from one of the most popular Disney films of all time, Mary Poppins is a "practically perfect" musical for the entire family. Beyond its wild special effects, breath-taking

dance numbers, and unforgettable characters, Mary Poppins teaches children of all ages to value the important things in life: family, friendship, imagination, and that "Anything Can Happen if You Let It."

Mary Poppins, Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ. Questions pertaining to ticket purchases should be directed to: [Summitshstheater@gmail.com](mailto:Summitshstheater@gmail.com)

For more information, please contact Shelly Scott at [23scotts@gmail.com](mailto:23scotts@gmail.com) (908) 273-3374



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# VIOLINIST REBECCA SLATER FINISHED 3RD IN NJ YOUTH SYMPHONY CONCERTO COMPETITION

New Jersey Youth Symphony 2016 Concerto Competition First Place Winner violinist Emily Wang, Second Place Winner violinist Sasha Kandybin, and Third Place Winner violinist Rebecca Slater performed at a Winner's Recital on Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wharton Arts Theater, 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights. Congratulations to these three girls!

First Place Winner Emily Wang, age 16, of Scotch Plains is a junior at Union County Magnet High School and studies violin with Deborah Buck. Emily has been a member of the New Jersey Youth Symphony for six years and is currently a member of Youth Symphony, one of NJYS's two advanced, full orchestras in the NJYS family of ensembles. Youth Symphony is open to students in grades 9-12. Youth Symphony has appeared at New York City's Carnegie Hall and the Musikverein in Vienna and will perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, February 14, 2016.

Second Place Winner Sasha Kandybin, age 16, of New Providence is a junior at New Providence High School and studies violin with Wu Jie in the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division. Sasha has been a member of NJYS for seven years and is currently a member of Youth Symphony.

Third Place Winner Rebecca Slater, age 15, of Summit is a tenth grader at Newark Academy and studies violin with Khullip Jeung. Rebecca has been a member of NJYS for seven years and is currently a member of Youth Symphony.

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mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those we teach to the communities we serve.

Wharton is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts center serving over 1,400 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 14 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony which serve 500 students in grades 3 - 12. Beginning with Early Childhood music classes for infants and toddlers, WIPA offers private lessons, group classes and ensembles for all ages and all abilities. We believe in the positive and unifying influence of music and the performing arts and believe that arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay. We teach all instruments and voice and have a robust musical theatre program.





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## BILLY JONAS AND HIS JEWISHLY INSPIRED MUSIC

Singer, guitarist, percussionist and songwriter, Billy Jonas, will be the Artist in Residence at Congregation Ohr Shalom – Summit JCC on February 26-27, 2016. Jonas writes Jewishly inspired music for all ages. An award winning performer, Billy brings a contemporary sound and interactive music for the entire family. Homemade instruments from recyclables add to his eclectic sense of love for the planet and God's creation. Deeply spiritual, with a great sense of humor, his visit is not to be missed!

Congregation Ohr Shalom – Summit JCC invites you to re-invigorate your spirituality with the ancient rhythms of the drum. Join us for the entire Shabbat, including Shabbat community meals for all, beginning with Tot Shabbat at 5:30 Friday evening and concluding Saturday evening with Havdalah /Melave Malka at 6:30 pm. Please

visit our website for specific details: [www.summitjcc.org](http://www.summitjcc.org). This unique Shabbat immersion experience is free and open to the public; however, reservations and payment in advance are required for the Shabbat dinner on Friday night. There is no cost for Saturday's Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon and Seudah Shelishit Evening Supper but your reservation is requested. RSVP [emmy@summitjcc.org](mailto:emmy@summitjcc.org). Please indicate gluten free and/or vegetarian.

Congregation Ohr Shalom – Summit JCC is a warm and welcoming community, located at 67 Kent Place Blvd., Summit NJ. For additional information you may contact the office at 908-273-8130 or visit our website at [www.summitjcc.org](http://www.summitjcc.org). This program is graciously sponsored by the Charles and Lillian G. Baraff Foundation, Judith and Matthew Sills and Joan and Robert Rothberg.

