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VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD GETS SURPRISE VISIT

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



(above) Columbia Middle School supporting Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad were on their way back from a call in Morristown when the volunteers heard on the police radio that “people were waiting for them.”

“You never know if it’s inspection,” said Chief Ori Sternberg. “We have plenty of that on a daily basis.”

When the Squad arrived at their facility on 378 Snyder Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, they saw a school bus in their parking lot. Sternberg said they thought someone got hurt on the school bus, perhaps a school trip gone wrong with sick and/or injured kids. As kids were getting out of the bus, Sternberg and the crew were unsure as to what was going on.

But to their surprise, it was a teacher and seventh and

eighth graders from Columbia Middle School, Berkeley Heights. They wanted to thank and recognize the Squad for all they do for the town. They brought the Squad treats and handwritten letters of support.

“We took the kids in and told them what we are doing. We talked about our operation and activities,” said Sternberg, adding, “Of course we put some seeds in their heads for volunteering in the future.”

The Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad has been serving the community since 1942. They are always seeking volunteers.

Visit the squad at: bhvrs.org/ or call 908-464-1141.

Photo courtesy of Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad

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FIVE KEY LEADERS OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 68 RECOGNIZED

Submitted by: Hal Daume

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Five Berkeley Heights Scouter volunteers from the Patriots' Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America were recognized at a recent Scouts gathering. Their efforts, on behalf on the youth of the community were acknowledged. These five are the key leaders of Troop 68, one of the two Boy Scout troops sponsored by the Rotary Club of Berkeley Heights.

Committee member Mike Higgins and Committee Chair Mike Koubek received the Boy Scout Leader Training Award, in

recognition of their three-year commitment in training, tenure, and performance. Immediate Past Scoutmaster Terrence Grossman received the Watchung Mountaineer Award, honoring his multiple-year commitment to the Scouts of Troop 68.

Committee members Tom Lenahan and Kevin Engemann each received a Unit Scouter Award, symbolizing their long-time commitment to Scouting excellence in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey.



(above, l-r): Mike Higgins, Terrence Grossman, Tom Lenahan, Cliff Boldt, Kevin Engemann, and Mike Koubek.



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THE CELEBRATION SINGERS SPRING 2018 CONCERT

Submitted by Christopher Silvestri

The Celebration Singers would like to invite you to our spring concert titled "Music from the Heart, from the Soul" at Union County College, Roy Smith Theater, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey at 8 p.m. on June 1 and June 2, 2018. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance through our website, celebrationsingers.org, or at the box office at the night of the

concert. Any questions concerning the performances can be directed to our email at celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com or to our landline at 908-552-4656.

The Celebration Singers are multi-generational ambassadors of song drawing music from a breadth of genres and cultures. The Choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provide its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical

experience. The Choir lends support through music and participates in the cultural life of the community.

Please also visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/Celebrationsingers.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



(above) The Celebration Singers Adult Choir at St Michael's in Cranford New Jersey for their annual winter concert.

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MARIJUANA DISCUSSION AT DE CORSO CENTER

ART IN THE PARK OPEN CALL FOR NEW JERSEY'S FINE ARTISTS

This is an open call for New Jersey's Fine Artists, both amateur and professional, 18 years and older, to display and sell their work at the Art in the Park at Peppertown celebration.

This family friendly event will be held at Peppertown Park, 160 Plainfield Avenue, in Berkeley Heights, on May 19, 2018, from noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

For information on submitting, visit: entrythingy.com/www.peppertownpark.com. There is a \$40 display fee for all accepted juried artists.

"Marijuana: Decriminalize? Legalize?" Get informed as this issue makes its way through our State Legislature. The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Summit is sponsoring a discussion on Marijuana for Monday, May 21, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the De Corso Center, 15 East 4th Street in New Providence, New Jersey.

The presenters are Dianna Houenou, Policy Counsel for the NJ ACLU; Sergeant Gary A. Webb Jr, with the Narcotics Strike Force; and Melissa Tasse PHD, a neuropharmacist with NJ RAMP (Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy). A question and Answer session will

follow.