## 7TH ANNUAL FRED HONOLD AWARDS

HomeTowne TV (HTTV) of Summit held the 7th Annual Fred Honold Awards for Community Service on December 10th at their holiday party at the Beacon Hill Club. This year's honorees were (left to right): Christy Hodde, Executive Director, NJ Crossroads Chapter/American Red Cross; Alan Leiber, President of Overlook Medical Center; Paul Carniol, MD, 222nd

President Medical Society of New Jersey; and Robert J. Rubino, MD, President of Common Council, City of Summit, NJ. According to Fred Honold, President of HomeTowne TV, this year's recipients are "extraordinarily dedicated individuals who are committed to wholeness of being, sound health in our community, and compassionate care in time of need."



Photo by Chase Newhart Photography

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## VISUAL ARTS CENTER AWARDED SUMMIT AREA PUBLIC FOUNDATION GRANT

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is proud to announce the receipt of a grant from the Summit Area Public Foundation. The grant of \$25,000.00 will support the Art Center's community engagement programs that serve Summit's low-income children and families including: Afterschool Arts Enrichment with the Connection for Women and Children, Afterschool Arts Enrichment with the PEP Program and the Art Immersion and Mentorship Program (AIM). These programs are provided at no cost to participants and for some, it is their only exposure to the arts and their first time visiting a museum or gallery.

An example of one of these successful programs is the Art Immersion and Mentorship Program (AIM), a new program that was created to provide arts enrichment and mentorship for middle school students living in Summit who are unable to participate in programs due to limited financial resources. Scholarships are available to these students for classes, workshops, summer camp and one-on-one mentor sessions with artists.

Thanks to the financial support of organizations like the Summit Area Public Foundation, the Art Center remains dedicated to the Summit community and reaching all Summit residents. The Foundation's investment in these enrichment programs will be critical to each program's success. The Art Center's commitment to its mission, "bringing art and people together," extends to all Summit residents.

The Art Center works closely with other Summit organizations including: SAGE Eldercare, the Connection for Women and Children, the PEP Program, the Junior League of Summit, Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, the Student Partner Alliance, Reeves-Reed Arboretum, the Film Society of Summit and Interweave, partnering with them to present public programs and to make available its facility upon request. In total, the Art Center has eight community engagement programs reaching at-risk inner city youth; seniors; formerly homeless women and their families; developmentally disabled adults and low-income families.

To make a gift to support one of these programs or other community engagement programs that bring art to the underserved, call Cynthia McChesney, Director of Development at 908.273.9121, email [cmchesney@artcenternj.org](mailto:cmchesney@artcenternj.org) or visit us online at [www.artcenternj.org/programs](http://www.artcenternj.org/programs). To learn more about the Summit Area Public Foundation visit [www.sapfnj.org/](http://www.sapfnj.org/).

### About the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

For more than 80 years, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey has been exclusively dedicated to viewing, making and learning about contemporary art. Recognized as a leading non-profit arts organization, the Art Center's renowned studio school, acclaimed exhibitions, and educational outreach initiatives serve thousands of youth, families, seniors and people with special needs every year.

Photo Credit: Kristin Troia.



(above) Students participating in the PEP program at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey.

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## FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

### MONDAYS AT THE MOVIES

#### Silent Film Festival in February

showings at 12:30 PM and 6:30 PM

#### Show People

February 8

Marion Davies plays a successful comic actress who longs to perform serious drama.

#### Faust

February 22

Mephistopholes offers the aging Faust an opportunity to relive his youth, the price being Faust's soul.

#### He Who Gets Slapped

February 29

Lon Chaney plays a scientific genius who is betrayed by his colleague and his wife. To express his pain, bitterness and anger he becomes a circus clown who seems to enjoy the frequently cruel slapstick antics of his new colleagues.

### MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY

#### Marc Berger - RIDE

Sunday, February 7, 2-3 PM

Singer/guitarist/songwriter Marc Berger will perform songs from his album RIDE, a contemporary tribute to the American West.

### Film: Second Coming

Friday, February 12, 12:30 PM

British drama about a couple whose strained marriage is put to the test when they are faced with an unexplained pregnancy. Starring Idris Elba and Nadine Marshall.

### DATABASE WORKSHOPS

We're offering two free workshops on the ReferenceUSA database, conducted by company representative Bill Loges. This powerful database contains information on millions of businesses and consumers, and can be searched in many ways. Free access is available through New Jersey public libraries.

#### "Job Seekers and Career Changers"

Tuesday, February 2, 6-7 PM

Learn how to use the database to look for job postings, identify companies that interest you, find names of key executives and prepare yourself for effective interviews.

#### "Start, Manage, Market and Grow

#### Your Business or Non-Profit"

Tuesday, February 2, 7-8:30 PM

If you're in sales, consulting, a business owner, or non-profit professional, learn how to find market-critical information and gain the competitive advantage you need.

The workshops are free and open to all.

You may attend one or both.



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Proverbs 22:6

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**Facebook:** Scotch Plains Baptist Christian Day School

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## FIRST AID SQUAD ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad begins 2016 with a newly reorganized Board of Trustees and Officers that includes new members as well as some familiar faces.

Mike D'Ecclessis, a volunteer for nearly 40

years who served as President in once in the 1980s and for 2 years in the early 90s returns for a 3rd tour of duty in that position. John Buscaino is the new Vice President. Steve Mortenson is the new Corresponding Secretary while Ken Herr

and Chris Raymond will remain in their roles as Treasurer and Recording Secretary, respectively.

Kari Phair has the new title of Chief, a position formerly known as Captain that she has held several times. John Christmann is the new Deputy Chief and will also serve as the Personnel officer. The Squad recently changed the titles of "Captain" and "First Lieutenant" to "Chief" and "Deputy Chief" to more closely align with the names used by other public safety agencies. Training Lieutenant Jane Mahoney, Records Lieutenant Mel Harari, Equipment Lieutenant Matt Raymond and Maintenance Lieutenant Rich Raymond all remain in their positions. Trustees for 2016 are David Bernstein, Robert Flanagan, Kyle Mahoney, George Shepherd, and Nancy Weeks.

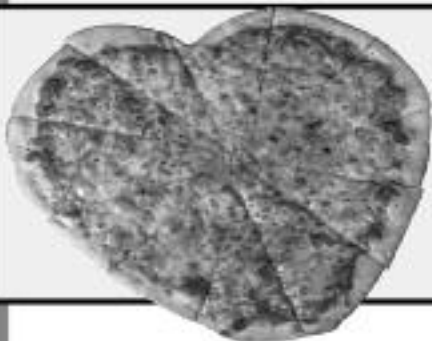
Mayor Ellen Dickson administered the oath of office at the Squad's Annual reorganization meeting in December.

The all volunteer First Aid Squad is always looking for new members to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information, please call 908-277-9479, or visit their web site at: [www.summitems.org](http://www.summitems.org).



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Special Menu Available  
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*John Lucich is the HTCN Academy Director and has been performing computer forensics for over 24 years. John is a retired state law enforcement officer from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, Organized Crime & Racketeering Bureau and a 14 year cyber crimes instructor at Sea Girt, NJ for the State Attorney General's Academy. John is also a technical expert for Fox News and CNN news networks and has made numerous TV appearances over the past seven years. He is currently the CEO & forensic lab director for eForensix, a computer forensic consulting company who has been engaged in notable cases throughout the United States.*



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# JOHN R. BLASI HONORED BY CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL



John R. Blasi, President of Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, was recently honored by Children's Specialized Hospital of Mountainside New Jersey at their 28th Annual Umbrella Gala. John was named by the Hospital as their 2015 Corporate Leadership honoree in recognition of his and the Lindabury firm's generosity and commitment to supporting the Hospital and the services it provides to children and their families. The Gala was held at the skating rink at Rockefeller Center in New York City on October 24th and was attended by several hundred guests.