Ms. Houenou conducts legal and policy analysis related to the ACLU-NJ's advocacy campaign and co-ordinates ACLU-NJ coalitions particularly the NJ United for Marijuana Reform.

Sergeant Gary A. Webb is employed by the Union County Prosecutor's Office. He is presently assigned as the Squad Leader for the Narcotics Strike Force. His duties include investigating which leads to the arrest and prosecution of persons involved in the illegal possession and distribution of controlled substances.

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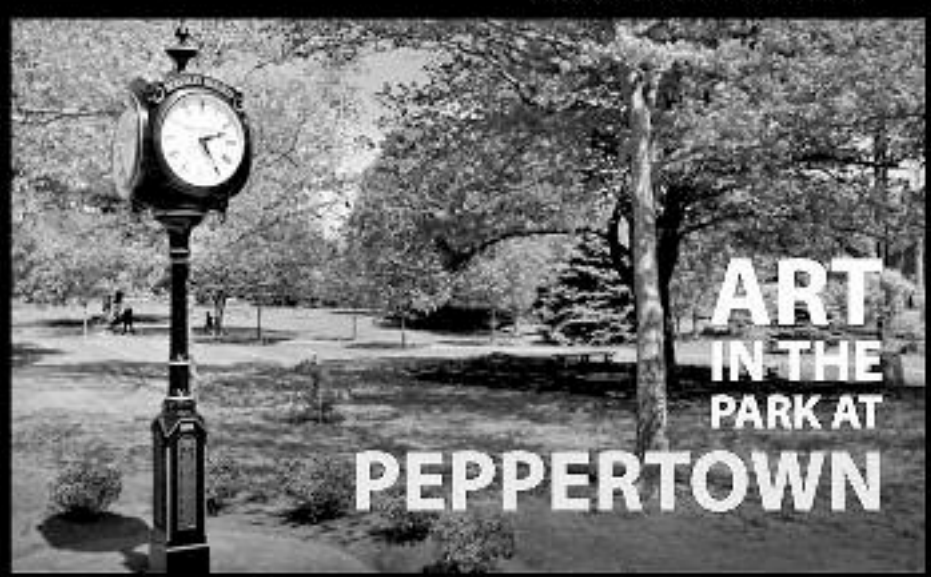
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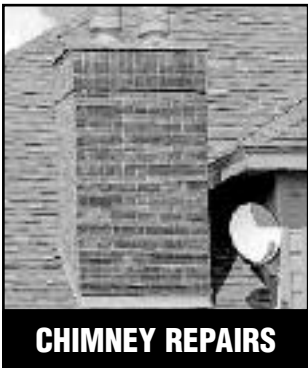




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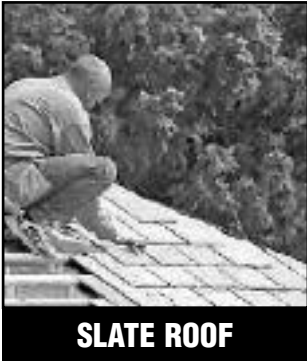
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BERKELEY HEIGHTS RUBBER DUCKY RACE 2018

It's official. The ducks are coming to town again!

The 15th Annual Rubber Ducky Festival will be on Saturday, June 9, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Passaic River Park, 151 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. Admission is free.

The Festival will feature the famous Rubber Ducky Race. Thousands of tiny ducks will swim their little hearts out as they make their way down the Passaic River in their quest to be the first to the finish line for their owners.

The race has an outstanding array of top prizes:

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Food will be for sale by the popular Gastro

Truck by Embassy Suites, and bottled water will be sold by the Rotary Club. Carnival-type games will be on site for all to play, plus exhibits and demonstrations by local businesses and community organizations. Be sure to try out your pitching arm at the Dunk Tank! Other exciting happenings during the event are live DJ and local bands, Scout-O-Rama, Moon Walk, and other kids' games. Be sure to check out the Classic & Custom Car Show.