This year's Gala helped to raise \$200,000 that will fund the Hospital's newest Tele-Medicine technology. Also honored at this year's Gala was Lou Maschi who was recognized as the Hospital's 2015

Distinguished Individual honoree.

John has been involved with Children's Specialized Hospital since the late 1980's and has served in leadership roles with the organization including as Chairman of the Hospital's Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2005. During his time as Chairman, John helped to coordinate the affiliation between Children's Specialized Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. This affiliation has helped the Hospital to expand its ability to serve a greater number of children and families.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Children's Specialized Hospital," said Blasi. "I am proud to be associated with such an amazing organization that works tirelessly to aid and support patients who need specialized medical care."

## MARCH ISSUE DEADLINES

**March Issue in post office:**

Friday, March 4th

**Content deadline:**

Friday, February 19th

**Ad placement deadline:**

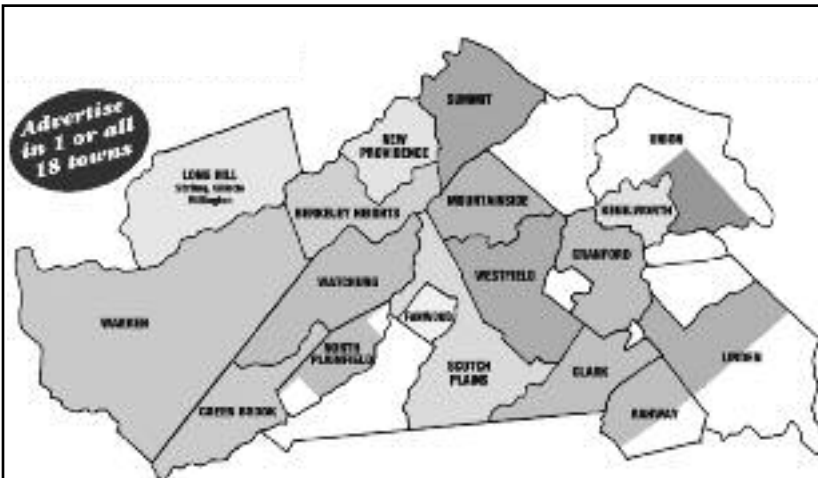
Wednesday, February 24th

**Art for insert deadline:**

Friday, February 19th

**Printed Insert deadline:**

Friday, February 26th



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## USA BASEBALL SELECTS TWO SUMMIT BOYS

This past August, two Summit boys were selected by USA Baseball, our country's official national baseball team organization, to participate in the 11U National Team Identification Series (NTIS) tournament at the National Training Complex in Cary, NC. Steven Trone and Matthew Stokes, Jr. were selected to play for Team North Atlantic, a team comprising the very best 11-year old baseball players from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Their 16-player team defeated Team Northern California, Team North Texas, and Team Mountain West, before losing to Team Great Lakes. This five-day event also included skills competitions and assessments, as evaluated by the Team USA baseball staff. Trone played catcher and third base, while Stokes played second base and shortstop.

In early February, Trone and Stokes will be traveling to Pennsylvania and California to be

assessed for a possible position on the 12U National Team, which will vie for the World Championship this summer.



(above l-r) Matthew Stokes, Jr. and Steven Trone are the two Summit boys being assessed for the 12U National Team.

## AHEAD OF THE STORM: SUMMIT CHURCH REACHES OUT TO THE HOMELESS

*Central Presbyterian Church delivers food and warm clothing in New York City*

While many of us spent Friday evening fighting the crowds at the supermarket for last minute supplies before Blizzard Jonas hit, a group of dedicated teenagers and their chaperones packed up meals, hot soup, and warm clothing items and headed into New York City to bring some comfort to people living on the streets.