Funds raised by the Festival go first to the annual Governor Livingston Senior Scholarships by the Rotary Club. This event also supports the Club's Medic-Alert program for over 200 area solo senior citizens, over 300 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, plus our Police Department, Volunteer Rescue Squad, Public Library, all school libraries, and the town's Memorial Park Committee.

The Rubber Ducky Festival is a Rotary Club of Berkeley Heights event, in cooperation with the Suburban Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Berkeley Heights Recreation Department. For more information call Jim Ramentol at 908-216-7151.

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*Joseph Mozzella,
Parent of High School Senior*



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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - MAY 28

Submitted by Thomas Barton

Honoring our military and all those who were lost in service to our nation is a special tradition in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. The day will start with groups participating in the Annual Memorial Day Parade on May 28, gathering on Locust Avenue, east of Snyder Avenue towards the Community Pool at 8:45 a.m. The Parade will start at 9:30 a.m. taking its route down Snyder Avenue, west on Springfield, south on Plainfield Avenue ending at Veterans Memorial Park. Spectators will be introduced to the new Hometown Heroes Banners lining the way to the renovated Park. The Banners are part of the Veterans Memorial Park Operation: We Remember Program. Activities at the Park include VFW Post # 6259 honoring of the Fallen, commemorative presentations, and musical performances. Refreshments will

follow. The Memorial Day Program is made possible by the collaboration of volunteers of the Berkeley Heights Special Events Committee, the Veterans Memorial Park Committee, and VFW Post #6259 along with the Recreation, Police and Fire Departments, Rescue Squad, DPW, and Municipal elected officials and staff. It is a day of friendship and community spirit that brings citizens of all ages together to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. This year, donations are welcome to support the services and programs of VFW Post #6259. Volunteers will be on site to share how residents can help support our local Veterans.

For more info, to participate in the parade or to volunteer, please contact the Recreation Department at 908-464-0550 Ext. 11.

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WINE TASTING EVENT TO BENEFIT BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of America and volunteer co-chairs, Dawn and Rich Buchanan of Fanwood will host a Riedel Wine Tasting on May 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Masker's Barn located in the Watchung Reservation in Berkeley Heights.

Guests will enjoy great wines using Riedel wine glasses, learn more about wines, how to pour them, the effect wine glasses have and how to improve the overall enjoyment of wine.

The ticket price of \$150 includes hors d'oeuvres, four glasses of wine rated 90 or better on the Wine Spectator List, buffet dinner, dessert, auction, and a set of four Riedel wine glasses to take home.

The proceeds of this event provide the necessary funds to send underprivileged youth

to four of our camps in New Jersey and New York State. Over 3000 youth are served in this program in our area. Most recently the BSA has enhanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) content in every facet of Scouting, from summer camp to the Pinewood Derby, by developing programs that explore the STEM principles behind familiar Scouting activities. The STEM Program is another beneficiary of this event.

Registration for the event is required at ppcbsa.org/give/special-events by May 22. Attendees must be 21 or older. All contributions over \$50 are tax deductible. Contact Jennifer Volz at 973-765-9322 ext. 249 or at jennifer.volz@scouting.org with questions.

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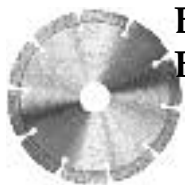


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ANNUAL LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE IS MAY 12

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 12, 2018. On this day, you can set out your non-perishable food before your letter carrier's regular pick up time. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili, and/or pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken, and/or turkey), beans (canned or dry). You can also donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal, and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil.

Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food, or home-canned items. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-

safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients will be discarded by the food bank in the sorting process.

The Food Drive is primarily a people food drive, but if you also want to give pet food in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or direct it to pet shelters and organizations in the area that have a need.

Please do not donate any form of individual baby food products, including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal. Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks and special handling requirements.

The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need. Please note that not all food banks will be able to accept these items.

If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the

local food drive person there. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day, as well as all throughout the year.

All donations to the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive are tax-deductible because all the food collected on Food Drive Day is given directly to non-profit charity food agencies in the community the food was collected. Though the National Association of Letter Carriers plans the Food Drive's logistics and letter carriers provide the transportation for each donor's generous donation, the National Association of Letter Carriers is not the agency that gets listed on tax forms for claiming deductions. There are more than 10,000 food agencies throughout the country that receive these donations, so if you itemize your taxes and want to provide proper credit for your Food Drive donations, you will need to determine the name of the agency (food pantry or other charity) that received your food, as well as the agency's address and tax I.D. number for proper reporting on your tax-filing forms. The Food Drive Coordinator at your local post office should be able to give you the name of the receiving agency, and that agency will likely have tax information handy.

For more information, visit: nalc.org.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS SENIORS SPONSOR A TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY

Submitted by Phyllis DeiSturco

The Berkeley Heights Seniors are sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on May 21, 2018. The bus leaves the parking lot of the Church of the Little Flower, 110 Roosevelt Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, at 8:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 which includes bus transportation, a \$25 coupon for slot play, and a \$10 food voucher. For further information and reservations, call Ramona at 908-647-3295.

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BHFD TO BE HONORED AT VALOR AWARD LUNCHEON, MAY 11TH

Submitted by The 200 Club of Union County

The Two Hundred Club of Union County has announced that seventeen police officers and firefighters, including five members of the Berkeley Heights Fire Department, have been selected for this year's Annual Valor Awards Luncheon to be held on Friday, May 11, 2018.

Held at Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains the recipients will receive the prestigious Two Hundred Club Medal of Valor for actions above and beyond the call of duty. The 200 Club, a non profit organization founded in 1968, is comprised of 400 business leaders from Union County, NJ, who's core mission is to provide financially for the widows and dependents of Police Officers and Firefighters who are killed in the line of duty. We have grown in mission to now also provide continuing education grants for police officers and firefighters, and a competitive scholarship program for the deserving children of our uniformed protectors in Union County. More information on our organization can be found at www.uc200club.org.

The keynote speaker will be Patricia Ann Norris-McDonald, Mayor of Village of Malverne. Mrs. McDonald is the widow of Steven McDonald, a NYPD officer who was left quadriplegic in 1986 following a shooting in the line of duty. Steven McDonald died age 59 on January 10, 2017. She had been married to

Steven for less than year when the shooting took place. At the time the newlywed was pregnant with the couple's only child. Six months after the shooting she gave birth to a son, Conor McDonald. Mrs. McDonald co-authored the book, The Steven McDonald Story, with her husband NYPD Detective Steven McDonald and appeared often with him to speak about faith and forgiveness.

The following individuals from the Berkeley Heights Fire Department will be honored for the incidents described:

Battalion Chief Christopher Esposito
Captain Matthew Freudenberger
Lieutenant James Hintze
Firefighter Austin Bucossi
Firefighter Robert Marrese

At approximately 1:00 a.m. on April 13, 2017, the Berkeley Heights Fire Department was dispatched to a working house fire. Upon arrival, the unit found a 2-story residential home with heavy smoke showing throughout and a report of at least two elderly persons entrapped inside the residence.

The firefighters entered the premises through the front door. While searching the living room/dining room area with a thermal imaging camera, Lieutenant James Hintze located an unresponsive elderly female victim in a hospital bed in the dining room. Immediately after the

first victim was located in the bed, a second elderly victim was located next to the same bed in the dining room by Firefighter Austin Bucossi. Both victims were removed from the burning structure and evacuated to the exterior of the residence by Lieutenant James Hintze, Firefighter Austin Bucossi, Firefighter Robert Marrese and Captain Matthew Freudenberger. Upon assessment, the unit determined the victims to be unresponsive. Once they were removed from the structure, Battalion Chief Christopher Esposito and Firefighter Robert Marrese commenced CPR compressions.