The snow was already falling when the 8 teens and 5 chaperones packed up 75 bagged meals, 5 gallons of hot home-made soup, 3 gallons of hot cocoa, 100 bottles of water, 15 first aid kits, 100 coats, 50 sweaters, and 100 hygiene kits into a van and headed into the city. In spite of the increasing snow, the group stopped at 3 different locations, and handed out all they had brought. By the time they returned to Summit, the snow was deep and the roads treacherous, but not a single volunteer regretted the trip.

"A Midnight Run is a wonderful opportunity for adults and mature youth to work as colleagues and peers. The kids jumped out of the car at every stop and engaged. We were all struck by how respectful and pleasant folks were. They asked politely for sizes or specific needs and were understanding if we didn't have that. We heard 'Thank you so much' a hundred times," said Ted Tolles, a chaperone on Friday's trip.

The trip was the most recent of many taken over the past three years by volunteers from Central Church. A similar relief mission has left the church nearly every month since 2013 when Central partnered with MidnightRun.org, a volunteer organization that is dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless.

Central Church conducts drives (which are open to the public for donations) each month to collect items to send on the runs, including coats, toiletries, clothing, shoes, and hand/toe warmers. All ages get involved – middle schoolers run collections and prepare the bagged meals, high schoolers sort, load and deliver the goods. Adults



Central Presbyterian Church

(above) Teens from Central Church in Summit prepare bagged meals for the homeless in NYC prior to Blizzard Jonas.

shop, drive, cook and chaperone. Even the preschoolers have participated, decorating the brown bags in which the meals are packaged. The project has brought together multiple generations with a common goal of helping those in need.

Central Presbyterian Church is located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ. Worship times are 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with a contemporary service, WAVE, at 11:15 a.m. in the Auditorium. Free infant care is available during worship. Sunday School for children Pre-K through 8th grade is held at 10:15 a.m. year-round. Learn more about the church and its missions at <http://www.centralpres.org/>. Learn about Midnight Run at <http://www.midnightrun.org/>.

## CASA FETES SUMMIT'S ANITA PORTO



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County's 3rd annual Foster the Dream Gala at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth in November was sold-out, as more than 240 attendees joined the festivities to

celebrate the nonprofit's advocacy work for children in foster care and several honorees, including Summit resident Anita Porto.

Porto, who received the Dream-Keeper Award for Outstanding Volunteerism, completed CASA's 30-hour training and began advocating for foster youth in 2012. Porto's casework has included maneuvering through an overburdened child-welfare and legal system to ensure developmental delays, medical concerns, sexual abuse and complex immigration matters were addressed in as timely a manner as possible.

Natalie Deo, program director at CASA of Union County, and Porto's supervisor, noted, "Anita fought for youth that couldn't fight for themselves. She fought a system that was cheating her youth, jumped hurdles and stripped away suffocating red tape. With persistence and commitment, she prevailed. Anita's adept navigation of complicated issues changed the lives of three girls who had no voice of their own."

Porto was born in Puerto Rico, grew up in Brazil and adventured to the United States for college, where she met her husband. When they started a family, Porto left a banking career to care for her sons. Since 1998, she has been active in volunteerism, including teaching English as a Second Language, and working with Literacy Volunteers of Morris County, for which she has volunteered and now sits on the board. Porto also assists Orange High School students with college applications.

CASA of Union County recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to serve as the eyes and ears of the judge, and the voice for children in foster care through no fault of their own. After training in Westfield, CASAs are sworn in by a family court judge and empowered by court order to speak to all parties in the child's life: foster parents, teachers, doctors, therapists and more. CASAs regularly meet with their foster youth to ensure their needs are met and best interests remain priority. There are nearly 600 Union County children currently in foster care due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, and CASA of Union County serves 143 of them. Its goal is to secure one CASA for every foster child.

For details on ways to help Union County children in foster care, including information on CASA's next advocate training class, visit [www.casaofunioncounty.org](http://www.casaofunioncounty.org) or call 908-527-7040.

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