After the first two victims were successfully removed from the property, the department was made aware that a third victim, a caretaker, was likely trapped in the residence. The remaining firefighters rushed inside of the burning structure, and located her on the third floor in a bathroom. She was not responsive. After being removed from the burning residence, the third victim received CPR compressions and first aid from Battalion Chief Christopher Esposito and Firefighter Austin Bucossi. All three victims were transported to the hospital via EMS.

During the course of the rescue, Firefighter Austin Bucossi suffered lacerations and smoke inhalation.

Due to the unit's hard work, the fire was quickly extinguished. Unfortunately, the two elderly victims succumbed to their injuries at the hospital. The caretaker victim survived after a long recovery.

If it was not for Battalion Chief Christopher Esposito, Captain Matthew Freudenberger, Lieutenant James Hintze, Firefighter Austin Bucossi and Firefighter Robert Marrese exemplary and heroic efforts, it seems certain that all three victims would have been lost to the fire.

The Luncheon is held at Shackamaxon Country Club located at 100 Tillinghast Turn in Scotch Plains on May 11 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be obtained on the 200 Club website at www.uc200club.org or by emailing pkozlowski@uc200club.org.



Photo by Adam Alberti

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CRISIS HOTLINE SCREENS FILM TO RAISE SUICIDE AWARENESS - MAY 16

Submitted by Janet Sarkos

The crisis hotline Caring Contact will present a special screening of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect," the remarkable story of Kevin Hines, who at 19 attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. The screening will take place May 16, at 7:30 p.m. at AMC Loews at 1021 Route 22 East, Mountainside, New Jersey.

Following the screening, there will be a question and answer session and discussion on the topic, featuring some of the area's leading suicide prevention advocates. This discussion will be led by trained volunteers who are involved with Caring Contact.

Tickets are \$12, plus a processing fee, and can be purchased by visiting gathr.us/s/22327, where visitors can also view the film trailer and screening page. Tickets are limited so reservations are highly recommended.

With endorsements from some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts, "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" began worldwide screenings on March 13, 2018. Since surviving the jump, one of only 25 to live among the more than 1700 people who have jumped from the bridge, Hines has been on a mission to use his story to help others find recovery and stay alive. He has become one the world's most prominent suicide prevention speakers and advocates.

The film features some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts and shines light on people who are using their personal experiences with suicide to help others find the hope they need to stay alive.

"Kevin Hines' 'Suicide: The Ripple Effect' is a marvel of inspiration, a film that should be seen by anyone who has known despair and anyone who is or has been close to someone in a suicidal crisis," said Dr. John Draper of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Caring Contact is an award-winning, volunteer-staffed crisis hotline and listening community serving North and Central New Jersey, an area with 3 million inhabitants in Union, Essex, Middlesex, Morris and Somerset counties. More than 100 listeners attentively and compassionately serve those in emotional distress and educate communities about the power of personal connection. Caring Contact responded to more than 10,200 calls in 2017.

Caring Contact is a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and its hotline services are available to anyone, anonymously and confidentially. Visit Caring Contact at: caringcontact.org

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, we would like to express our gratitude to the countless volunteers that serve the poor and homeless at St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth (sjeliz.org). Whether you make a sandwich, collect toiletries, tutor in the job program, make soup, wrap Christmas gifts, donate food, goods, time, talent, or money, it all adds up to make our center a refuge for those in need. We simply couldn't do what we do without you, and we thank you.

This year, we would especially like to thank all of those who volunteer at the Saturday soup kitchen. In February of 1986, when St. Joseph's began operating from the current location at 118 Division St., Elizabeth, a group of volunteers got together to discuss hosting a soup kitchen. Some of those same people still volunteer today. They

established a beautiful service model, where guests are welcomed, seated, and served a hot meal. Since April 19, 1986, the following faith communities have served their less fortunate brothers and sisters: St. Helen's (Westfield), Holy Trinity (Westfield), St. Agnes (Clark), St. John's (Clark), Holy Spirit (Union), Church of the Little Flower (Berkeley Heights), Immaculate Conception (Elizabeth), and Temple Sha'arey Shalom (Springfield). While we can add up the number of soup kitchens (1664), or the meals served (374,400), the true measure of the effort is the dignity and compassion with which the meals are served. The reward is when a guest says: "Thank you for treating me like a human being."

With loving gratitude,
Bernadette Murphy, Director

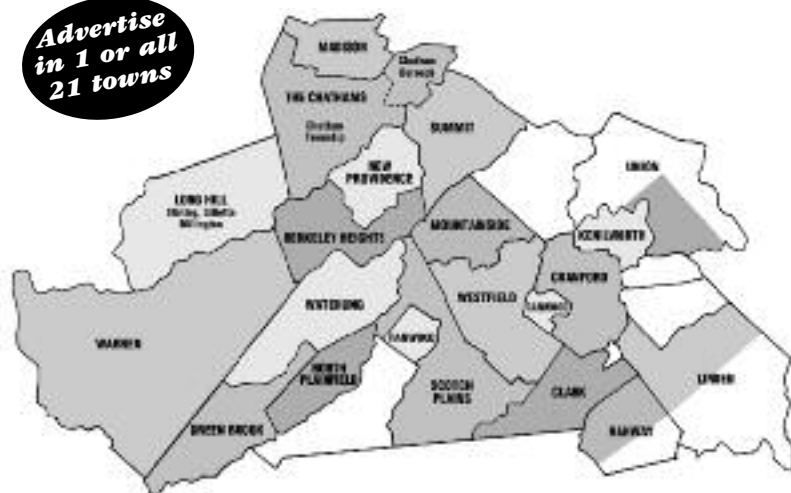
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WE WEREN'T BAD KIDS, WE WERE SAD KIDS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT IMAGINE SHARES HER STORY

By Mary Robinson, MA, CT

When I was 14 my father died of cancer, reticulum cell sarcoma, still one of the most deadly and difficult cancer to treat. It was 1974 and I was a freshman at Madison High School, my brother Jim was a sophomore. I remember it like it was yesterday and still dream of my dad, and still miss him. The death of a parent changes a child's life forever, as it did mine.

When my father was first diagnosed I was in eighth grade and that's when I first started skipping school. Though not a very helpful way to cope with my distress, it was also not unusual, as grief starts the moment of diagnosis; someone doesn't have to die for us to grieve. And that was certainly true of me and my family.

After our dad died my brother and I acted out in ways typical of grieving children, we were textbook examples of grieving children in fact, but at that time it wasn't understood that children grieve too, not just adults. The adults in our lives saw our changed behavior but didn't know what to do or say, or even to equate it with our dad's death and changed home life.

My mom was extraordinarily resilient all through my dad's illness and after he died. She went from being a stay-at-home mom to being a realtor, seemingly working 24/7 to pay the bills and keep us in our home. She is definitely my hero for how she worked so hard on our behalf, sending me to college and making the life I live today possible. But not all kids are so lucky. Often after a death there is great financial stress along with many secondary losses like having to move to a new neighborhood or even a new town, so a child loses friends, a sense of safety and familiarity and connections to the very people that could have been supportive.

I've now been working and volunteering in the field of children's grief support since 1997, working to ensure other children and teens don't lose years of their lives to unresolved grief like my brother and I did. The death of a parent is a trauma for a child but it doesn't have to leave them traumatized, if they get support. As the founder of two children's grief support centers and currently as Executive Director of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss in Mountainside, my commitment is to ensure grieving children develop healthy coping skills, grow in their resiliency, emotional health and well-being, and to create communities where children coping with loss get the love and support they need to thrive and live up to their unique potential.

Dr. Gerald Glasser of Westfield was the catalyst for the start of Imagine. He wanted to insure that no child should ever have to grieve alone. He invited me to come to Westfield and open a grief support center providing an initial grant for startup funding through The Glasser Foundation, a philanthropic organization set up in memory of Dr. Glasser's son, Thomas Glasser, who was a victim of the 9/11 attack and who left behind two young children. The Glasser Foundation continues to provide extraordinarily generous annual support to Imagine.

Meeting Dr. Glasser was such a gift in my life.

His generosity and vision provided me with my life's purpose. When my father died there was no awareness back then that children and teens needed support after a loss like the death of a parent or brother or sister. Children truly were 'the forgotten mourners' as Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, author of *On Death and Dying* said over 40 years ago. But fortunately things have gotten better since then with over 500 children's grief support centers like Imagine existing around the country, and with schools bringing us in to provide educational workshops so that they are better equipped to support and understand youth coping with all types of loss. Now when a parent dies, families tell us that they heard about Imagine from multiple sources including their child's school, their funeral home or house of worship, and from multiple friends who scour the internet looking for support.

Childhood bereavement is one of society's more pervasive issues. One out of seven children under the age of 18 will lose a parent or sibling by age 20. And kids in grief are at-risk for unhealthy or destructive ways of coping which is why Imagine and other centers like it exist. Children and teens don't necessarily have the coping skills, life experience, or maturity to process their loss, and they re-grieve their losses during the various stages of their development. Imagine exists as an effective intervention and prevention program and a place for healthy mourning. The key to how well a child or teen or adult will do after a loss is to actively mourn the loss and not keep everything bottled up inside.

The mission of Imagine is to support children and families coping with loss and foster resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. But our higher purpose is to normalize grief and death and dying in society so that those who are grieving aren't left isolated or made to feel like there is something wrong with them. Our goal is to create "Good Mourning" communities that are grief- and trauma-informed. We do this by partnering with schools, agencies and workplaces to provide support and education on the topic of grief and loss and to hopefully change the lens through which society views grieving youth.

We work with the whole school community including school staff, parents, other agencies, healthcare providers, and first responders to create an environment that wraps around the youth served. The goal is that wherever a child turns in their life, at school, home, after-school programs, etc., there are adults who understand the impact of loss and trauma on youth, how to recognize it and how to support, listen to, and help build resilience in grieving youth.

Adults and peer support programs like Imagine can help children learn healthy ways to cope and grow more resilient. Loss is part of life and if we support children at the time of their loss they will be better able to cope with future life losses.

Over 40 years later, I am able to say, as I learned from my St. Vincent's School kindergarten friend Chris Harrington whose mom died when he was 11, that "I wouldn't have



(above, l-r) Mary Robinson and her dad, Gerry Robinson.

missed my dad for the world." I had the best dad for 14 years. Good can come from grief, loss, and pain, if we get and give support. As adults it is our job to help children navigate life's painful losses and create loving, supportive communities in which children can mourn their losses in healthy ways. That is the work of Imagine and all the centers like it around the country.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support center located in Mountainside, New Jersey serving children age 3 to 18 who have had a parent or sibling die, with concurrent support groups for their parents or guardians. Support for children and teens living with a parent or sibling with a life-altering physical illness is also available. Free year-round support groups are also available for young adults who have had a friend, sibling, parent or other important person in their life die, or who have a parent, sibling or friend living with an illness. Imagine is completely privately funded and completely free to participants for as long as they need. We rely on donations from individuals, companies, local businesses, and foundations to support the close to 300 children and adults currently attending our support groups every two weeks at Imagine. And we rely on volunteers to facilitate those groups. For more information about support, donating, or volunteering, please call 908-264-3100, email me at mary@imagine-nj.org or visit imagine-nj.org.



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With purchase of a beverage per person
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other
offers or discounts. Expires 6/10/18.

\$10 OFF
**ANY ONE
PARTY**

Of \$100 or more. Monday - Thursday Only.
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other
offers or discounts. Expires 6/10/18.

\$500 OFF
**4 ADULT
BUFFETS**

With purchase of a beverage per person
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other
offers or discounts. Expires 6/10/18.